ADEA Mission Statement and Strategic Directions, 2011–14

ADEA Mission Statement
The mission of the American Dental Education Association is to lead individuals and institutions of the dental education community to address contemporary issues influencing education, research, and the delivery of oral health care for the improvement of the health of the public.

Strategic Directions and Key Priorities

Strategic Direction 1: Leadership
Provide leadership for the future of dental education and serve as the authority on the education of the dental, allied dental, and advanced dental workforce.

Key Priorities
1-1. Deepen the connection between academic dental institutions and their parent institutions to elevate the profile and integration of dental education on the academic campus, encourage interprofessional education, and highlight the critical role of oral health in improving the overall health of the public.
1-2. Identify, evaluate, and share models for the cost-effective delivery of dental education to ensure the sustainability of academic dental institutions.
1-3. Provide guidance, data, and analysis on the education of oral health professionals in emerging workforce models to institutions, organizations, and policymakers that are designing workforce models to ensure that these new types of members of the dental team possess the values, attitudes, knowledge, and skills needed to provide quality oral health care to all.
1-4. Provide leadership development programs and opportunities targeted to the needs of new deans, program directors, and department chairs, as well as emerging leaders among the students, residents, and fellows, to prepare this cadre of academic leaders for their new roles.

Strategic Direction 2: Teaching and Learning
Provide dental, allied dental, and advanced dental educators with the information, knowledge, and tools they need to prepare students, residents, and fellows for an undiscovered future.

Key Priorities
2-1. Provide professional development programming and resources targeted to the needs of new dental educators to enhance the pedagogical skills and competencies of these new members of the faculty.
2-2. Encourage and support academic dental institutions in integrating models of interprofessional education as a foundation for preparing students, residents, and fellows to provide patient-centered care.
2-3. Provide access to high-quality curricular tools, templates, and guidance to support effective teaching and learning in the classroom, the clinic, or wherever learning occurs.
2-4. Promote the scholarship of teaching and learning as an integral part of institutional culture.

Strategic Direction 3: Research
Promote the importance of research as the foundation of dental education and of the science and practice of dentistry.

Key Priorities
3-1. Encourage the integration of research into the mission of all academic dental institutions and provide opportunities for the discussion of research policy issues across the dental education community.
3-2. Promote opportunities for research collaborations that bring the differing strengths of each academic dental institution to the process of scientific discovery.
3-3. Advocate for increased funding for dental and craniofacial research and research training and enhance the competitiveness of academic dental institutions for receiving NIH and other grant funding.
3-4. Produce relevant and timely research on key issues in dental education to support informed decision making by the dental education community and policymakers.

**Strategic Direction 4: Service**

Guide the preparation of the dental, allied dental, and advanced dental workforce needed to meet the evolving oral health needs of a diverse society.

*Key Priorities*

4-1. Support the recruitment, inclusion, and success of individuals from underrepresented minorities and low-income backgrounds in entering the dental, allied dental, advanced dental, and academic dental careers to develop the diverse workforce needed for the future of dentistry.

4-2. Identify, develop, and promote educational pathways that prepare students for the full spectrum of roles performed by the dental, allied dental, and advanced dental workforce, including academic, research, practice, industry, and public service careers.

4-3. Identify, develop, and promote mechanisms by which academic dental institutions can contribute to solutions for addressing the access to care challenge to improve the health of the nation.

4-4. Provide access to ADEA’s programs, products, and services to the global dental education community in order to strengthen the quality of dental education worldwide.