Oral Health Educator's Workshop

Friday, July 10, 2026 9:00 – 11:00 AMBER 3

"Redefining Oral Health Education: Preparing Students for Practice Beyond Traditional Dental"

Facilitators:

Chair, Cynthia C. Gadbury-Amyot
Roisin McGrath

Presenters:

Cheryl Arntston
Leon Bassi
Matt Crespin
Jennifer Pieren
Darlene Swigart

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Program Description

The Oral Health Educators' Workshop examines the expanding role of oral healthcare practitioners through a comprehensive, theorydriven, and communitycentered lens. Grounded in established dental hygiene theoretical frameworks—including the Dental Hygiene Human Needs Model and the Oral HealthRelated Quality of Life model, the program guides participants in exploring social determinants of health that shape oral health disparities across diverse populations. A central emphasis of the workshop is the value of community-based clinical practice.
Participants will engage with examples of student learning experiences in nontraditional care environments such as public health clinics, long-term care facilities, mobile health units, and interprofessional practice settings. Through these exposures, students build competenies in collaborative care, population health, health promotion, and advocacy. This approach ensures graduates are appropriately prepared to meet emerging workforce needs and to advance oral health equity across community and primary care settings.

Objectives:

1.Analyze how dental hygiene theoretical frameworks, specifically the Dental Hygiene Human Needs Model and the Oral Health-Related Quality of Life Model, inform community-centered oral health education and practice.

2. Evaluate the impact of social determinants of health on oral health disparities across diverse populations and apply this understanding to community-based and primary care settings.

3. Explore strategies for achieving a sustainable academic workforce for dental hygiene and oral health therapy where teaching, research, and academic leadership is promoted.