



**For Immediate Release**

## **Platform of the 88<sup>th</sup> National Dental Association President To Include A Focus on Oral Health Education**

**Gulfport, MS** (December 5, 2011) – The 2012 National Dental Association (NDA) president, Dr. Roy Irons, will have a platform that includes a focus on oral health education. Dr. Irons wasted no time beginning his legacy of education leadership right at home in Mississippi. The 88<sup>th</sup> president seized the opportunity to have a comprehensive oral health education program presented to teachers in his state following the national debut of the compiled work in New Orleans last month. *Code Red: The Oral Health Crisis In Your Classroom*® Empowering the Teacher to Teach Oral Health Education - A Curriculum Resource Reference will be introduced in Gulfport schools on the eve of the inauguration of the 88<sup>th</sup> NDA President.

Dr. Irons has been the conduit to help to ensure that the presentations of the initiative to teachers and school nurses at Gaston Point Elementary School, Gulfport Central Middle School and Harrison Central High School occur on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Mississippi and Maryland each tragically lost school-aged children secondary to untreated tooth decay in 2008. Mississippi's Alexander Collander was a 6 year-old first grader. Empowering teachers with the resources to incorporate oral health education into their routine lesson plans can help to create an environment of increased awareness necessary to maintain good oral health. Reinforcing these oral health messages in grades K through 12 could mean the difference in preserving lives.

Irons has said that he will focus some of his energy during his term as president on additional ways to guide young people to consider careers in dentistry, an outcome that is near and dear to his heart. *Code Red: The Oral Health Crisis In Your Classroom* is in line with this goal. He sees this as one of the greatest potential impacts from the booklet.

The Children's Oral Health Institute will continue working with all of organized dentistry to encourage oral health education curriculum requirements for grades K through 12 nationally. The Maryland based nonprofit appreciates the willingness of Dr. Irons to include oral health education in schools as a part of his platform focus in 2012. This level of leadership and support from the newly installed NDA president, the Board of Trustees and members of the NDA will help to lead us to a healthier nation.

For information about how to register schools for *Code Red: The Oral Health Crisis In Your Classroom*® Empowering the Teacher to Teach Oral Health Education - A Curriculum Resource Reference faculty presentations, visit The Children's Oral Health Institute at [www.mycohi.org](http://www.mycohi.org) or call 1-866-508-7400.

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