



Dental Hygiene Student Merit Award for Outstanding Achievement in Community Dentistry

The American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD) cordially invites your School/Program to participate in the annual Dental Hygiene Student Merit Award for Outstanding Achievement in Community Dentistry. We hope you will choose to nominate project(s) for this competition. The awards will be presented during AAPHD's Annual Business meeting which will be held at the **2025 National Oral Health Conference® in Orlando, FL**.

Each School/Program of Dental Hygiene with **Baccalaureate Degree Programs** may submit **a maximum** of two (2) separate nominations for this award. The nominees(s) must have completed their project prior to graduation. Each project should be an oral health program carried out in a community by the student(s).

Project components and submission requirements can be found below. Abstracts to be considered for the AAPHD Student Merit Award program should not be submitted a second time for the General Poster Session.

If there are any questions please contact info@aaphd.org.

Dates to note:

- **Open Now** – Site opens for submission Student Merit Awards
- **December 12, 2024** – Deadline for submission of nominees and supportive material. Submission site closes at 11:45 pm EASTERN.
- **February, 2025** – Notifications emailed to submitters

The National Oral Health Conference® will be held on April 7-9 in Orlando, FL

AAPHD's Business Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 6, 2025

Project Components and Submission Requirements for the Dental Hygiene Student Merit Award 2024

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- All material must be submitted electronically by visiting the [NOHC Abstract Submission Site](#). No manual submissions will be accepted. Nominations will not be considered after the submission deadline.
- Be sure to complete all the submission tasks – you may save your submission and return to the form as needed until the deadline. After the deadline date, no changes can be made.
- A submission is not considered complete if you do not complete all tasks. All tasks must have a green checkmark indicator before each task. The submitter will receive an immediate email acknowledgement once the submission is complete. Only completed submissions will be reviewed for consideration.
- It is the responsibility of the person submitting the abstract to verify the correct spelling and email address for all authors' email addresses when the abstract is submitted. NOHC is not responsible if authors do not receive email communications as a result of an incorrect email address provided during the submission.
- NOHC is not responsible for incorrect information in program material due to incorrect information provided by the submitter.
- **Proposals must be submitted by 11:45 pm EST, Wednesday, December 12, 2024. No exceptions.** Notification of selection will be made in February 2025. Any questions related to the submission process may be directed to the NOHC office at abstracts@nationaloralhealthconference.com.

II. COMPONENTS FOR ONLINE SUBMISSIONS

Each project should be an oral health program carried out in a community by the student(s). For all submissions, the following online tasks must be addressed in order for the submission to be considered complete:

1. **Author(s).** One presenting author must be identified.
2. **Conflict of Interest Disclosure.** A conflict of interest disclosure must be completed by each author listed on the abstract.
3. **Abstract Requirements:**
 - a. **Title.** *Limit 100 characters/30 words.* Titles should be entered in title case format, i.e. the first letter of each word is capitalized unless it is an article or preposition. **DO NOT USE** all capital letters in the title.
 - b. **Body of Abstract.** *Word limit: 250 words, exclusive of the title and the source of funding.* The words: "Objective", "Methods", "Results", and "Conclusions" must be included in the body of the abstract and are included in the 250-word limit.
 - c. **Source of Funding.** All sources of funding and support must be included.
 - d. **Affiliations.** Please list the universities or other institutions with which the authors are affiliated.
 - e. **Keywords.** Include three (3) to ten (10) keywords.

4. **Supporting Documents.** Each nominee is required to upload the following:
- a. **Report.** *Limit 20 pages, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, minimum font size 12.* The report should include the following sections:
 - Background information
 - List of the program’s objectives and the procedures used
 - Summary of results
 - Discussion of the positive impact on the community’s oral health
 - Conclusions
 - Photographs, figures/tables, forms/questionnaires or illustrated diagrams should be included where appropriate.
 - b. **Letter of Nomination.** A letter from the nominating faculty person outlining student(s)’ role in the project as well as the student's class level in the dental hygiene school.
 - c. **Cover Page.** A cover page that includes the following contact information for each student author/nominee: full name, mailing address, telephone number and e-mail.
 - d. **IRB.** If the project involved human subject research, a copy of the letter from the relevant Institutional Review Board must be included.
5. **E-mail confirmation of the submission.**

III. EVALUATION

Each project will be evaluated by multiple reviewers, according to the following six guidelines:

- Originality and design of the project
- Description of results and conclusions
- Quality of the results (data) from the project
- Level of student responsibility and leadership
- Community value of the project
- Demonstrated mastery of the subject

IV. AWARDS

First, second, and third place award winners are selected from submitted projects which have met the reviewers’ guidelines. These winners are required to present their projects as a part of the General Poster Session on Monday, April 7, 2025 at the 2025 National Oral Health Conference®, a joint meeting of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD) and the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD). Award winners will be recognized at the AAPHD Annual Business meeting on Sunday, April 6, 2025 where they will receive the award. Winners will also receive complimentary membership in the American Association of Public Health Dentistry for 2025 and electronic access to the *Journal of Public Health Dentistry (JPHD)*.

Please note: In order to receive the cash award, the award winner is required to attend the 2025 National Oral Health Conference® and present their poster. **Only one complimentary registration per project will be awarded and given to the individual who has been identified as the presenting author on the report.** *If no member of the project team is able to attend the 2024 NOHC, the submitting author will only receive the plaque, AAPHD membership and electronic access to the JPHD.*

FIRST PLACE AWARD. The First Place Award winner will receive complimentary registration and a cash award of \$500 to help defray the cost of attending the National Oral Health Conference®.

SECOND PLACE AWARD. The Second Place Award winner will receive complimentary registration and a cash award of \$200 to help defray the cost of attending the National Oral Health Conference®.

THIRD PLACE AWARD. The Third Place Award winner will receive complimentary registration and a cash award of \$100 to help defray the cost of attending the National Oral Health Conference®.

V. HONORABLE MENTION

Honorable mention winners are invited to present their project as part of the General Poster Session on Monday, April 7, 2025. Honorable mentions will be recognized and receive their award at the AAPHD Annual Business meeting on Sunday, April 6, 2025. They will also receive complimentary membership in the American Association of Public Health Dentistry for 2025 and electronic access to the *Journal of Public Health Dentistry (JPHD)*.

If the Honorable Mention is attending NOHC, they will need to register for the conference and pay the appropriate conference registration fee. If they are not a resident member of AAPHD, they may register for the conference at the discounted “student member” rate.

If there are any questions please contact info@aaphd.org.