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**AAPD Scholarship Recipients Complete the
2008 ADEA/AAL Institute for Teaching and Learning**

CHAPEL HILL, NC— The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) and Healthy Smiles, Healthy Children: the Foundation of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (HSHC) awarded five scholarships for new and prospective dental educators who completed the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) and the Academy for Academic Leadership (AAL) intensive faculty-development program, the Institute for Teaching and Learning (ITL). The ITL is conducted in collaboration with the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) School of Dentistry and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) School of Dentistry. With over 400 vacant budgeted faculty positions in U.S. dental schools, the overall program goal is to help recruit and retain dental faculty by preparing participants to become more effective teachers and develop other skills to facilitate success in the academic environment.

“Since the start of the ITL in 2006, nearly 200 private practice dentists and dental faculty have participated,” said AAL President N. Karl Haden, Ph.D. “We’re especially proud of the achievements demonstrated by the scholarship recipients during the course of the program. New faculty as well as those transitioning from private practice to academic careers have found that the ITL prepares them with teaching skills necessary to understand and communicate with today’s students.”

All five fellowship recipients are launched on promising academic careers. **Joseph Creech Jr., D.D.S.**, received his dental degree from UMKC School of Dentistry and completed a

residency in Pediatric Dentistry at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City. He is the senior partner of a group pediatric dental practice in Gilbert, Arizona, and is the Acting Director of Pediatric Dentistry at Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health in Mesa, AZ. His goal is to transition from private practice to full-time academics over the next three years. He says about the ITL program, "The course is very well organized with timely and helpful information. I felt the instructors were true experts in their fields and wonderful communicators. I was back at the dental school on Monday and immediately implemented some of what I had learned in the Pedo clinic. I even passed on a particular suggestion to the Director of all clinics and he thinks it will become a new standard for all instructors at the next faculty meeting. How about that for immediate results?"

Charlotte A. Haney, C.D.A., R.D.H., D.M.D., Diplomat & Fellow of AAPD, has traveled the career ladder over 44 years and still finds excitement in the field of Pediatric Dentistry. Her experience as a Certified Dental Assistant, Expanded Function Dental Assistant, Registered Dental Hygienist, General Dentist, and 25 years of private practice as a specialist in Pediatric Dentistry have all prepared her for her current role as Program Director for the Pediatric Dental Residency at the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry. Charlotte said her new career has many challenges but the ultimate frustration was being a novice educator in a professional school. "The ITL has given me tremendous insight into the needs, expectations, and perils of higher education. I now have a foundation on which to build and the skills to facilitate me to achieve my goals I have set for the Program and myself."

Leslee Singleton Huggins, D.D.S., M.S., completed her dental training at Baylor College of Dentistry and thereafter, completed a Master's degree in Orthodontics at St. Louis University. She began a private practice in Raleigh, North Carolina and completed a residency in Pediatric Dentistry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After selling her practice in 2006, she and her family relocated to Texas where she worked in a variety of practices. In July 2007, she began her "dream" position at St. Joseph Hospital for Specialty Care in

Providence, Rhode Island, where she cares for patients and serves as an attending for their residency program, which is part of Lutheran Medical Center. Having made the leap from full-time private practitioner to full-time hospital-based practitioner/attending for pediatric dental residents, she knew the ITL program was a very logical choice in the progression of her career. "Teaching had always been in the back of my mind, and when I accepted the position at St. Joseph's, I knew I wanted to develop my teaching skills to enhance the educational experience of those I teach. The ITL provided such a springboard for my teaching skills and, most importantly, for learning how to create an environment to facilitate true, relevant learning."

Shannon M. Parris, D.D.S., is a proud graduate of Meharry Medical College, School of Dentistry, Nashville, Tennessee. Fulfilling a passion to work with children, she went on to complete both General Practice and Pediatric Dental Residencies at Interfaith Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York. She established a private practice (Children's Dentistry of Brooklyn) and served as a Pediatric Dental Attending at several hospital dental residencies in New York City. While the story of her professional life is still being written, entering the world of academia is a chapter that she plans to complete in the future. "Being chosen to participate in the ITL program gave me the opportunity to learn more about myself, a wealth of knowledge from which I can draw for years to come, and most importantly has become the springboard for my next professional move."

Elliot R. Shulman, D.D.S, M.S., received his initial dental education from Loma Linda University. He then attended the University of North Carolina where he received his certificate in Pediatric Dentistry and a Masters Degree. After serving in the United States Air Force for over 25 years in clinical, academic and executive capacities, he was able to begin his dream job of teaching. He is currently a full-time associate professor and interim director of the Division of Pediatric Dentistry at West Virginia University School of Dentistry. He stated, "The ITL program was more beneficial than I could have ever realized. It provided me with knowledge and tools

that have already had an impact on the way I interact with our students and I know will help other faculty at our school as well.”

The two-phase program at UMKC and UNC enabled a total of forty-seven ITL Scholars to attain a higher level of excellence in evidence-based clinical and didactic modalities of dental education. The ITL Scholars received hands-on experience with key teacher tasks such as evaluating student competence, presenting lectures, planning courses, constructing tests, small-group learning, working with difficult students, guiding students with questions, and providing feedback. ITL Scholars also explored cognitive theories, learned strategies to enhance motivation, reviewed research on educational best practices, explored student learning styles, analyzed the characteristics of today’s Gen Y learner, and completed teaching self-assessments. Additionally, the program offered a focused examination of the ITL Scholars’ career development plans and concluded with extensive lessons on leading effective meetings and chairing academic committees.

In 2009, the ITL program will be held at UNC, with phase I occurring on August 20-23, and phase II on October 23-25. For more information about the ITL, visit www.academicleaders.org, email info@academicleaders.org, or call 404-350-2098.

The AAPD and HSHC will again be offering five scholarships to its members to attend the 2009 ITL program and the AAPD Comprehensive Review of Pediatric Dentistry continuing education course. **For more information about any AAPD activities**, please contact Scott Dalhouse at sdalhouse@aapd.org or 312-337-2169.

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About ADEA: The American Dental Education Association (ADEA) is the voice of dental education. Its members include all U.S. and Canadian dental schools and many allied and postdoctoral dental education programs, corporations, faculty, and students. ADEA’s mission is

to lead the dental education community to address contemporary issues influencing education, research, and the delivery of oral health care for the health of the public.

About AAL: Established in 2005 by Dr. N. Karl Haden, AAL provides customized professional development and consulting services for academic healthcare executives, educators, practitioners, institutions, and associations. AAL activities include leadership development, strategic planning, change management, team building, and curriculum development. In addition to the ITL, the AAL conducts the ADEA/AAL Institute for Allied Health Educators (IAHE). For more information about the AAL, the ITL, or the IAHE, please visit www.academicleaders.org.