

Iowa Lobby Day 2018

On February 28th, 75 dental hygiene students, 5 faculty, and three Iowa Dental Hygienists' Association members met at the Iowa State Capitol for another informative Lobby Day experience. Lobbyist Tom Cope, of Cope Murphy + Co., asked Jill Stuecker, Executive Director of the Iowa Dental Board, and Representative Kevin Koester, from Polk County, to speak to the group. Ms. Stuecker explained the purpose and functioning of the regulatory Board and stressed the importance of licensed personnel to know the law and to practice accordingly. She encouraged students to visit the Dental Board website and sign up to receive newsletters to stay updated.

Representative Koester suggested that students stay informed about issues by visiting local forums and meeting legislators there. He discussed how he makes decisions before voting on an issue and how important timely communication from a constituent can be.

The group was divided into smaller groups for tours of the Capitol. Lobbyist Cope helped facilitate meetings with legislators from each of the school's district. Schools represented were Des Moines Area Community College, Hawkeye Community College, Iowa Central Community College, and Kirkwood Community College. The students learned a lot about the legislative process.

