National Children's Dental Health Month

February is National Children's Dental Health Month and LSU Health School of Dentistry Department of Pediatric Dentistry has a rich and storied legacy thanks to pioneering leaders like Drs. Robert Musselman and Clifton O. Dummett, Jr. Last year Jeffrey Johnson, DMD, MPH joined LSUSD as the head of the department.
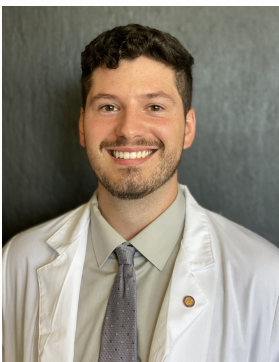
"Using my previous experience in academia and combined with 15 years of private practice and business acumen, I prefer to lead by building consensus and teamwork," says Dr. Johnson. "Our intent is to build on that legacy by becoming a nationally recognized program that is focused on patient care, resident and student education, and innovation and progressivity."

The postdoctoral program prepares graduates to become highly qualified pediatric dental specialists. Postgraduate students obtain a Master's of Science through the Health Sciences Center and a certificate in pediatric dentistry. To date, LSUSD has educated 145 pediatric dentists.

"Together we are working to create a program that is nimble enough to adapt to the ever-changing environment and economics of pediatric dentistry. Respect, compassion, hard work and inclusivity are the hallmark tenants of our program. Engaging with our staff, students, residents and faculty in new and exciting ways is key to achieving our goals," says Dr. Johnson.

Give Kids a Smile Goes Virtual

This year's Give Kids a Smile event went virtual on February 8th due to COVID concerns. First-graders at Dr. John Ochsner Discovery Health Sciences Academy were treated to a visit from some of our students and staff. Students Allyn Lacombe (D4), Carol Cash (D3), Elizabeth Sherman (D3) and Brook Vinturella (D3) spearheaded this year's effort. Drs. Jeff Johnson and Nicole Boxberger were also involved in the program. Dr. Boxberger donated the 78 goodie bags which were dropped off to the school prior to the event. The American Dental Association and the New Orleans Dental Association sponsored this year's Give Kids a Smile event at LSUSD.

Elizabeth Sherman & Allyn Lacombe talk to 1st graders about dental health

Brooke Vinturella & Carol Cash drop off goodie bags

Celebrating Achievement

An LSU Health New Orleans School of Dentistry third-year dental student is a top winner of the Clifton O. Dummett, Sr. Essay Competition on Diversity in Dentistry & Dental Education. **Kaleb Murray** was one of three dental students from across the country who received $1,000 in prizes. Nineteen additional entrants were also awarded prizes of $500 and $250. The contest celebrates the legacy of Dr. Dummett, longtime professor at the University of Southern California and dean at Meharry Medical College. The awards were underwritten by the Henry Schein Cares Foundation and Delta Dental of California.