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Legacy Project: Encouragement Wall

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The legacy project dedicated to the Parkland College Dental Hygiene Program from the class of 2017 means so much to me! I went to the director of the dental hygiene program Peg Boyce and expressed to her that I wanted to come up with a project idea. My motivation behind this was to leave something meaningful from my class to the program and to the future classes to come. Ms. Boyce gave me the idea of coming up with a legacy project. This was exactly what I was looking for. It ended up becoming a two-part project!

My first idea was to find a symbol that represented everything that the dental hygiene profession stood for. While searching, I found the perfect wall decal! It has everything that represents the dental profession and it is shaped in the outline of a tooth! Please allow me to pause, and give you a little background information about myself. At the beginning of my journey I wanted to become a dentist. It has always been a dream of mine to help others and to see people smile! Naturally, the dental profession is where I had the most interest. Now, if you would take a moment with me and think back to when someone you did not know smiled at you, you most likely smiled right back at them. Smiles are infectious! You will never know

what a person is going through in life unless they told you. Smiling to me is like a hug from a distant. Where you and the other person can share a moment together without even knowing each other. I want to make it my daily goal to bring a smile to everyone's face that I may encounter.

My second idea was to leave something behind to the future classes to come. Originally, in our program we have a big sister/brother – little sister/brother system. This is where a second-year student is paired up with a first-year student to serve as a mentor. I wanted to add something that all first-year students can be encouraged with from my entire class. This is where I came up with the DHG Encouragement wall idea. Every day brings trouble of its own; it feels good to have a daily reminder to motivate people to keep going strong and striving for self-excellence! It is my hope that the encouragement wall will bring joy, peace, motivation & happiness!

There is no-one who will understand what it is like to go through dental hygiene school better than their classmates and the classes who have gone on before them! It is my intention to encourage the future classes to lean on each other. Encourage each other to keep going strong! As well as getting to know all their classmates! This program is very challenging, fast paced & rewarding! I honestly believe, as well as doing my own research prior to being accepted in the parkland college dental hygiene program, that it is the best program in the state of Illinois! I am most proud of this project because it is a way for my class and I to give back and pay homage to everything the instructors and faculty have given to us daily. This has been such a humbling experience and a personal honor of mine to create.