

**Center for Technology, Essex Graduates Seven  
from Advanced Training Dental Assisting Program**

ESSEX JUNCTION, February 16, 2009 – Seven certified dental assistants recently completed the Expanded Functions Dental Assisting Course at the Center for Technology, Essex (CTE).

The students traveled from as far away as Brandon, Vermont to complete the six-month course, which gives them the advanced skills necessary to become more of a hands-on patient provider in the dental practice. Unlike a traditional dental assistant, an Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA) can place restorations, allowing them to work independently under the direct supervision of the dentist. The advanced training also increases their earning potential, making them eligible for an increase in salary.

After completing a 6-week classroom training in CTE's state-of-the-art dental lab, the EFDA students spent five months training with a sponsoring dentist completing the clinical phase of their training, including a required list of competencies. In January, all seven students were successful in passing the clinical bench test, during which an independent dentist evaluated their competence in placing restorations on a mannequin in a clinical setting.

"Our EFDA program is unique in New England," explains Beth Ladd, CDA, EFDA, the director of CTE's dental assisting program. She notes that the next closest EFDA training program is currently in Pennsylvania.

"What makes our program so successful is the participation of local dentists," Ladd says. "They sponsor and mentor our students, and give them that crucial hands-on training in a clinical setting. We have a wonderful classroom here at CTE, but the experience of working with real patients is something that only a dentist can offer."

Two years ago, CTE installed a brand-new dental assisting facility, complete with twelve operatory chairs and three dental radiograph machines.

CTE is able to offer the advanced dental training program in partnership with the Vermont Training Program, Department of Economic Development, which helps fund student tuition for CTE programs.

CTE is still accepting applications for its 2009-2010 EFDA course, which begins in June. Prospective students must have completed the prerequisite tooth morphology course before applying to the program.

For more information, please contact Linda Whitaker at the Center for Technology, Essex, at 802-879-5559.



Shown in the attached photo of the 2008-2009 EFDA Class: (Left to right) Senada Sokocevic, Jane Lykins, Tina Prior, Amra Hadzic, Larissa Mazza, Janelle Butterfield, Jessica Greenough.