



Dentistry

IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Allied Staff News

Help Recruit Future Employees

According to the American Dental Association around 30% of dental hygienists and dental assistants are anticipated to retire in the next five years. South Dakota is not unaffected by this shortage. A 2023 survey conducted by the South Dakota Dental Association found that 58% of offices polled were looking for a dental hygienist and 74% were looking for an assistant. The South Dakota Oral Health Coalition has a task force that has been focusing on encouraging and engaging youth to think about a career in the dental field. One of the efforts is a flyer that can be displayed at career fairs or in guidance counselor's offices, dental offices, biology classrooms or front offices. The flyers for [assistants](#) and [dental hygienists](#) can be found at the South Dakota Dental Association website or scan QR codes below. To learn more contact [Cori Jacobson](#) at cori.jacobson@deltadentalsd.com



Dental
Assisting



Dental
Hygiene

Delta Dental Insights



Delta Dental Insights is Tuesday, January 6th at 12:30 CST/11:30 MST.

The January session will focus on important 2026 updates:

- Current Dental Terminology (CDT) changes
- Delta Dental commercial and SD Medicaid processing policies
- Medicare Advantage plan update

Join live on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86259791274?pwd=npTcIVOt3Saahn2r8YL512FRFtKtzb.1>

Meeting ID: 862 5979 1274 | Passcode: 557576

*All attendees will be entered to win a 2026 Coding Companion reference book!

What is Delta Dental Insights?

Delta Dental Insights is held the first Tuesday of each quarter. This webinar series is an opportunity for dental offices to connect with Delta Dental of South Dakota. Each 1-hour session includes important updates on commercial, South Dakota Medicaid, and Medicare Advantage business. One practice management CE has been approved by the SD Board of Dentistry for each session.

Save the dates for all 2026 Delta Dental Insights Sessions

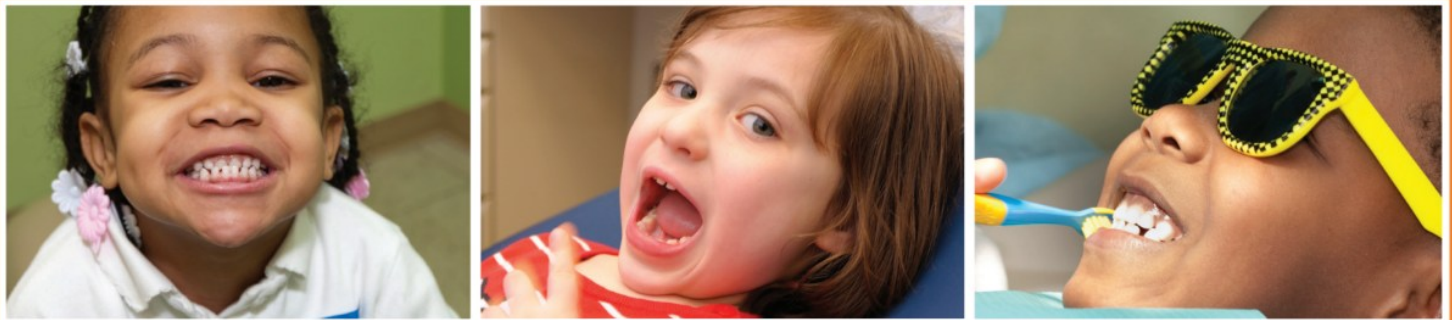
January 6 | April 7 | July 7 | October 6

Recordings of the 2025 Delta Dental Insights sessions can be viewed on the Delta Dental of SD website. Click on Dentist and then Delta Dental Insights to watch!

Questions? We are here to help! Contact us at 1-877-841-1478 or professionalrelations@deltadentalsd.com.

Give Kids A Smile Day

The first Friday in February has become well known as the day that thousands of dentists across the country, along with their dental team members, provide free oral health care services to children from low-income families. The ADA's Give Kids A Smile® (GKAS) program enhances the oral health of large numbers of needy children. These activities also highlight, for policy makers, the ongoing challenges that low-income families face in finding dental care. SDDA members are encouraged to host a GKAS day in their own office. Working alongside a local non-profit or children's organization is a great way to find underserved patients who need dental care. For a complete kit on hosting GKAS and to register to participate, go to www.ada.org/gkas.



One vision. **Half a million smiles.**



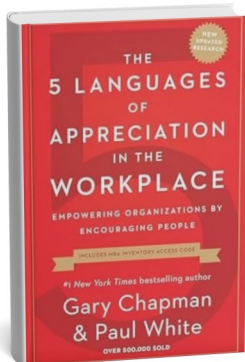
ADA American Dental Association®

Beginning in February, thousands of dentists across the country will take time from their practices to help underserved children get the oral health care they need.

Give Kids A Smile® is an annual volunteer program that provides free educational, preventive and restorative services to children from low-income families.

Last year, we worked together to provide care to more than 300,000 kids. Let's make it half a million this year.

For more information and to volunteer, visit ADA.org/GKAS.



Wellbeing Book Recommendation: “The 5 Languages of Appreciation in the Workplace”

I'm sure everyone is aware of the 5 love languages. This book helps team members understand how to communicate appreciation in ways that resonate with their peers. By learning each person's "language", teams can build a more positive and motivated work environment. When team members feel genuinely appreciated and understood, they're more engaged, cooperative, and committed to providing excellent patient experiences. It helps reduce burnout, improve collaboration, and create a more supportive and enjoyable workplace culture.

The 5 Languages of Appreciation in the Workplace, written by Gary Chapman and Paul White is recommended by Dr. Kyla Boyd, a member of the SDDA Wellbeing Committee.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CALENDAR

The listing of these programs is provided as a service to SDDA Newsletter subscribers, and does not mean that these programs have been endorsed or approved by the SD Dental Association or the SD State Board of Dentistry. All members are cautioned to evaluate the programs on their own merit.

SOUTH DAKOTA DENTAL ASSOCIATION 2026 ANNUAL SESSION

May 14-16, 2026 | Sioux Falls, SD

Contact: Melissa Afdahl, 605-609-1152 | melissa@sddental.org | www.sddental.org

WESTERN DAKOTA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Contact: 605-718-2410; email: corped@wdt.edu

Third Friday of the month (AM)

- American Heart Association CPR Class for Healthcare Professionals

Third Friday of the month (PM)

- American Heart Association CPR Recertification for Healthcare Providers

SOUTHEAST TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Contact: 605-367-4607 or
corporateeducation@southeasttech.edu

Dental Radiology

- March 6-7, 2026 in Sioux Falls

LAKE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Contact: Nicole Pahl, 605-882-5284, ext. 362;
Nicole.Pahl@lakeareatech.edu
www.lakeareatech.edu/corporate-education/corporate-education-registration/

Home Study Radiology Courses available:

- Radiology Safety
- Radiography Production

CPR COURSES: Contact: Tia Meyer, 605-842-5672 or
meyertia@hotmail.com

605CPR: We provide AHA and/or Red Cross BLS/ACLS/PALS certification. Will travel for onsite delivery.

www.605CPR.com; jr@605CPR.com; 605-525-4CPR (4277)

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Contact: Dept. of Dental Hygiene, 605-658-5960

Local Anesthesia Certification

- June 18-20, 2026

Nitrous Oxide/Oxygen Inhalation Sedation Certification

- June 4-5, 2026

Radiology Certification for Dental Assistants

- May 28-29, 2026

Home Study Courses available:

- Radiology Interpretation, Pathology & Anomalies
- Errors of PA's, BWS & Panoramic Radiography
- Oral Effects of Head & Neck Radiation Therapy
- Radiation Safety
- Portable Dental Radiography
- SDF

ADA CE ONLINE

Contact: engage.ada.org

Wellness in Motion

Your Health Powers
Patient Health

Sioux Falls
Convention Center
May 14-16, 2026

142nd Annual Session

Dentistry in South Dakota
804 N Euclid; Ste 103
Pierre SD 57501

Classified Ads

Dakota Family Dentistry in Huron, SD is seeking a **registered dental hygienist** to join our team. The ideal candidate should be dedicated to providing excellent patient care with exceptional service. This is an outstanding opportunity to practice in a well-established clinic with a great team in a wonderful community. Benefits include a \$5000 sign-on bonus, student loan repayment for 3 year commitment, competitive pay, 401K with profit-sharing, in-house dental benefit plan, paid sick leave, vacation, dues, licenses, CE, and 6 paid holidays. Visit our website: www.dakotafamilydentistry.org for an application or call 605-352-6999.

Dental Hygienist: Are you a dental hygienist looking to make a difference? Would you like to set your own schedule? Delta Dental of South Dakota's Mobile Program has collaborative supervision opportunities for dental hygienists. These opportunities include both—full time and part-time flexible schedules, including working specific weeks or months out of the year. The dental hygienists will work under collaborative supervision in South Dakota, primarily on the Pine Ridge or Cheyenne River Native American Reservations. The dental hygienists will join a team providing preventive services and oral health education in schools, Head Starts, etc. Extensive travel is required. May be eligible for benefits including health, dental, vision, life/long term disability insurance, paid holidays, vacation/sick leave, 401k, and more. For more information visit www.deltadentalsd.com. Submit a cover letter and resume to: summer.sporrer@deltadentalsd.com. Questions? Contact Zach Parsons at 605-494-2558.

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