

Creighton
UNIVERSITY



Creighton University School of Dentistry

Our legacy of excellence continues.

“This isn’t like most dental schools. We do more here. You won’t find this quality of care, service or education at any other dental school. I’m so grateful for everyone who makes this such an excellent school.”

YOUSSEF ASHOUR, BS’20
School of Dentistry, Class of 2024



A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

In my time as the dean of the School of Dentistry, one thing stands out above all else: this school’s legacy of excellence.

Excellence through innovation, excellence through experience, excellence through great teachers, dedicated alumni and community partners. Excellence through service.

In 2023, Creighton continues to educate the nation’s most skilled, empathetic and practice-ready dentists by caring for the underserved patients of Omaha, Nebraska and beyond.

At Creighton, our students become *great* by doing *good*. The care they provide and the education they receive are one and the same. The more they give, the more they become. It’s a unity of purpose.

I see this unity in our alumni, who apply their skills and values to every aspect of their lives and careers. I see it in our faculty and staff, many who are alumni themselves, passing their knowledge to future generations. I see it in our students, who every day find new ways to give back to our communities while, in the process, becoming the best in their fields.

In the following pages, you will see the ways this school is innovating its care and curriculum while staying true to its legacy of service and community. It’s an exciting time for the school, made possible by your faith in the greatness (and goodness) of a Creighton dental education.

Thank you for everything you do to make this the best dental school in the country.



Sincerely,

Jillian Wallen, BDS, MS
Dean, School of Dentistry

Excellence Through Service

For a Creighton dental student, the service *is* the education. Opportunities abound for students to sharpen their skills while delivering high-quality care to patients across Omaha, Nebraska and beyond.

SERVICE SPOTLIGHT:

The After-Hours Clinic

Two nights a week, Creighton dental students, faculty, staff and University of Nebraska Medical Center oral and maxillofacial surgery residents perform tooth extractions at the School of Dentistry's After-hours Clinic. The clinic sees about 10 patients each night.

"We never turn away anyone in pain," said Joseph Franco, DDS, the School of Dentistry's associate dean of clinical services. "If they don't have the money, we're still helping them."

The clinic started a few years ago with the support of the Lozier Foundation, the Willa D. Seeman Charitable Fund and the William and Ruth Scott Family Foundation. It closed during the pandemic but returned in 2023 with plans of expanding its scope of service, incorporating Creighton students and treating more patients.

The After-hours Clinic is a pivotal part of the School of Dentistry's emergency diversion program, which redirects patients seeking acute dental care in the ER to dentists who can help them as soon as possible. (ER dental care is costing Nebraska about \$10 million every year, according to a report on emergency department use for non-traumatic dental conditions.)

The clinic gives our students another opportunity to build their skills by caring for an underserved community. "At the clinic," said D4 Dakota Baker, "I improve with every new patient I see and apply what I learn to taking care of someone in pain."

*The greater the service,
the stronger our dentists.*

More Service-Learning Opportunities

MONEN HEALTHCARE DENTAL CLINIC AT THE HEART MINISTRY CENTER

Six half-days per week, Creighton students and faculty provide free dental care to patients seeking cleanings, restorations, tooth extractions and pain management.

CURA CLINIC

One evening every month, volunteer students and faculty offer free preventative and restorative treatment at the dental school to patients seeking care at reduced cost.

ILAC DENTAL PROGRAM

The dental program has been a part of ILAC from its earliest days. Each year, ILAC sends teams of students, dentists and faculty to rural campos in the Dominican Republic.

"For many of us, this isn't a job. It really is a community we get to be a part of. It's what brought me back here to teach."



TERRY LANPHIER BS'78, DDS'82, MBA'10,
CHAIR, ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR





Excellence Through Innovation

To keep at the cutting edge of dentistry, we provide our students with the most modern equipment available. Anything less would be a disservice to their education and the care they provide for our patients.

INNOVATION SPOTLIGHT:

CEREC CAD/CAM Digital Dentistry

In 2023, a new fleet of 19 CEREC CAD/CAM milling devices and intraoral scanners dramatically shifted the workflow of the School of Dentistry's clinic.

The new equipment was purchased with the help of a Kansas woman with no formal connection to the dental school or Creighton in general. She made a gift because her longtime dentist Jim Bongers, DDS'80, went to Creighton. Any school that produces dentists like him, she felt, was deserving of her support. (The new devices are an upgrade of previous equipment purchased with a gift from alumnus Arne Ness, DDS'77, in 2013.)

The scanners replace the messy impression process with digital scans and provide students with large and highly detailed 3D images. The students send the scans to the mills, which make

bridges and crowns out of porcelain or zirconia blocks. This process, which previously required external labs, once took up to several weeks. Now, it can happen in the same place on the same day.

"This technology has become as seamless a part of our students' education as it has our patients' care," said Dean Jillian Wallen.

CAD/CAM technology keeps our practice-ready students at the front of the field. More importantly (and more urgently), it shows them how to use the latest tools to deliver the very best care to their patients.

*The more cutting-edge our technology,
the more practice-ready our dentists.*



"Everyone here is helping everyone else become the best dentist they can be. Our requirements, procedures, curriculum and skills are part of that. But being a great dentist means more than taking care of a patient's teeth. It means caring for the whole person, looking beyond the dental care they need and connecting with them, asking about their life, relating to them.

"My professors, patients and classmates remind me every day that we're here to learn a kind of dentistry that does something more."

— SARAH NIELSEN, CLASS OF 2024

More cutting-edge tech

3D printer

The Asiga Pro 4K uses direct light processing to cure liquid resin, building objects utilizing 50-100-micron incremental layers. The dental school uses this technology to print laboratory and clinical models, dentures, dies for crowns and bridges, and splints.

Implant program

In 1987, Creighton's School of Dentistry became the first dental school in the country to offer classroom and clinical experience in dental implants to pre-doctoral students. Today, patient implant treatment planning, surgeries and restorations are completely prosthetically driven and digitally guided, improving the accuracy of the restoration and reducing the margin for error.

Creighton
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School of Dentistry

Excellence Through Community



More than five years since its construction, Creighton’s dental school facility continues to be one of the country’s finest. But it’s the *people* in our building who make this school everything it is.



“We all support each other: personally, professionally and spiritually. You can always go to Mass and feel the presence of the Jesuits, or find a friend to help you when you’re in the lab until midnight. You can count on help from a professor at any time for any reason. This school provides the resources and the community for us to feel confident in our work and ready to excel in our profession.”

— **ELLIE REVELIS**, CLASS OF 2024



“Creighton dental students are held to a very high standard, giving us a strong foundation. Meeting these rigorous requirements is possible because of the community supporting us.

“It starts with our faculty, who become our mentors and who put forward so much dedication toward our education and every patient’s care. The community continues with the patients themselves, who are so grateful for the services that we provide.

“It’s really rewarding. Being a part of this school is good for one’s heart.”

— **OMER TABEL**, CLASS OF 2024



Success LAB

Alumni from all eras of the School of Dentistry know how hard it can be to find a quiet place to take a test.

Until recently, many students were racing across campus to use the testing facility in the Old Gym, then back to the dental school to complete their lab exams. Always running late, extra pressure, no time, stress on top of stress.

The school’s new Success LAB changes that. The donor-supported center—which opened in 2023—includes 12 spaces for a low-distraction testing environment. After taking the written portion of an exam, students can walk across the hall to the simulation clinic for their test’s practical portion.

“We’re able to support our student community through peer tutoring, academic coaching, and testing accommodations,” said Jeffrey Kemp,

MS, the dental school’s academic success coach and Success LAB coordinator. “The support isn’t only about grades and requirements. It’s about people, about making them feel included.”

He pointed to the Success LAB’s sign, which includes the words “learning” and “belonging.” Each word is given equal weight.

Efforts like the Success LAB illustrate the dental school’s response to the needs of its learners. Our goal is to accompany individuals through their personal experience while, in the process, creating a culture that builds and reinforces our cohesive community.

***The more connected our community,
the more successful our students.***



Ways to Support the School of Dentistry

SCHOLARSHIPS

There's nothing we need more than scholarships. By supporting scholarships, you ensure that we continue to offer the best dental education to the best dental students.

THE PATIENT ASSISTANCE FUND

Not everyone has the money to get the care they need. Your support of this fund will assist with the costs of quality dental care for families who need our help.

TECHNOLOGY

To prepare the nation's best dentists, we need to train them in the latest equipment. Your support of the school's technology fund keeps us at the cutting edge of our profession and prepares our students for real-world practice.

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

To maintain this school's reputation for a nationally renowned dental education, we must continue investing in the mentors who make it possible. Access to new technology, research methods and opportunities for growth are essential to recruiting and retaining the best faculty.

VOLUNTEERING

Creighton dentists can volunteer their time and expertise by becoming a faculty member or preceptor at a clinical location, and by offering their practice as an extramural rotation site. Alumni have always been the secret to our success. Your lifelong connection to Creighton is the heart that keeps this school thriving.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Contact a School of Dentistry representative:

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SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY FAST FACTS



1 in 3 students come from a state without a dental school.



More than 4,200 alumni practice in eight different countries.



49,520 patient visits occur
(between 150 and 200 patients per session).
Nearly 14,000 unique patients are cared for.



More than 2,700 dental screenings are provided
at local elementary schools through the Healthy Smiles program.



Last academic year alone,
Creighton dental students cared for 6,157 patients at 21 federally qualified health centers,
tribal dental clinics and rural private practices in seven states during extramural rotations.

FORWARDBLUE
A Bold Future for Creighton University

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School of Dentistry

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