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ADA Announces Distinguished Service Award Winner Dr. Jeanne Sinkford

CHICAGO, November 2, 2015 — The ADA Board of Trustees will award Dr. Jeanne Sinkford the ADA Distinguished Service Award at ADA 2015 — America's Dental Meeting, Nov. 6 in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Sinkford was the first female dean of a dental school, a post she held for 16 years at the Howard University College of Dentistry. After 16 years as dean at Howard and 17 years as the associate director and director of the Center of Equity and Diversity of the American Dental Education Association, she is now senior-scholar-in-residence at ADEA, where her work focuses on promoting the growth of underrepresented minority and women students and faculty in dental education. Her lifelong commitment to ensuring that women and minorities are able to succeed has earned her the respect of colleagues from all over the world.

"Dr. Jeanne Sinkford is a true leader in dentistry and I'm inspired by her," said ADA President Dr. Maxine Feinberg. "Throughout her career, and especially as the first female dean of the College of Dentistry at Howard University, Dr. Sinkford has enriched our profession by creating pathways for under-represented minorities and women to enter the dental field."

Dr. Sinkford is a 1953 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Howard University with a degree in psychology and chemistry. She graduated first in her class at Howard's College of Dentistry, and joined the Howard faculty in the Division of Prosthodontics upon her 1958 graduation.

As a child, Dr. Sinkford knew she wanted a dental career. She went on to become more than she ever imagined, but has no plans for retiring. "I have a lot of writing I want to do," she said.

The Distinguished Service Award is the highest honor given by the ADA Board of Trustees and for the first time this year will be given to two awardees. Her fellow honoree is Dr. Richard V. Tucker.

Editor's Note: Reporters are invited to follow the ADA on Twitter [@AmerDentalAssn](#). Follow along and join the ADA 2015 – America's Dental meeting conversation with the hashtag [#ADADC](#).

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About the American Dental Association

The not-for-profit ADA is the nation's largest dental association, representing more than 158,000 dentist members. The premier source of oral health information, the ADA has advocated for the public's health and promoted the art and science of dentistry since 1859. The ADA's state-of-the-art research facilities develop and test dental products and materials that have advanced the practice of dentistry and made the patient experience more positive. The ADA Seal of Acceptance long has been a valuable and respected guide to consumer dental care products. The monthly *The Journal of the American Dental Association* (JADA) is the ADA's flagship publication and the best-read scientific journal in dentistry. For more information about the ADA, visit ada.org. For more information on oral health, including prevention, care and treatment of dental disease, visit the ADA's consumer website MouthHealthy.org.