



## Press Release

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### **Dientes Receives National Leadership Award**

*National Network for Oral Health Access John McFarland Leadership Award  
Recognizes Initiative in Community Oral Health*

(Santa Cruz, CA) - Dientes Community Dental Care is honored to announce its receipt of the prestigious 'John McFarland Leadership Award' on November 7, 2023 at this year's National Network for Oral Health Access (NNOHA) Conference in Denver, CO. A testament to Dientes' unwavering commitment and leadership in addressing oral health disparities, this award recognizes an exemplary organization for promoting the development of community-oriented oral health to the underserved.

The nomination celebrated Dientes' innovative approach to collaboration and its founding of Oral Health Access (OHA), a committee of community leaders, medical professionals, educators, and elected officials focused on oral health. In addition, the award recognized Dientes broad impact across the county, serving 16,000 people annually.

Laura Marcus, CEO of Dientes, along with Dientes Lead Educator and Watsonville Clinic Manager, Dr. Catherine Modjeski, proudly accepted the award from NNOHA Board President, Dr. Ethan Kerns.

This award not only acknowledges Dientes' significant achievements but also spotlights the vital role of community clinics in bridging healthcare gaps. Dientes' success is a call to action for continued support and advocacy towards the goal of increasing access to dental care, and it reinforces the shared vision of a healthier community fostered through collective effort and compassionate leadership.

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*Dientes Community Dental Care's mission is to create lasting oral health for the under-served children and adults in Santa Cruz County and neighboring communities. 96% of Dientes' patients live at or below the poverty level. Dientes accepts Medi-Cal (one of ten providers in Santa Cruz County) and offers sliding scale fees for uninsured patients. Dientes is a proud partner of United Way.*