



Northeastern University

# **Understanding Oral-Systemic Health and Culture: Bringing It All Together**



**All Together Better Health VII**  
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## About the DentaQuest Foundation

The DentaQuest Foundation is committed to optimal oral health for all Americans through its support of prevention and access to affordable care, and through its partnerships with funders, policymakers and community leaders.

For more information, please visit [dentaquestfoundation.org](http://dentaquestfoundation.org)



# Innovations in Interprofessional Oral Health

- **T**echnology
- **I**nstruction
- **P**ractice
- **S**ervice







# Purpose

- Describe the experiences of allied health students collaborating with dental students and faculty in a community outreach program to better understand the oral-systemic health needs of a local American Indian population.





# Background

- The U.S. Surgeon General referred to the mouth as a mirror reflecting health and disease occurring in the body [1].
- The consequences of oral diseases are significant and adversely impact general health and well-being across the life cycle [1].
- Significant oral health inequities persist for vulnerable and underserved populations, particularly American Indians (AI) [2].
- AI face barriers to achieving optimal oral health based on a complex array of geographic, economic, and cultural issues which are distinct to their population [3].

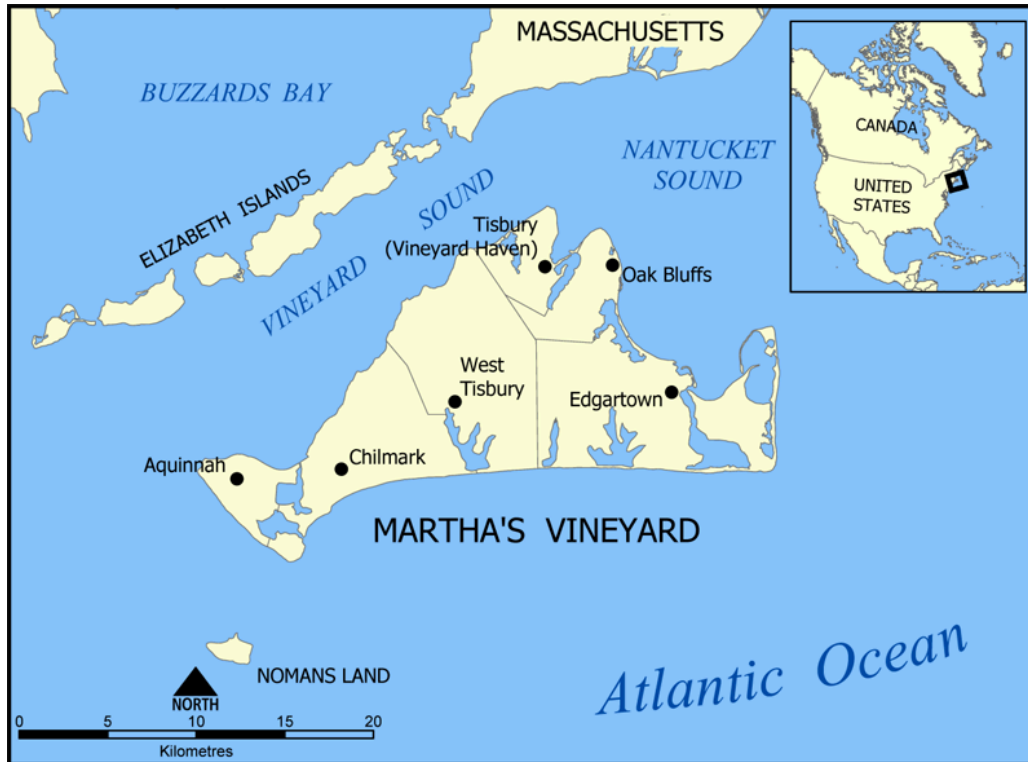


# Background

- Culture is a significant determinant of health [4].
- Leverage culture to address health inequalities [4].
- Every program should be tailored to the local community because every community is different [4].
- Understanding the barriers is the first step to addressing oral health inequities and the important connection between oral health and overall health [4].



# Interprofessional Collaboration







# Community Engagement





# Student Perspectives

*“There was so much that we **learned from the stories** of the community members and through our own interesting discussions.”*

*-Pharmacy Student*

*“The **spectrum** of community members and **cultural novelties** we were exposed to were **incredible**.”*

*-Behavioral Health Student*

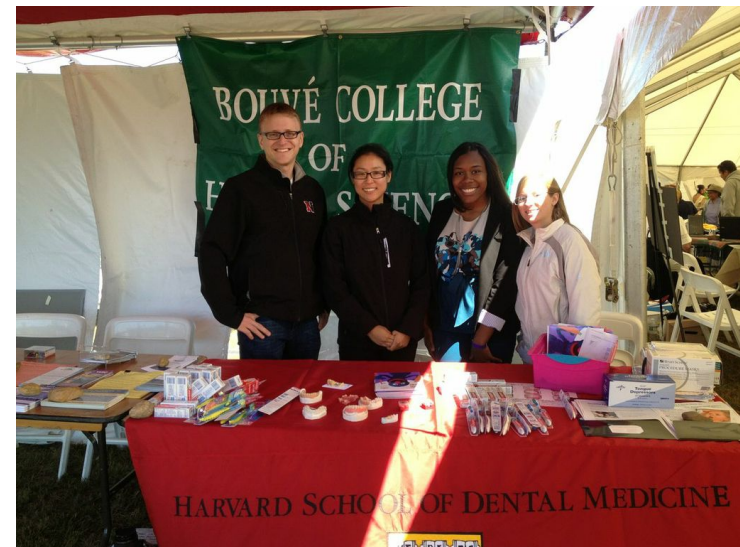
*“In order to help people, we need to **get to know them**. This trip was less focused on education and promoting our agenda, and instead focused **on increasing positive interactions** with the tribe.”*

*- Nursing Student*



# Conclusion

- Bringing together students and faculty across health professions to engage in community outreach is an effective interprofessional education strategy to promote cultural humility in improving oral-systemic health for vulnerable and underserved individuals, communities, and populations.





# Acknowledgement

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Bouvé College of Health Sciences Students



# Smiles for Life

A national oral health curriculum



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## Smiles for Life: A National Oral Health Curriculum <sup>3rd</sup> edition

Smiles for Life is the nation's only comprehensive oral health curriculum. Developed by the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Group on Oral Health and now in its third edition, this curriculum is designed to enhance the role of primary care clinicians in the promotion of oral health for all age groups through the development and dissemination of high-quality educational resources.

### For Individual Clinicians











We've made it easy for individual physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, students, and other clinicians to access the curriculum and learn on their own time and at their own pace. Each of the courses is available online. Free CME credit is available.

### For Educators



The curriculum is available in a presentation format easily implemented in an academic setting. Included is a comprehensive set of educational objectives based on the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) competencies, test questions, resources for further learning, oral health web links, an implementation guide, and detailed outlines of the modules.

### Course Quick Links

- 
**Course 1:**  
The Relationship of Oral to Systemic Health
- 
**Course 2:**  
Child Oral Health
- 
**Course 3:**  
Adult Oral Health
- 
**Course 4:**  
Acute Dental Problems
- 
**Course 5:**  
Oral Health & the Pregnant Patient
- 
**Course 6:**  
Fluoride Varnish
- 
**Course 7:**  
The Oral Examination
- 
**Course 8:**  
Geriatric Oral Health

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# References

<sup>1</sup>US Department of Health and Human Services. (2000). *Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General-- Executive Summary* . Rockville, MD: US Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, National Institutes of Health.

<sup>2</sup>Institute of Medicine. (2011). *Advancing oral health in America*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. Retrieved from <http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2011/Advancing-Oral-Health-in-America.aspx>

<sup>3</sup>Institute of Medicine. (2011). *Improving access to oral health care for vulnerable and underserved populations*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. Retrieved from <http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2011/Improving-Access-to-Oral-Health-Care-for-Vulnerable-and-Underserved-Populations.aspx>

<sup>4</sup>Institute of Medicine. (2013). *Leveraging culture to address health inequalities: Examples from native communities: Workshop summary*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.



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Interprofessional Oral Health

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## Engaging Students As Innovation Leaders

Innovations in Interprofessional Oral Health has been established at Northeastern University, Bouvé College of Health Sciences as a resource center to advance innovations in research, education and practice for optimal oral health.

<http://www.northeastern.edu/oralhealth>



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