



School of Dentistry

October 14, 2014

Dr. Francisco Rodriguez
Los Angeles Community College District
c/o West Los Angeles College
Attn: Dental Hygiene Department
9000 Overland Avenue
Culver City, CA 90230

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to support the application of West Los Angeles College, Program in Dental Hygiene to be selected as the pilot program to offer a bachelor degree, per SB 850.

I am very familiar with the dental hygiene educational program at West Los Angeles College as I served as its program director from 1979 to 1997. This program has a long history of excellence in its didactic and clinical programs and enjoys a strong reputation in the practicing dental community. Graduates of the program have posted high pass rates on the National Dental Hygiene Board Examinations (NBDHE) and on the Western Regional Examining Board (WREB) which is a clinically based practical examination required for licensure in California.

It is important to note that a dental hygiene program whether it is based in a community, technical or baccalaureate granting institution is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, meeting the same Standards. All dental and dental-related educational programs in the US are accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. For this reason, selecting an established dental hygiene program for this pilot would be easy to monitor and would not have any messy accreditation issues.

In addition, the student who applies to a dental hygiene program has already earned a number of prerequisite college courses and often in excess of what is required for an associate's degree. It was not uncommon to accept an individual with a baccalaureate or masters degree only then to then award them an associate degree having them repeat several courses.

As a past director of the dental hygiene program at West LA College and now the academic dean in a dental school, I am very aware of the cost of educating the future dental health workforce. This pilot is a worthy endeavor and would address the educational inequities of our systems that refuse to acknowledge earned college credit.

I strongly support this pilot program and the application of West Los Angeles College Dental Hygiene Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Phyllis L. Beemsterboer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Phyllis" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Beemsterboer".

Phyllis L. Beemsterboer RDH, MS, Ed D, FACD
Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

