

Quinsigamond Community College's Dental Hygiene Clinic brightens area smiles

WORCESTER — They say a smile is worth a thousand words and students at Quinsigamond Community College's Dental Hygiene Clinic, located on the college's main campus (670 West Boylston Street, Worcester) are in total agreement. Since QCC's Dental Hygiene Clinic opened its doors in 1972 (it was completely renovated in 1999), the college's dental hygiene and dental assisting students have been delivering affordable dental hygiene care to those in Worcester and the surrounding communities.

The Clinic is a hands-on, state-of-the-art training facility for QCC's hygiene and dental assisting students that provides the opportunity for them to work directly with patients. The college's Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting programs are accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation

and the programs have become so popular that often there is a waiting list for students.

"Our students treat patients directly and are overseen by faculty, two supervising dentists, and one dentist who comes in on Fridays to work with our dental assistant students," said Dental Clinic Operations and Facilities Manager, Sheryl Ficorilli.

New patients are first screened and accessed at no cost to determine the level of care. Once the assessment is made, patients will set up appointments as needed. According to QCC Professor of Dental Hygiene Jane Gauthier, a cleaning and x-rays in the Northeast can average anywhere from \$125- \$200 or even higher, whereas at QCC's Dental Hygiene Clinic those same services cost \$25.

"The Clinic not only offers a learning environment for our students, but also offers patients great dental hygiene care for extremely affordable prices. It's the ideal partnership," Ms. Ficorilli said.

Veterans and active military are able to receive free services with a Military ID and the Clinic also accepts Mass Health.

Services offered include:

- Complete oral Health Assessments
- Adult and Child Dental Cleanings
- Non-Surgical Periodontal Therapy
- Fluoride Treatments
- Digital Full Mouth X-Rays
- Digital Panoramic X-Rays
- Local Anesthesia
- Custom Athletic Mouth Guards

- Individual Oral Infection Control Plans

- Sealants
- Tooth Lightening
- Chemotherapeutic Agents
- Supplemental Aids

The Clinic closely adheres to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention infection control guidelines regarding safety and sterilization procedures and follows HIPAA regulations in maintaining confidentiality of patient information. A complete list of hours and pricing can be found on QCC's website. For more information or to schedule an appointment call, 508-854-4306.

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu