

Mesa CC dental-hygienist students offer free dental screening series

By **Wrangler News Staff** - September 22, 2020



Mesa Community College dental-hygienist students are providing free screening series at Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health, 5855 E. Still Circle in Mesa.

For South Tempe resident Debi Sparks and healthcare professionals worldwide, maintaining dental health is one of the most vital aspects of protecting one's overall good health. That's why she's focused on a series of complimentary oral health screenings and a personalized schedule in coming weeks.

The program, being conducted by Mesa Community College dental-hygiene students, is designed to recruit patients for follow-up services, especially those who have not received dental care for three years or longer or who have been diagnosed with dental health issues.

The screenings, scheduled at the Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health, 5855 E. Still Circle, Mesa, will be available at 9 and 10:30 a.m. and noon and may be made by calling 480-248-8195.

Screenings are not comprehensive exams and treatment will not be provided during the event.

Although the screening is complimentary, those selected as patients for the program will be charged for any customized oral health care services provided.

Screening participants must agree to have a full set of x-rays taken. Copies of x-rays may be purchased for \$20 and picked up the following week during hygiene clinic

hours: 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays.

Said Sparks:

“Dental hygiene students only progress in their education through the participation of community members through events such as this. The students’ clinical requirements state that care must be provided for individuals who have been diagnosed with periodontal (gum) disease and never had it treated, have been told they need a deep-scale cleaning, or have other dental hygiene issues such as puffy and bleeding gums.” Sparks is director of the MCC Dental Hygiene Program.

Some patients will be invited to participate in the program and will receive personalized fee-for-service care provided by MCC dental hygiene students. Students provide quality care using the latest technology under the supervision of licensed dental hygienists and supervising dentists.

The MCC clinic provides a full range of dental hygiene services offered during convenient evening hours at the Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health Clinic, according to Sparks. To schedule an appointment outside of the screening event, contact the clinic at 480-248-8195.

Additional information about the MCC Dental Hygiene Program and the dental clinic is available online at mesacc.edu/dental.

Sparks noted that MCC’s program offers a rigorous and intensive science-orientated program and is accredited by the American Dental Association’s Commission on Dental Accreditation.

She added that dental hygienists traditionally provide preventive and therapeutic oral health care to patients in a dentist- supervised work setting. Career opportunities are available in private dental offices and clinics, nursing homes, schools, post-secondary institutions, public health, research, and in private business.

The program is designed to help students who successfully complete the course of study to be prepared to obtain necessary licensure requirements and be eligible to take written and clinical exams necessary to obtain licensure in any state in the U.S.

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