**SLCC Dental Hygiene Program Mission Statement**

***To provide quality education to students regardless of race, culture or age, who will be prepared academically, technically, and ethically to meet the challenges of providing dental hygiene care to a broad range of ethnically, socioeconomically and chronologically diverse populations.***

***Goal #1 Education***

* Provide appropriate didactic and clinical instruction through an interactive, competency-based curriculum that is reviewed regularly and modified as necessary to address the dynamics of a constantly changing profession.
* Provide didactic and clinical instruction in a positive learning environment that leads to appropriate social and ethical development as a health care professional.

***Goal #2 Patient Care***

* Systematically collect, analyze, and accurately record baseline data on general, oral, and psychosocial health status using methods consistent with medico-legal principles. Using this data, determine a dental hygiene diagnosis at a level consistent with the student’s education and scope of practice.
* Provide educational and clinical services in the support of optimal dental health to diverse populations that may include medically compromised, mentally or physically challenged, or socially or culturally disadvantaged.
* Provide excellent, ethical, professional dental hygiene treatment based upon competencies within didactic and clinical instruction.

***Goal #3 Professionalism***

* Encourage student and faculty participation in and support of professional service organizations that promote the service mission of the program and the dental hygiene profession.
* Recognize opportunities for continued professional growth and apply these experiences and skills to achieve an ever-increasing level of professionalism.

***Goal #4 Professional Development***

* Provide opportunities for faculty development and recognition.
* Encourage faculty and student participation in pursuit of continuing education toward becoming life-long learners.

***Goal #5 Civic Engagement***

* Foster opportunities for faculty and student involvement in service activities that are consistent with personal development goals and that promote dentistry as an integral component in the overall health and welfare of the community.
* **Develop civic literacy and become community-engaged learners who act in mutually beneficial ways with community partners.**