

## ADEA President's Address

**Leo E. Rouse, D.D.S.**

This address by the 2011–12 President of the American Dental Education Association was presented to the ADEA House of Delegates on March 21, 2012, at the 89th ADEA Annual Session & Exhibition in Orlando, Florida. Dr. Rouse is Dean, College of Dentistry, Howard University.

**G**ood morning, dear family, friends, and colleagues, honored guests, delegates and alternates, past presidents, fellow board members, and staff of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA). It is my distinct personal privilege to address you at this closing session of the ADEA House of Delegates.

### Five Fingers of Dentistry: Tribute to Dean Joseph L. Henry

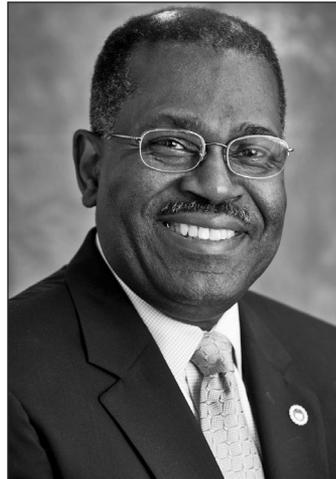
Last year at our Annual Session in San Diego, I shared my personal professional development story with you and the background for this year's theme, "Engage." For a few moments, please permit me to step back in time to 1971, my second year in dental school, and share with you a historical perspective for this theme by acknowledging a very special mentor: my dean, Joseph L. Henry, who was Dean Emeritus of the Howard University College of Dentistry until he passed away in October 2011. In a small way, I want to pay tribute to him and the impact that he had on my professional life and development.

In 1971, Dean Henry published an article titled "Trends in Dental Education" in the fall issue of the Howard University magazine, *New Direction* (today it is known as *Howard Magazine*). More than forty-one years ago, he wrote: "Today's dentist is not the isolated entrepreneur of the past. In spite of the essential competence which has provided us with the best dental care in the world, the need for change in the educational process is clearly indicated to meet the manpower and service needs of our country." Sound familiar? That's access to care. "Today's dentist," continued Dean Henry, "is not only a diag-

nostician and a competent therapist, but, in addition, a doctor who is politically informed, civically active, community-oriented, and socially conscious—better known to Howard and Harvard alums as the five fingers of dentistry." He wrote further that "the new Doctor of Dentistry is an integral member of the health team that includes the physician, nurse, dental hygienist, dental assistant, etc." Does that ring a bell? Interprofessional education (IPE) forty-one years ago!

In his conclusion, Dean Henry wrote, "Health care as a right for all is new; that health is not just for the affluent is recent; that the need for more dentists and better methods of dental health care delivery is critical; that dental education must change to provide for these needs is mandatory. All of these must be achieved now in order to improve the quality of life for all."

Thank you, Dean Henry, for your vision and for providing a message that resonates today. We still have work to do, but just think about how far we have come.



### The Pride of Serving

I take great pride in telling you that on every front ADEA has had a successful year. During my many travels as ADEA President, I enjoyed the opportunity to communicate the value of strong relationships with our colleagues in other dental, medical, and health education associations. The Interprofessional Education Collaborative, of which ADEA is a founding member along with associations representing educators in medicine, nursing, pharmacy, and public health, has gained considerable traction, and ADEA is well respected for its full engagement with our sister health education associations. It all began

one year ago with our IPE theme. Sandra Andrieu, Rick Valachovic, and I have been out front sharing the dental collaborative spirit and the reasons why health care teams are critical to meeting the health care needs of the public. In these discussions, dentistry is at the table.

I am also proud of a number of transformative events over the past year: ADEA's GoDental, a new experience for new and current students; ADEA's *Transforming Admissions: A Practical Guide to Fostering Student Diversity in Dental Schools*; the 75th Anniversary of the *Journal of Dental Education* (what a remarkable journey in the history of dental education and a journal respected globally); Education Scholar, an online program and partnership among Western University of Health Sciences, ADEA, and the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy to promote teaching excellence; the ADEA Curriculum Resource Center, a resource for fostering research and dental education; and the *ADEA Guidelines for Academia-Industry Interactions*, a dynamic document developed by a collaborative task force with representatives from all of the ADEA Councils. Those guidelines demonstrate our commitment to developing and sustaining institutional environments that foster personal, academic, and industry integrity and professionalism in the allied, predoctoral, and advanced dental education communities—a wonderful example of “Engaging.”

Colleagues, we have raised the bar with the “Engage” theme, which continues into the future and will result in better individuals, better health professions, better communities, and better health for the public. Take the message back from this meeting to your academic dental institutions and organizations and to your colleagues who were unable to attend this meeting.

## My Appreciation

I want to express my sincere appreciation to the ADEA Board of Directors. What a fantastic team of leaders in dental education; thank you for your support. Leading with you was simply a wonderful gift. Members of the House of Delegates: thank you for conferring on me the profound honor of being your president. To the Annual Session Program Committee: thank you for putting together a great Annual Session & Exposition. I am grateful for your service,

passion, hard work, and overcoming the frustration of trying to get everyone into this space. You made this meeting one of the best ever. To my 1400 K Street family, Team ADEA: thank you for your support, encouragement, and warm reception each and every time during my visits to the office. You are simply the best. To Rick Valachovic, the consummate, respected, visionary Executive Director: thanks for your friendship and leadership in building an experienced and knowledgeable staff. The transformative change with the ADEA Policy Center was well thought out and positive. Sandra Andrieu, our Past President: thank you for your leadership and friendship. You are a positive role model for our great profession and an intellectual giant in the world of IPE. Incoming President Jerry Glickman: dear friend, know that I have your back as a principal officer. I am sure that your presidency will flourish because of your genuine and strong advocacy for lifelong learning and your role as a founding member of the ADEA Commission on Change and Innovation in Dental Education (ADEA CCI). And welcome aboard, Steve Young, as our President-Elect; you will have the time of your life.

To my Howard Dental family, thank you for your support over the past twelve months. Although I was always a text or e-mail message away, you managed to keep the college on point and focused on our mission.

A special lady is in the audience: Mrs. Yvonne M. Rouse. What a year! In our forty-fifth year together, you have managed to keep me grounded and focused. As a professional educator, you understand my passion for serving as you did for twenty-four years as a military spouse. You are simply the best. To my son, Leo Jr., and my daughter-in-law, Julie: thanks for your support and love. Relatives and special friends: thanks for taking the time to support me during this special moment in my professional life. You mean a great deal to me.

Last year I expressed to you that I had learned that humility is a seldom-seen virtue, and I emphasized how important it is to express your appreciation for the contributions of others. I appreciate your support, respect, and selfless service to the cause of dental education and organized dentistry. I trust that I have served you well during this past year and thank you from the bottom of my heart for the opportunity to be a servant leader.