

**White Coat Ceremony**  
**University of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry**  
**Palace of Fine Arts Theatre, San Francisco, California**  
**July 21, 2018**

**Nader A. Nadershahi, DDS, MBA, EdD**  
**Dean**

Good morning. My name is Nader Nadershahi and I have the privilege of serving as Dean of the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to welcome you all to today's ceremony on behalf of our faculty, staff, students, alumni and patients -- the entire Dugoni School family.

Today is an important milestone and symbolic step in the journey for our outstanding students. For many of them, this week begins the part of their training that involves the delivery of oral health care to the public. They have worked incredibly hard to reach this point.

As a Dugoni School graduate myself, I can still remember my first patient interaction like it was yesterday. I remember his name, the tooth, and even the concern that we were addressing on that day. Our students, too, will have their own unique stories about their first patient. They are entering a new chapter in their lives as healthcare providers. Our DDS, IDS, and Dental Hygiene students have the opportunity to put into practice all of the knowledge and skills they have acquired up to this point. Our school's stated purpose is to "help people lead healthy lives." I am excited that all of us together will help fulfill our purpose and improve the lives of thousands of patients.

These young men and women here today are assuming a major responsibility. I know they are up for the challenge because I have seen how hard they have worked in school and during the evenings and weekends to ensure that they are prepared for their patients who will put such deep trust in their hands.

I encourage our students to remember a theme that runs through our competency-based curriculum model. It is the theme of the "head, heart and hands." To be an effective practitioner you must incorporate all three of these areas:

- "Head" – representing the integration of current and emerging biomedical and clinical knowledge
- "Heart" – representing professionalism, ethical behavior, empathy, and communication skills; and
- "Hands" – the clinical skills and techniques that you have developed, and will continue to hone

The Dugoni School is a trusted beacon of care in our community. We are an enduring partner in health and wellness for thousands of people. We provide care within the walls of our clinics, as well as across the city, the region and the globe. You are an important part of that work.

The white coat you receive today signifies to patients that you will strive:

- To regard them with the utmost respect
- To treat their illnesses to the best of your ability
- To listen carefully; and
- To preserve the dignity of each individual and the privacy of information shared as a result of the relationship between care giver and the patient

It means, too, that you are expected to conduct yourself in a manner consistent with those in your chosen profession, not simply as a student practicing as you learn.

Wear your coat with pride in the accomplishment that it signifies! But also with humility and respect for what you have yet to learn from those dentists or hygienists who were here before you as well as from your patients.

And to all of the families, significant others and friends here today, these outstanding young men and women would not be here without your continued love, support, and encouragement. Thank you for what you continue to do for them.

I am so honored to welcome our students to this next stage of your training. On behalf of the entire Dugoni School family and our colleagues throughout the profession, we welcome each of you as a member of the healing arts.

Thank you.

## <Following the White Coat ceremony and recitation of the Professional Oath...>

Doctors and dental hygienists, let me be one of the first to offer my personal congratulations to you. The faculty and staff at the dental school and all of your loved ones and supporters are very proud of you.

Your passion for helping others and growing your skills has brought you to this point. Let that passion continue to motivate and drive you in the rest of your personal and professional lives.

Our field enjoys a strong reputation as a trusted profession. That is because of the integrity shown by those that have come before us. It is now your responsibility to carry the torch of the profession. The future of oral healthcare is in your hands with the integrity, ethics, courage, and commitment to excellence by which you live your life.

You are going to interact with many, many patients during your years at dental school and in your professional life. You will come to know some of them very well and some less so. However, you will have an opportunity to make a significant impact on each person with whom you interact. What a tremendous honor and gift we have as healthcare providers!

Ralph Waldo Emerson said: ***“To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.”***

You certainly will touch many lives. You will succeed greatly. I hope you feel proud of your amazing accomplishment today. The future of our great profession shines brighter than ever because of what you will do in your careers.

Thank you on behalf of the Dugoni School family, and I hope you all enjoy the rest of this beautiful day.