## UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

## School of Dentistry

## **Doctors Ought to Car**

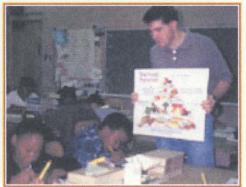
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DDS student instructing in an inner city school

**Description:** The Doctors Ought to Care Program continues to make a difference in the lives of dental students and elementary school children. For the second year in a row the DOC (Doctors Ought to Care) program has integrated the Dental School with local elementary schools and concomitantly built leaders in the freshman dental class. It has been a rewarding and learning experience for all involved.

The program, established by Adel Tawfilis, class of 1994, has been led this year by Dena Naeh, Executive Director, who was awarded a Presidential Fellowship last year. The Presidential Fellowship, sponsored by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, is designed to train graduate students to become leaders in their professions and the community. Dena has used her skills as a leader to expand the DOC program. She has been assisted in her duties by Co-Directors Ji Park and Brent Ward.

Twelve first-year dental students were selected to participate in the DOC program this year. These students had the opportunity to visit local second and third grade classes in conjunction with the Dental Hygiene program. The students gave oral hygiene instruction, taught the basics of oral health and promoted the general awareness of dentistry among the children. The DOC students dedicated their time to serve and were rewarded with opportunities to learn and grow.

The students who participated this year have a desire to expand DOC. The Los Angeles Mission will serve as one location where students, in the near future, will teach as well as screen children. In addition, the program is seeking to become a part of the Dental School's curriculum. Dean Landesman, who has offered to serve as the new course director, has been a great support to the DOC program from its introduction.

Eligibility: USC freshmen dental students.

Fee: None



DDS students teaching in an inner city classroom