

What do you value most about your AGD membership?



Eric Jackson, DDS, MAGD

The aspect I most value about my AGD membership is the friendships I've made through the organization. Dentistry can easily become an isolated profession if you're not careful. Your office can quickly become your world, outside of which nothing else exists or even matters. Needless to say, this isn't a healthy or prudent way of thinking. Organized dentistry, especially AGD, provides a much-needed outlet through which dental professionals can keep a healthy perspective on their personal and professional lives. The friendships I made when I started attending the IL/WI MasterTrack program opened my eyes to this phenomenon. Such a great group of individuals who were so willing to share with a younger dentist like me. In the years since those MasterTrack days, I have made many lifelong friendships with like-minded colleagues I would likely never have crossed paths with outside of the Academy. Great local CE events, fun at the Scientific Sessions and my time on the Chicago component board of directors have all allowed me opportunities to meet and learn from other amazing members. AGD has numerous great aspects, but for me, the greatest value will always be in the relationships between members.

Eric Jackson, DDS, MAGD, maintains a private practice in Downers Grove, Illinois. He was awarded AGD Mastership in 2012 and currently serves on the board of directors for the Chicago component of Illinois AGD.



Justin Jones, DMD

As a new dentist, what I value most are the resources and convenient continuing education (CE) AGD offers at the local and national level. This past July, I attended the AGD Scientific Session in Las Vegas, and I also participate in my local AGD Mastership cohort. Both have provided valuable CE, in addition to helping me make connections with other dentists.

Justin Jones, DMD, currently works for a community health center and is an associate at a private practice in Phoenix, Arizona.

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Jessica Leigh Milburn, DDS, FAGD

It is hard to articulate what I value the most about my AGD membership when there are so many benefits for which I am grateful. Being an AGD member has provided me with the invaluable opportunity to continue to grow in my personal and professional life beyond the academic settings of dental school and my postgraduate residencies.

By tracking my continuing education (CE) hours, AGD provides me a snapshot of where my education has been concentrated, while showing me areas in which I should continue to seek advanced learning opportunities. Doing so ensures I am engaging in well-rounded, multidisciplinary clinical dentistry CE opportunities so that I may offer my patients the best dental care possible. When searching for CE opportunities in specific disciplines, I am easily able to navigate the AGD website to find lecture and participation learning opportunities. The CE search engine reduces the amount of time I need to spend researching who will be teaching the courses I need and when and where they occur. I can proactively plan my CE with my clinic schedule and patients in mind.

Additionally, with recognized general dentistry leadership milestones such as Fellowship, Mastership and Lifelong Learning and Service Recognition, AGD inspires my commitment to lifelong learning. I continue to recommend AGD membership and its meetings to colleagues.

Jessica L. Milburn, DDS, FAGD, is a general dentist who practices in Minot, North Dakota.