

2026 Diana Corley Leadership Scholarship Application

The Diana Corley Scholarship honors the life and legacy of Diana Corley, whose commitment to leadership, mentorship, service, and the advancement of the dental hygiene profession continues to inspire future generations of dental hygienists.

Applicants name (first, middle, last): _____

Mailing address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail address: _____

Name of the BSDH or BA/BS completion program you are attending: _____

Class of 20 _____

Application Requirements

- Submit one essay in an electronic file (.doc, .docx, or .pdf). The essay must be formatted with one-inch margins, 12-point Times New Roman font, double spacing, and include the final word count.
- To preserve anonymous review, do not include your name, the name of your school, city, employer, or other information that could identify you. You may describe personal experiences, mentors, and volunteer activities without identifying individuals or institutions by name.
- Include a headshot with a neutral background in .jpg format. The recipient's photo may be published on the California Dental Hygienists' Association (CDHA) website, in the CDHA Journal, on CDHA social media, and during scholarship award presentations.

Moving the Profession Forward: Leadership in Action

The dental hygiene profession is continually evolving to meet the changing needs of patients, communities, and the healthcare system. Tomorrow's leaders will advance oral health through collaboration, innovation, advocacy, lifelong learning, and service.

Diana Corley believed that leadership was not defined by a title or years of experience, but by service, mentorship, integrity, and a commitment to improving the lives of others. This scholarship recognizes students who demonstrate these qualities and the potential to make a meaningful impact on the future of the dental hygiene profession.

In 750 words or fewer, describe how your educational, professional, volunteer, or personal experiences have shaped your understanding of leadership and prepared you to help move the dental hygiene profession forward.

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Your essay should address the following:

- Describe a personal experience, challenge, mentor, or defining moment that influenced your understanding of leadership.
- Explain how this experience has shaped your goals and aspirations as a future dental hygienist.
- Describe **two specific ways** you hope to demonstrate leadership during your first five years of practice.
- Explain how professional organizations, such as the California Dental Hygienists' Association (CDHA), can support your professional growth and leadership journey.
- Describe the impact you hope your leadership will have on your patients, your community, and the dental hygiene profession.

Evaluation Criteria

The Diana Corley Scholarship seeks to recognize students who demonstrate leadership potential, integrity, service, and a commitment to advancing the dental hygiene profession.

The Scholarship Committee recognizes that applicants may be at different stages of their educational journey. Essays will be evaluated on the authenticity of the applicant's experiences, the depth of personal reflection, and the clarity of their vision for the future, not on the number of leadership positions held or years of involvement in the profession.

Evaluation Criteria

Essays will be evaluated on:

- Authenticity and personal reflection
- Originality of thought
- Response to the essay prompt
- Organization and development of ideas
- Quality of writing, including grammar, usage, and mechanics
- A clear vision for advancing the dental hygiene profession through leadership and service

Submit your **completed application, Program Director/Advisor Verification Form, essay, and photo file** in one email to foundation@cdha.org by September 30, 2026. The winner will be announced at the CDHA House of Delegates on November 7, 2026. Attendance at the CDHA House of Delegates is not required.

I certify that the essay submitted is my own original work and authentically represents my experiences, reflections, and ideas.

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

2026 Diana Corley Leadership Scholarship Program Director/Advisor Verification Form

This section is to be completed by a program director, academic advisor, or designated administrative faculty member.

Scholarship Eligibility Requirements

The student must be:

- Students must be current members of the California Dental Hygienists' Association (CDHA).
- Enrolled in an accredited BSDH dental hygiene program in California or an accredited associate-to-bachelor's degree completion program (in-person or online). Students may be full-time or part-time and must not have completed all program requirements as of the application deadline.
- Currently in good academic standing as defined by the institution in which they are enrolled.
- Students cannot be a graduate on the deadline date and apply for the scholarship.

Academic standing is verified against institutional standards; the CDHA Foundation does not require a specific GPA threshold beyond those standards.

I certify that the student listed below is currently enrolled and meets the above eligibility requirements for the Diana Corley Scholarship.

Student Name: _____

Program Director/Advisor Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Title: _____

Campus Name: _____

Questions? Email CDHA Foundation at <mailto:foundation@cdha.org> or call CDHA Member Services at 916-993-9102.