

ODHA STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROFILE – Jenna Gervais



SCHOOL: St. Clair College

What made you want to become a dental hygienist?

I became interested in the dental field when I was young and going through orthodontic treatment. I was intrigued by the process of moving teeth and the dental field in general. I would ask my dentist and dental hygienist lots of questions to learn more throughout the process. I thought it was really cool that my dental hygienist was the one doing most of the work with my braces! When I was in university, I did a co-op placement at my own dental office and my interest grew as I was able to watch various dental procedures and watch the hygienists work on their own. I was actually planning on going to dental school, but I realized dental hygiene was a better fit for me. I have always had a passion for helping people, and I knew this was a great way to do that by helping people improve their oral health and feel confident with their smile.

Now that you've graduated, what type of practice setting will you be working in, or do you envision yourself working in? If you do already have a job lined up, tell us a little about it!

I am hoping to work in an orthodontic office, at least part-time, while working in general practice. I had a shadowing experience during my third year of dental hygiene in an ortho office and I was really interested in how everything worked, and as previously mentioned I think it is awesome that the dental hygienists are the ones placing and removing brackets and wires, as well as delivering other appliances. After several years of working in-office, I hope to return to St. Clair College to teach as a professor and as a clinical instructor.

How will you celebrate your graduation?

To celebrate my graduation, my boyfriend and I have a trip booked for Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida, which we are very much looking forward to. My parents also plan to have a party in the summer with family and friends to celebrate all of my accomplishments!

What do you think dental hygiene students should know about their ODHA membership?

I think the best things students should know about their ODHA membership are all the discounts that are offered, and the fact that you are covered for malpractice insurance for free until the end of the year you are graduating. The Roadmap to Practice is also extremely helpful when you are coming close to graduation because it lays out everything you need to do in order, all on one page. It is very simple to understand and helps to ensure you are not missing any steps while working towards your registration with the CDHO.

For more information on the ODHA student ambassador program, visit

<https://odha.on.ca/students/student-ambassador-program/>