

Open Door Inspires Future Dental Workforce

Over the past 5 years, Burre Dental Center, one of Open Door Community Health Centers' sites, has been a regular training location for fourth-year dental students from the University of California San Francisco (UCSF). Under preceptor Carter Wright, DDS, Burre Dental generally trains three dental residents at a time on a rotating basis throughout the year. One of the biggest challenges for the residents traveling to the Redwood Coast was how and where they would secure housing for the series of three, three week externships. As part of the North Coast AHEC program, we addressed this challenge by supporting a portion of the housing costs for the students who journey five hours north from the San Francisco Bay Area.

As a result, we are fortunate to have the opportunity to welcome these dental students into our community which benefits both the patients and the students. By providing these externships, the clinic is able to expand capacity to primary dental services. Additionally, the UCSF dental students receive rewarding, hands-on educational experiences working with children and low-income populations in the underserved community. These experiences will guide their journey as professionals in years to come.

"This was a wonderful experience. I had more opportunities to work with children and was exposed to a variety of procedures. I gained confidence, speed, and better decision making skills "(Taylor Landon, July 19, 2010).



UCSF Dental Externs (pictured from left to right): Negin Saghafi, Jeffrey Smith, Taylor Landon, and Burre Dental Center Preceptor Carter Wright, DDS.