**San Fernando Valley Dental Society Foundation Announces a Primer Course for Potential Dental Careers**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CHATSWORTH, California, April 20, 2022 – San Fernando Valley Dental Society Foundation (“SFVDSF”) announced that after nearly four years of planning and preparation, brought together more than 30 people interested in learning the ins and outs of the dental profession from a beginner’s perspective.

The first half of a free class on what SFVDSF President, Dr. Philomena Oboh called a primer course for those interested in pursuing a career in the dental field took place at the Society’s Chatsworth office.

“This is the first of many steps towards a career in dentistry,” Dr. Oboh said. “This is a comprehensive overview for those looking to explore a future in dentistry, whether it’s as a registered dental assistant, a registered dental hygienist, or attending dental school to become a licensed dentist.

The 8-hour program, broken into two four-hour sessions over two consecutive Saturdays with the second session offered Saturday, April 16, is led by Denise Sanchez, a third-year USC dental school student along with SFVDSF Board of Directors, Dr’s. Oboh, Bassali, Barbosa, Dixit, Alvarez, and Masters. “

“Everyone associated with the Introduction to Dental Assisting program is buzzing right now. We’ve had to wait a long time to get going and all of us are committed to making the most of it. Following the outbreak of COVID-19, there’s been a shortage of dental assistants in the area. This project aims to help address public needs by paving the way for aspiring dental assistants looking to build long-term careers in the field. Each participant will be able to learn the A to Z of what to expect when helping in a dental office. They would also gain valuable field experience and a well-rounded perspective on what dental assisting entails” according to Denise Sanchez.

“The volunteer instructor has a love of teaching and wanted to share her knowledge with others, and the dentists are looking for potential staff at a time when there is a shortage of qualified employees,” Dr. Oboh said.

“It was a good mix of diverse people – some high school students as well as others who are finding out if they are interested in dentistry.”

While this is not a credentialed program and attendees who complete the course will not become licensed, each one will receive a certificate of completion.

“We want to motivate people, get them excited about the opportunities in dentistry and find out if this is a good place for them to be in the future,” Dr. Gereis, SFVDS Media Relations Chair said. “We are planning to offer more sessions in the future to reach people who are looking at the dental field with an eye to making a difference and being a part of that service to others.”

“This is what the San Fernando Valley Dental Society and its charitable arm, the San Fernando Valley Dental Society Foundation, is all about – building relationships, the future success of dentistry and helping others achieve their goals.”

For more information, email SFVDS at [exec.sfvds@sbcglobal.net](mailto:exec.sfvds@sbcglobal.net).

**About San Fernando Valley Dental Society Foundation**

The SFVDS Foundation is a component of the San Fernando Valley Dental Society.  For more information about all our programs please visit our main website [here](http://www.sfvds.org/).

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