

CAN YOU HELP IPFW DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS SERVE THE UNDERSERVED POPULATION?

The Department of Dental Education in the College of Health and Human Services at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW) has a very successful tradition of providing oral health care to patients by dental assisting, dental hygiene, and dental laboratory technology students through service learning activities. The programs have enjoyed the long standing support of the dental community.

The need for care to the underserved in our community is rapidly growing and the area of prosthesis is currently unmet. Expansion of the Lafayette Street Dental Clinic (LSDC), located in the Lafayette Medical Building on the corner of South Lafayette Street and Pontiac in the southern area of Fort Wayne, will allow the rotation of second year dental laboratory technology students to participate in the care of the underserved population during their extramural rotations. This would allow the dental laboratory technology students to gain hands-on experience in both a laboratory setting and a clinical setting, while allowing them to work side by side with dental assistants, dental hygienists and dentists. During these rotations, dental laboratory technology students would clean and repair patients' prosthetic appliances while interacting with these patients and gaining the experience often missing from the dental laboratory technician education.

We would appreciate your support in meeting the community educational learning experiences of our students and the oral health of those in our community who are currently not served. We are asking for monetary and new and used equipment donations that will be devoted to supplying the necessary equipment needs to support a small in house laboratory in the clinic. For a donation of \$1000, your name will be placed on the *Clinic Benefactor* plaque that will be prominently displayed in the clinic. For a donation of \$300, your name will be placed on the *Donor Acknowledgment* plaque. Any donation would be greatly appreciated. All donors will receive recognition in the AIDL newsletter and at the IPFW booth at the MWSTM meeting and will be invited to the opening ceremony of the newly remodeled clinic.

If you are interested in giving back to your industry and supporting the continuing education of students, contact Candy Ringel, CDT at IPFW, (260) 481-6043 or e-mail at ringelc@ipfw.edu. Make checks payable to IPFW and send directly to Candy Ringel, CDT, IPFW Dental Laboratory Technology Program, 2101 E. Coliseum Blvd., Fort Wayne IN, 46805.

IPFW is very grateful for the continued support by the dental community.