In July ten students participated in the sixth annual LSUSD Summer Enrichment Program. Designed to prepare minority and disadvantaged students for dental school, the program reviews the application process, the dental aptitude test, and basic courses in the dental school curriculum. Due to funding challenges, the program was shortened this year from six weeks to a one-week intensive course. Nine of the ten participants are from Louisiana.

The program’s ultimate goal is to increase the diversity of dental professionals. Developing a dental workforce that mirrors the diversity of the U.S. population increases access to care for the underserved, especially minorities.

Of the 59 students who have participated in the program through 2012, 32 are either enrolled in or have been accepted by a dental school and 22 of these students are attending or have been accepted by LSUSD. In addition to Drs. Stephanie DiMattia and Stephen Brisco, who directed the program, volunteer faculty members this year were Drs. Gremillion, Cheramie, Jackson, Lallier, Giacona, Crawford-McKendall, Ballard, Brindis, Miniotis, and Ms. Schiavo. Dr. DiMattia currently serves as chair of the LSUSD Multicultural and Diversity Committee.

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