**Award Descriptions**

1. **Middlesex County Dental Society Valedictorian Award**

This award is given each year to the student who exemplifies excellence in his/ her dental hygiene studies by achieving the highest GPA in the class. This year’s award goes to **Kimberly Wujciski**

1. **NJDHA Gurenlian Student Leadership Award**

Joanne Gurenlian is a dental hygienist from New Jersey who has served many leadership roles in her career. In her honor, NJDHA has established an award that recognizes a student from each dental hygiene program who is a member of the student chapter of the American Dental Hygiene Association, assumes an active leadership role in SADHA or the department or college, demonstrates excellent written and oral communication skills and exhibits initiative. This year’s award goes to **Sriveni Vanama**

1. **Dianne Romer Student Success Award**

A student who has shown perseverance in their pursuit of their dental hygiene career, often overcoming adversity.

The dental hygiene program is an arduous challenging one. Students must learn scientific concepts, instrumentation techniques, treatment procedures and patient management. When they are not studying, they are treating patients. They are always on the “go” as they strive to fulfill all course and clinical requirements. This award is given to a student who has shown perseverance, energy in her dental hygiene studies. This year’s award goes to **Orania McKay**

1. **Peer Excellence Award-recipient chosen by classmates**

Nominated by their classmates, this student is a member of the student chapter, American Dental Hygiene Association who has shown professionalism when interacting with patients and colleagues, epitomizes a true colleague or team player through words and actions, someone who has supported their class and classmates by giving their time, energy and/or moral support, and who shows a willingness to give back to the community whether it is the dental hygiene community, college community or the community-at-large. This year’s award goes to **Sriveni Vanama**

1. **Exceptional Clinical Development**

Students in the dental hygiene program develop their clinical skills at different rates over their 4 semesters in the program. Most students start tentatively in the first semester and grow stronger and more confident with their skills as each semester progresses. In each graduating class there is one student whose development of clinical skills surpasses the faculty’s expectations. This year’s award goes to – **Sarah Weeden**

1. **Harmon Zacune Award for Excellence in Dental Radiology**

Dr. Harmon Zacune is former Chairperson and faculty member in the Dental Hygiene Department. As a faculty member and a clinic instructor, Dr. Zacune spent much of his time teaching radiology. This award recognizes the student in the graduating class who has shown excellence in clinical radiology. This year’s award goes to **Giovanna Sanchez**

1. **Community Commitment**

Dental hygiene students are required to participate in numerous community outreach projects throughout their senior year. Often, as is the case this year, the senior class extends themselves far beyond the course and faculty expectations. This year’s award goes to **Sriveni Vanama**

1. **Award for Excellence in Chairside Education**

The dental hygiene profession recognizes the importance of educating our patients in proper oral health and disease prevention. To this end, Middlesex College dental hygiene program annually recognizes a student who demonstrates dedication to oral health by providing their patients with outstanding chair side education. This year’s award goes to **Crystal Arellano**

1. **Commitment to the hygiene profession**

This award is dedicated to recognizing a dental hygiene student who shows excellence and commitment to the hygiene profession. This award is presented to the graduating dental hygiene student who meets the following criteria:

* demonstrates true dedication to the dental hygiene profession
* exhibits compassion in patient care
* displays enthusiasm for community service
* enjoys the role of dental hygienist.

This year’s award goes to **Christopher Da Silva**

1. **Hu-Friedy Golden Scaler Award**

The Hu-Friedy Golden Scaler Award is recognition that is given to one student in each Dental Hygiene program across the country. It has long been considered an honor, one that is hard earned, and a well-deserved recognition of a student who has demonstrated remarkable skills and talent in patient treatment in clinic. This year’s award goes to - **Teresa Burg**

1. **Professionalism Award**

Professionalism is defined as the skill, competence, and character expected of a member of a highly trained profession. The traits of a professional include honesty and integrity, caring and compassion, reliability and responsibility, maturity and respect. This year we would like to recognize the student whose character and conduct displayed all of these traits whether it was during patient care or in their interactions with their professional colleagues and faculty. The student being recognized this year is: - **Giselle Monzon**

1. **Faculty Award for Excellence in Dental Hygiene**

This year there are two students who are deserving of this award. This award is presented to a student or in this case two students, who have shown excellence in both arenas: the classroom and clinic. This top honor recognizes the student who the faculty feels has shown clinical talent, academic excellence and a comprehensive and professional approach to patient care. This year’s Faculty Award for Excellence goes to: **Kimberly Wujciski and Sriveni Vanama**