



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Thirty-five Dental Schools to Present Lessons in a Lunch Box Programs in 2018** *Educational benefits gained by both primary school and professional school students.*

Owings Mills, Maryland (**January 5, 2018**). *Lessons in a Lunch Box: Healthy Teeth Essentials & Facts About Snacks®* presentations will begin this January with dental schools leading the charge. Currently, thirty-five dental schools are registered with elementary schools to independently present the program or in conjunction with other organizations. This cycle will mark 52 of the 66 U.S. dental schools being instrumental in helping to expand oral health education in elementary schools throughout the country and the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico. This is the largest number to participate during a single cycle according to Dr. Leslie E. Grant, Director of Advocacy & Outreach. "By the end of National Children's Dental Health Month dental schools and student dentists will have helped to put over 55,000 of the educational lunch boxes into the hands of school children, and their classrooms and ultimately into their homes and communities."

Grant went on to say, "The program offers numerous benefits for both primary and professional school students. Student dentists are afforded required community service learning hours. These professionals take advantage of this learning opportunity to interact with pediatric populations. This occasion to teach flossing and brushing, discuss food portion information and, to inspire interest in the dental profession is beneficial to the admiring audiences and to the future dentists." *Lessons in a Lunch Box* is presented while dressed in uniform – scrubs and or a white coat. This, per The Children's Oral Health Institute, may encourage these impressionable youth to, "See Yourself Becoming a Dentists," as the reflective label reads that is found at the opening of the lunch box. Sponsor recognition is as well an important part of the lunch box presentation.

Whether packaging products, or as presenters of *Lessons in a Lunch Box* programs, the support from dental schools is compelling. Community and student dentists, dental hygienists and, dental hygiene students, school nurses, pediatricians and many civic groups have all helped to propel this health education movement. Visit [https:// www.mycohi.org](https://www.mycohi.org) to learn more.



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