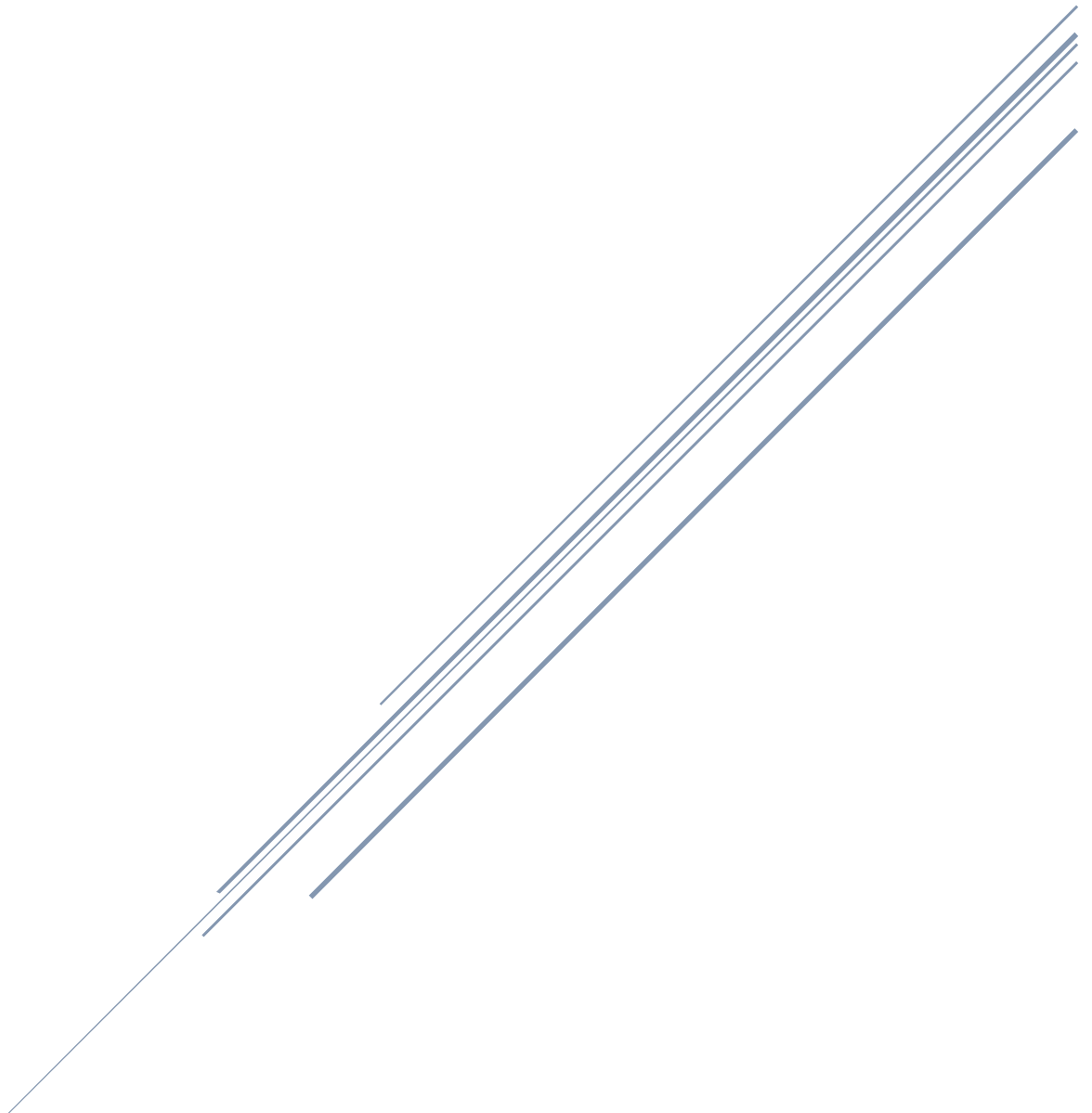




NJDHA ANNUAL CONFERENCE - 2025

Educator's Network Session



Middlesex College
Professors Sally Elkhaila, Lynn Tobin, Nadine Thompson & Dr. Michelle Roman

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Course Summary:

Course Summary: NJDHA Annual Conference – Educator’s Network Session

This interactive session brings together dental hygiene educators from across New Jersey to explore shared challenges, innovations, and best practices in program delivery and student success. Middlesex College will open the session with a featured presentation on the integration of Teledentistry into the dental hygiene curriculum, highlighting implementation strategies, student engagement, and outcomes.

Following the presentation, participants will engage in collaborative discussions on key topics including emerging and outdated technologies in dental hygiene education, student application and admissions processes, effectively meeting CODA Standard 1-2. Schools will have the opportunity to share insights and strategies in a structured but open format, promoting dialogue and the exchange of ideas.

This session fosters professional growth, statewide networking, and future planning while supporting the continuous improvement of dental hygiene education in New Jersey.

Objectives:

By the end of this session, participating dental hygiene educators will be able to:

1. **Describe how Teledentistry can be integrated into dental hygiene curricula**
 - Evaluate its impact on student learning, patient care, and technology adoption.
2. **Discuss emerging and outdated technologies** in dental hygiene education
 - Share strategies for preparing students to enter a technology-driven workforce.
 - Identify which technologies are essential before graduation versus those introduced post-licensure.
3. **Compare and analyze application and admissions processes** across New Jersey dental hygiene programs
 - Share best practices and innovative ideas for selecting qualified, viable candidates.
 - Explore methods that support diversity, equity, and student retention.
4. **Engage in open dialogue around shared challenges and innovations**
 - Evaluate CODA Standard 1.2 fostering a humanistic learning environment and evaluation its impact.
 - Foster a collaborative statewide network of educators.
 - Identify opportunities for future professional development and inter-school support.

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

5 minutes

- Welcome from Middlesex College
- Overview of the session goals and structure
- Brief introductions from attendees (name, institution, role)

2. Feature Presentation: Integrating Teledentistry into the Curriculum – Professor Nadine Thompson and Dr. Michelle Roman

20 minutes

Presenter: Middlesex College

- How teledentistry was introduced into the curriculum
- Challenges, successes, and student feedback
- Tools and technology used
- Impact on clinical education and patient communication

3. Educator Discussion and Collaboration: Open Sharing Topics

Each school/topic: 10 - 15 minutes

Rowen College at Burlington College – Emerging and Dying Technology

- What technology is currently being incorporated into programs?
- What's becoming obsolete or left to post-graduation training?
- Discussion: How do we ensure graduates are tech-ready?

Camden Community College – Application Process

- How do programs evaluate applicants?
- What metrics, interviews, or tools are used to choose viable candidates?
- Discussion: Best practices and new ideas for student selection

Bergen – [Insert Topic, if received before the session. If not, leave this open for Bergen to share live.]

- [Placeholder for topic or open mic for updates, questions, or initiatives from Bergen faculty]

Middlesex College – CODA Standard 1.2 Discussion – Lynn Tobin

- How can programs effectively meet CODA Standard 1-2 by fostering a humanistic learning environment and evaluating its impact?

4. Collaborative Brainstorm: Challenges and Innovations

10 minutes

5. Closing Remarks and Follow-Up

10 minutes

- Summary of key takeaways
- Next steps and continued collaboration

Nadine Thompson Photo and Bio



Nadine Thompson, EdM, RDH, is an Assistant Professor of Dental Hygiene at Middlesex College, where she teaches both the clinical and didactic components of Preventive Oral Health Services III and IV to second-year dental hygiene students. She also serves as the Student American Dental Hygienists' Association (SADHA) advisor for both first- and second-year students.

With over 17 years of experience in the dental hygiene profession, she is passionate about student development, clinical excellence, and professional engagement. She is a member of the American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA), the American Dental Education Association (ADEA), and the National Organization for Student Success (NOSS).

She is currently presenting on integrating teledentistry into the dental hygiene curriculum, an area of growing importance in both education and patient care. Thompson is committed to advancing the profession through education, mentorship, and lifelong learning.

Michelle Roman Photo and Bio



Michelle R. Roman, EdD, MSM/PH/PP, BSAST, AAS, RDH
Chairperson, Dental Hygiene Program - Middlesex College

Dr. Michelle Roman is Chairperson and Program Director of the Dental Hygiene Program at Middlesex College. A practicing dental hygienist since 1998 and educator since 2009, she has taught both didactic and clinical courses and developed multiple clinical rotation sites across New Jersey.

She holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Gwynedd Mercy University, along with graduate and undergraduate degrees in public health, policy, and applied science from Thomas Edison State University. A proud graduate of Middlesex College's dental hygiene program, she is certified in local anesthesia.

She is a member of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) and American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA). Dr. Roman is a U.S. Air Force veteran with 23 years of military service, including as First Sergeant of the 108th Medical Group. She is actively involved in state and college-level committees focused on oral health, accreditation, and student success.

Lynn Tobin Photo and Bio

PENDING

Sally Elkhaila Photo and Bio

PENDING