Navigating RDH Career Pathways: 3 Roads Traveled

Description: Today’s dental hygiene professional has an increasing number of career pathways and settings, including clinical practice, public health, academic, public and professional education, research, administration, corporate, and entrepreneur. This course presents three dental hygienists who have taken different career pathways, using and building on their RDH education and experience—dental wellness coordinator, orofacial myologist®, practice development consultant, and professional association health affairs director.

Learning objectives: Participants will learn: what’s involved in these positions; how to use and build on dental hygiene education and background; and ways to prepare for and pursue these directions and other opportunities.

About our speakers

Kathleen Malico, BSDH, RDH, is President of the Long Island Dental Hygienists’ Association (LIDHA). A graduate of Farmingdale State College, she was employed for over 30 years in private practice and now holds a position as the Dental Wellness Coordinator for LIBERTY Dental Plan, conducting screenings and education at schools, community forums and health centers. Prior to being elected as LIDHA President, She was LIDHA’s Vice President of Membership, Delegate to NYDHA and Alternate Director to NYDHA. She has also held positions with NYDHA as Vice President of Governmental Affairs and Public Policy and NYDHA Alternate Delegate to ADHA and is currently NYDHA Head Delegate to ADHA.

Betsy Bray, BS, RDH, is Director of Health Affairs of the NYS Dental Association. A graduate of the Onondaga Community College Dental Hygiene program, she received a Bachelors’ Degree in Health and Human Service from Empire State College. Additionally, she has a certification for the administration of local anesthesia and nitrous oxide from the University of Alaska. With a broad range of experience in dental hygiene spanning 30 years, she also has worked independently as a practice development consultant, continuing education presenter, and oral health coordinator. She was published and featured in an RDH professional journal on School-Based Health: Our Answer to Access. A supporter of organized dentistry and dental hygiene, she served as the president of the state of Alaska Dental Hygienists’ Association.

Judith Dember-Paige, BS, RDH, COM®, has practiced dental hygiene for 35 years and myofunctional therapy for 10 years. With an AS degree from SUNY Farmingdale and a BS from O’Hehir University, she received her certificate to practice Orofacial Myofunctional Therapy and became certified with the International Association of Orofacial Myology (IAOM).