



ADEA Bulletin of Dental Education Acknowledges Lessons in a Lunch Box Program

Academy of General Dentistry leader instrumental in success of the activity.

Owings Mills, Maryland (**December 11, 2015**). The *Lessons in a Lunch Box: Healthy Teeth Essentials & Facts About Snacks*® program is acknowledged by the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) on their website, *CDMI Students Provide "Lesson in a Lunchbox" at Local School* according to the Bulletin of Dental Education. The oral health initiative created by The Children's Oral Health Institute was presented by student dentists from the College of Dental Medicine at Illinois's (CDMI) Midwestern University. 340 delighted 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders from John Tibbott Elementary School were the recipients of the lunch box presentation. 4th year student doctors Josh Eastham, Harlean Ahuja, Josef Schwartz, Branden Goetsch and Ryan Helgerson, worked with Assistant Professor Dr. Larry N. Williams, Jr. to coordinate the activity.

Dr. Williams serves as the CDMI Community Outreach Coordinator where he is working to develop experiential clinical sites and community activities for students. He is the president of the Illinois Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) and is clearly an instrumental leader in supporting the commitment by the AGD to "put boots on the ground" to expand the oral health knowledge of children while in elementary school. His leadership is consistent with ADEA's messaging to encourage children at these impressionable ages to begin thinking about careers in dental medicine. *Lessons in a Lunch Box* does both, promoting good oral health and proper diet behaviors and influencing youth to, "See yourself becoming a dentist," via the reflective sticker on the exclusively designed lunch box.

The presentation was part of the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship community service project provided by CDMI. Eastham, who led the *Lessons in a Lunch Box* effort is the 2016 Schweitzer Fellow. The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the health of vulnerable people now and for the future. The prestigious fellowship program encourages graduate students to become lifelong leaders in service.

For more information about The Children's Oral Health Institute or to register a school for the Lessons in a Lunch Box program please visit www.mycohi.org.

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