

# DENTAL ASSISTANT EDUCATION



## HELEN M. TUCHNER, LDA, CDA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

# 2018

## Helen M. Tuchner, LDA, CDA Memorial Scholarship

Helen Marie Tuchner was born in St. Paul on August 8, 1923. Helen began her Dental Assisting career in 1943 working with Dr. Brussels. She credits him with encouraging her to continue with her education. While working as a dental assistant, she earned a BA in History with a minor in Psychology. She became a clinical instructor in Dental Assisting at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry in 1959, received her appointment as Assistant Professor in 1964, and was appointed Associate Professor in 1973.

In addition to her outstanding leadership achievements in the dental assisting program, she made significant contributions to major state and national dental organizations. Helen received numerous awards and recognitions, including: serving as President of the MNDAA (1955-1956), as a Director of the Certifying Board of the ADAA (now DANB) from 1969 to 1975 and serving as Chair (1974-1975). She also served as President of the American Dental Assistants Association (1977-1978).

Helen was a consultant to the ADA Commission on Accreditation, Council on Dental Education from 1972 to 1982 and served as the Commissioner on Dental Accreditation from 1975 to 1978. She was the only dental professional from Minnesota to serve on this important body until 1988. She was one of the founders of the Minnesota Educators of Dental Assistants (MEDA) and serves two terms as President

Helen received six major awards, including the Achievement Trophy from the Minnesota Dental Assistants Association in both 1996 and 1971. She also received an Appreciation Award from the ADAA in 1978. In 1983, Helen was recognized for her community involvement when she received the WCCO Good Neighbor Award.

Helen's contributions to Dental Assisting, as well as her many other outstanding accomplishments, earned her great respect. The name "Helen Tuchner" is still a respected one, not only in Minnesota, but also among dental assistants and dental assisting educators everywhere. That respect stemmed from the fact that, not only had Helen structured one of the country's outstanding Dental Assisting programs, but because she was exactly as people described her, a "modest, self-effacing person," one who minimized her own contributions to organized dental assisting, as "not of any major significance, but purely supportive and in the background." All those who worked with Helen say that this was not so. Helen contributed significantly to her profession, particularly in the realm of education. She may have downgraded her own contributions to the Dental Assisting profession, and to education, but those whom she taught, those she encouraged and mentored, those whom she led by example and not by imposing her thoughts or needs onto them, and those with whom she worked to promote better educational opportunities will disagree. Helen Tuchner was "one of the best!" Yet, she was humble and unassuming, she was just "Helen." She had learned the art of living contentedly.

She was an educator; one who sought out education and always encouraged it among others. She was a friend and a confidant to many. Helen always made you feel special. Each person she touched may have thought that she was "just that nice and special" to them, but in truth, she was that nice and special to all of us; she had the gift of making each person feel special. She was our cheerleader, coach, friend, and for many of us, our guardian angel.

## HELEN M. TUCHNER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Helen M. Tuchner Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in April of 2003 under the auspices of the MNDAA Past Presidents Council, of which she had been a member since 1956.

As dental assisting professionals, it is the obligation of the Past Presidents Council to nurture growth of the dental assisting profession and to encourage educational endeavors. Our involvement extends to helping dental assisting students within Minnesota's accredited dental assisting programs to experience a complete education to become productive and contributing members of the dental community at large. Recipients of these scholarships are encouraged to bring back to the profession their time and their talents in order to advance the Dental Assisting profession.

### **APPLICATION QUALIFICATIONS**

To qualify for a scholarship, each applicant must:

- Be currently enrolled in an ADA-accredited dental assisting program in Minnesota;
- Plan to work within the dental assisting profession for at least two years;
- *Participate actively* as a student member in the Minnesota Dental Assistants Association;
- Have an overall (cumulative) grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or above;
- Intent of earn and maintain national recognition through Certificate by the Dental Assisting National Board, Inc.; and
- Be a full-time student (enrolled in twelve hours or more of course work) or a part-time student (enrolled in a minimum of six hours of course work).

### **REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION:**

#### **APPLICANTS must include:**

- Completed and signed Scholarship Application.
- An essay **TYPED, doubled-spaced, in good manuscript form, 250 to 500 words. You will be disqualified for failing to type the essay.** The topic of the essay is **“HOW WILL CERTIFICATION ADD TO MY QUALIFICATION AS A DENTAL ASSISTANT?”**
- Signed statement from the president of the local Dental Assisting Society verifying membership and active participation.
- Official copy of a transcript or grade report showing a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 grade scale.
- Recommendation from Program Director/Instructor.

**Under NO circumstances will a scholarship be awarded to students with an overall GPA less than 2.0  
All of the above requirements must be met in order to receive scholarship funds.**

### **APPLICATION GUIDELINES:**

**Each applicant must provide proof of Intent to Graduate from their instructor in order to receive scholarship funds. Scholarship winner will be notified via email or phone. Winner will receive a check for the cost of the following exams: Jurisprudence, DANB Certification exam and Minnesota Licensure exam.**

All scholarship applications should be sent to: Anna Malay, LDA, CDA, MnDAAPP Chair, 554 Simard Street, Mendota Heights, MN 55118 **on or before April 1, 2018** (mailed application must be postmarked no later than that date).



## 2018 HELEN M. TUCHNER Scholarship Application

Mail application packet to: **Minnesota Dental Assistants Association ~ Past Presidents Council ~**  
**Attn Anna Malay, LDA, CDA,, MNDAAPP Council Chair**  
**554 Simard Street, Mendota Heights, MN 55118**

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Please type or Print legibly in blue or black ink

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
           Last               First               Middle

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_:                    Male    Female

### DENTAL ASSISTING PROGRAM

Name of School Attended \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Entrance: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Date of Graduation: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name of Dental Assisting Program Director: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree/Certificate: \_\_\_\_\_ Cumulative GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

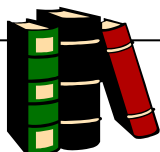
Signature of Dental Assisting Program Director: \_\_\_\_\_

### MNDAA STUDENT ACTIVITIES

*List local DAS you actively participate in:* \_\_\_\_\_

Proof of ADA Student Membership attached: \_\_\_\_\_ yes   \_\_\_\_\_ no

*Local DAS President providing recommendation attached :* \_\_\_\_\_ yes   \_\_\_\_\_ no



## Helen M. Tuchner Scholarship Application

**PROGRAM** (please check the one that applies)

- Central Lakes College, Brainerd
- Century Community and Technical College
- Dakota County Technical College
- Hennepin Technical College – Brooklyn Park Campus
- Hennepin Technical College – Eden Prairie Campus
- Hibbing Community College
- Herzing College-Lakeland Academy Division
- Minneapolis Community and Technical College
- MN West Community and Technical College – Canby Campus
- Northwest Technical College – Bemidji
- Northwest Technical College – Moorhead
- Rochester Community and Technical College
- St. Cloud Technical College
- South Central Technical College - Mankato
- Other (specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

***DIRECTIONS: ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER, in essay format, provide an answer to the following question:  
“HOW WILL CERTIFICATION ADD TO MY QUALIFICATION AS A DENTAL ASSISTANT?”  
(Minimum 250 to 500 words typed ~ double-spaced).***

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature\*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*\*Your signature indicates that the information on this application is true to the best of your knowledge.*

*Your application will not be considered complete until one (1) letter of recommendation (**dental assisting instructor**), an official transcript, one (1) copy of the essay and the completed and signed application (**including required documentation**) are received. All correspondence should be sent to the address above to the attention of Anna Malay, CDA, LDA, MNDAAPP Council Chair.*

**For Official Use Only: Received By:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MINNESOTA DENTAL ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION  
PAST PRESIDENTS COUNCIL**

**HELEN M. TUCHNER SCHOLARSHIP FUND  
INFORMATION RELEASE FORM**

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of enrollment: From \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

*This is to authorize the release of information regarding my scholastic records, grade point average, attendance and class ranking to the Minnesota Dental Assistants Association Past Presidents Council.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Student's signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

*Forward information to: Anna Malay, CDA, LDA, MnDAAPP Council Chair  
554 Simard Street.  
Mendota Heights, MN 55118*

*MnDAA Past Presidents Council Helen Tuchner Scholarship Committee members:*

*Anna Malay, LDA, CDA*

HELEN M. TUCHNER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP