



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

East Carolina University Orchestrates Impressive Kick Off of Lessons in a Lunch Box

Student dentists invaluable to the coordination and success of the oral health program.

Maxton, North Carolina (**January 11, 2018**). The 2018 *Lessons in a Lunch Box: Healthy Teeth Essentials & Facts About Snacks®* kicked off in spectacular fashion yesterday. The East Carolina University student dentists orchestrated an impressive start to the oral health education programs at Prospect Elementary School for some 220 excited 2nd and 3rd graders. Faculty advisor, Dr. Loren Alves and the D2 students were joined by additional volunteers. A dental resident from East Carolina University's Community Service Learning Center in Lumberton, NC, a dental hygiene student from Fayetteville Technical Community College and students from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke participated in the initiative. Both Dr. Loren Alves, Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics and Dr. Craig Slotke, Faculty Director, Community Service Learning Center and Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of General Dentistry encouraged the student leaders to choreograph a well-planned program presentation.

The leadership of the student dentists proved to be invaluable to the coordination and success of the oral health program created by The Children's Oral Health Institute. Student Dr. Brianna Chavis-Locklear who attended Prospect Elementary School as a child, and Student Dr. Martha Turpin, brought classmates together for the *Lessons in a Lunch Box* presentation. They thoroughly reviewed the presentation format prior to the event. At the school they set up the lunch boxes. Introductions were made when the children arrived, followed by the dental hygiene videos. Next, a comprehensive overview of the lunch box and dental travel case, designed in the likeness of a carrot was given to their audience. The student dentists were then joined by the elementary school students at 16 tables strategically dispersed throughout the gymnasium. Everyone stood around the 8ft long tables while the presenters provided the children hands-on explanations of the contents, including use and function of the carrot case. Together they examined the USDA Food Plate, the flossing and brushing instructions and the "See Yourself Becoming a Dentist," labels.

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Finally, dental organizations and corporate sponsors acknowledged on the exclusive container were praised by the presenters. Teachers were encouraged to visit these websites and that of the American Dental Education Association with their potential future dentists. Prospects principal, Mr. Jonathan Blue echoed the importance of the educational program, and organizations and corporate sponsors that make it possible.

Read more about East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine and their Lessons in a Lunch Box experience at <http://www.robsonian.com/news/106462/prospect-students-get-dental-plan>. For information about program dates and times and how to participate, visit The Children's Oral Health Institute at <https://www.mycohi.org>.



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