

Michael James Lopez, DDS
1704 Miramonte Ave.
Mountain View, CA
Nevid2@hotmail.com

West Los Angeles College
Dental Hygiene Department
9000 Overland Avenue
Culver City, California

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of a baccalaureate in hygiene degree being offered at West Los Angeles College.

I have been a practicing dentist and dental educator for the past 42 years. I have also been active in professional dental and education organizations and have seen the trends in dental care and the need for changes in dental education.

The quality of care necessary to insure the health of a growing population is enhanced by more education and awareness on the part of the dental hygienist. A bachelor degree is essential for dental hygienists to increase their ability to perform at a higher level. The growth of Dental Hygiene programs predicates the need for more qualified hygiene educators. A baccalaureate program would help fill this need.

To emphasize the value of this degree, a bachelor degree is the minimum degree required for faculty in the dental hygiene department at West LA College.

The dental hygiene students at WLAC are already completing enough college credits for a bachelor degree but are being denied the degree and the opportunities afforded to those with a bachelor degree.

A baccalaureate program will allow students to continue to find success and fulfillment as dental hygienists.

Sincerely,

Michael James Lopez, DDS

Chair, Student Relations Committee, UCSF, DAA
Dean's Advisory Council SoD, UCSF
HDA National Faculty Advisory Committee
HDA Trustee
AAUCSF Executive Board
DAA Executive Board

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mlopez@dentall.com

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I am writing this letter in support of a baccalaureate in hygiene degree being offered at West Los Angeles College.

~~Over the past 15 years, I have been actively involved in professional dental and hygiene education organizations and have seen the trends in dental and the need for changes in dental education.~~

The quality of care necessary to insure the health of a growing population is enhanced by more education and awareness on the part of the dental hygienist. A bachelor degree is essential for dental hygienists to increase their ability to perform at a higher level. The growth of Dental Hygiene programs predates the need for more qualified hygiene education. A baccalaureate program would help fill this need.

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A baccalaureate program will allow students to continue to find success and fulfillment as dental hygienists.

Sincerely,

Michael James Lopez DDS

Chief, Dental Hygiene Department, WLA
Member, National Dental Hygiene Council (NDHC)
ADA National Dental Advisory Committee
ADA Hygiene
ADA Executive Board
ADA Council Board