

*Dental Hygiene
Pinning Ceremony
Class of 2026*



*Wednesday, the Twentieth of May,
Two Thousand Twenty-Six
at twelve-thirty in the afternoon*



DENTAL HYGIENE CLASS OF 2026

Destiny Bennett

Renee Blouin

Adriana Cintron Rodriguez

Rylee Litchfield

Christeen Megala

Eveline McPhee

Kathleen Mott

Crystal Payant

Desiree Santana

Kendra Scott

Mayling Tedstone

Alivia Zuccalmaglio

Dental Hygiene Program Faculty

Heather Almeida, BA, RDH, CDA

Julie DeCouteau, MEd, BSDH, RDH

Kaitlyn Geise, MSDH, BSDH, RDH

Brenda Highlands, MHS, RDH

Annie Peterson, BSDH, RDH

Kristina Sanders, MSDH, BSDH, RDH

Katherine Soal, MSDH, RDH, CDA

Alison Waite, BS, RDH

Chair of the Dental Hygiene Program

Kelley M. Martell, MSDH, BSDH, RDH

Clinical Supervising Dentists

Shirley Austin, DMD

Andreza Castro, DDS

Estuardo Osorio, DDS

Administrative Assistant

Zulma M. Torres, BS

*The Dental Hygiene Class of 2026
would like to extend our sincere
thanks to the administration and faculty
of Mount Wachusett Community College
and the staff of Community Health Connections
who helped make today possible.*

*We would also like to thank all of our families
and friends who have supported us and share
this special day with us as we enter into the
Dental Hygiene Profession.*

Dental Hygiene

Pinning Ceremony

Processional.....	Class of 2026
Master of Ceremonies	Kelley M. Martell, MSDH, BSDH, RDH Chair, Dental Hygiene Program
Welcome from the College	James Vander Hooven, EdD President, MWCC
Welcome from the Dean	Kim Shea, DNP, RN Dean of Nursing & Health Sciences
Honored Speaker	Kelly Jancaitis, MEd, RDH, CDA
Presentation of Pins	Dental Hygiene Faculty
Dental Hygiene Oath	Kendra Scott
Dental Hygiene Awards	Dental Hygiene Faculty
Remarks from Class President	Destiny Bennett
Recessional	Class of 2026

Advisory Board

Shirley Austin, DMD, Chief Dental Officer,

Community Health Connections

Lindsay Bruneau, DDS

Benjamin Canary, DMD

BJ Coakley, DMD

David Gianino, DDS

Maria LaFord, Director of Dental Operations,

Community Health Connections

Maria Mesquita, DMD

Brian McDowell, DDS

Katherine Pelullo, RDH, MEd

Anubha Sacheti, DMD

Michelle Salvaneli, CDA, RDH, BSDH,

Dental Assisting Program Chair, Montachusett

Regional Vocational Technical School

Marjorie Silva Rapose, DMD

Arnold Watkin, DDS, MScD

Gregory Wu, DMD

*A special Thank You to each of you for your continued support and
commitment to the Dental Hygiene Program.*

Dental Hygiene Oath

In my practice as a dental hygienist, I affirm my personal and professional commitment, to improve the oral health of the public, to advance the art and science of dental hygiene and to promote high standards of quality care.

I pledge to continually improve my professional knowledge and skills, to render a full measure of service to each patient entrusted to my care, and to uphold the highest standards of professional competence and personal conduct in the interest of the dental hygiene profession and the public it serves.

Dental Hygiene Class of 2026 Words of Thanks

Destiny Bennett: To my husband, Alex, thank you for standing by my side through it all. Your patience and encouragement, and unwavering belief in me gave me the strength to keep going, even on my hardest days. To my children Mia and Daniel, thank you for your love, your understanding and for being my greatest motivation. Every sacrifice I made was for you, and you are the reason I never gave up. To my family, friends, classmates, and instructors, thank you for lifting me up, believing in me and helping me reach this moment. I could not have done this without you. This accomplishment is not just mine, but a reflection of all the love and support that carried me through.

Renee Blouin: First, I want to thank my family and friends for their support. I wouldn't have made it this far without them. I'd like to thank Community Health Connections, the dental staff and the patients who dedicated their time in my chair. To my professors thank you for your guidance and commitment over the past two years, and for always pushing me to do better. I will carry your lessons with me as I move on to the next chapter of my life. Thank you to my classmates who made this program go by so much smoother. I'm grateful for each one of you and I wish you all the best of luck!

Eveline McPhee: This journey would not have been possible without the amazing support system around me. Thank you to the faculty for your patience, knowledge, and encouragement and for seeing my potential in my most challenging moments. To my family, thank you for believing in me even when things felt overwhelming. I couldn't have done this without you. To my classmates thank you for the memories, the support, and for the growing through this experience together.

Christeen Megala: To my family, professors and friends, thank you for your endless sacrifices and encouragement. Your belief in me means more than I can ever express. I wouldn't be where I am today without you. You have truly given me the world, and I carry your values and teachings with me as I step into this next phase of life. You were my lighthouse when things were uncertain, and I hope I can make you as proud as you make me. Thank you for all your support and belief in me.

Adriana Cintron Rodriguez: I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has supported me throughout this journey. To my mom, thank you for your unconditional love, encouragement, and for never giving up on me. To my step-dad, thank you for your time, patience, and unwavering support in every way. Thank you to my younger sisters for bringing laughter and joy into my life during moments when I did not feel like myself. To my grandpa and his wife, and to my grandma and cousin, thank you for your constant care, hospitality, and for always being there when I needed you most. To my dental hygiene classmates, thank you for holding my hand through it all—whether it was giving me rides, listening when I needed to talk, helping me in clinic, or simply being there when I felt alone. Your support and friendship truly meant everything to me. I am grateful to my professors and faculty at MWCC for their guidance and dedication, and to the Success Scholar Program and CRU Fellowship group for their continued support—I wouldn't be here without you. And most importantly, I thank God for blessing me with this journey and for giving me the strength to persevere. My faith in Jesus has carried me through, and I am truly grateful.

Rylee Litchfield: When we first started this program, we were told how hard it would be that it would push us, challenge us and at times break us or our relationships. And in many ways, it did, but somehow through all of it, here we are together, not broken but stronger. To the girls who stood beside me through these two years thank you. Thank you for the laughter, the support, the accountability, the love and now the friendship. Us laughing at the stupidest things will be some of my favorite memories. To my partner in crime, Alivia you've seen every version of me these past two years and never once let me give up. You truly are a light; you are my sunshine. You kept me smiling on the hardest days and made everything feel a little bit more manageable. To our professors and adjuncts, thank you for always showing up for us, for pushing us, and for believing in us even when we struggled to believe in ourselves. To my family, thank you for loving me through what were, at times, the most distant two years of my life. Even when I couldn't always be present, you never stopped showing up for me, checking in on me and supporting me in every way you could. To my nephews I hope I've made you proud. It wouldn't be me if I didn't thank my baby boy Tyson, who may be a dog but is so much more to me, for the comfort on the days I needed it most and being there through all the happy moments. As I've said so many times waling out of class, I hope this isn't my final one; but if it is "BYE...LOVE YOU"

Kathleen Mott: I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my classmates, faculty, friends and family for their unwavering support throughout this journey. Dental hygiene school has come with plenty of highs, lows, and more than a few moments where I questioned my life choices but somehow, we made it through! To my classmates, thank you for the laughs at the study sessions, and for reminding me I wasn't the only one stressed before exams and competencies. To my faculty thank you for your patience, guidance, and your dedication in pushing me to become the clinician I am today. To my friends and family and especially my mom and grandfather, thank you for your constant love, encouragement and for always believing in me even when I was running on little sleep and lots of caffeine. To my boyfriend, Jon, thank you for your endless support, understanding and for sticking by me through all the long days, late nights, and dental hygiene talks. This journey wasn't always easy, but having all of you by my side made it not only possible but memorable. I am so grateful to celebrate this milestone with you all.

Crystal Payant: I want to thank my mom for helping with childcare during the last two years as well as Jen and Devyn for helping watch Grayson during these past two years. Thank you to Grayson, my son, for being the catalyst for my motivation to start and finish dental hygiene school. Thank you to my classmates and professors for being a support system when things got tough.

Desiree Santana: To my greatest joy, my son Ismael, you've been on this journey with me since the day you were born. You have been my greatest motivation. I love you so much, and I hope every day that I make you proud. To my fiancé, parents and sisters, you have been the glue that has kept me together these last two years. Your support and sacrifices have made this journey possible for me. There are no words that can fully express how grateful I am, so I will simply say thank you and I love you. Last but not least thank you to my classmates for the emotional support and countless cry sessions and to my instructors for advocating and believing in me even when I was filled with self-doubt. Your dedication and support mean more than you'll ever know.

Kendra Scott: Thank you to all the support from my family, friends and my Dental Hygiene girlies! Thank you to all faculty for the never-ending push to make sure you put another great hygienist into the world!! The biggest thank you goes to my son Carter. Every sacrifice I make is to be sure you have the life you deserve and I would not be where I am if it was not for you. The motivation you give me every day is what got me through this program! I'm so lucky to have a son like you!

Mayling Tedstone: I would like to take the time to express my gratitude to all those who have lovingly guided me along this journey as I navigated every path before me. My sincere thanks go out to the kind souls who made a meaningful difference in ways both seen and unseen. More personally thank you Mom and Dad for patiently waiting for this moment to arrive. Thank you Danny for being my constant throughout my life. Thank you Cassie for offering a safe space when my emotions felt overwhelming. Thank you Alex for standing by my side no matter what and truly understanding how much this means to us.

Alivia Zuccalmaglio: These past two years have been something I can't quite put into words. Going through it all with these eleven amazing women made everything easier. From endless laughs to the struggles we faced together, we've created a bond that can't be replicated. I'm forever grateful for each of you and can't wait to see all the amazing things you accomplish. To my best friend Rylee, thank you for being there through every minor and major moment over the past two years. You've shown up for me in every way possible, and I feel so lucky that we got to experience this journey together. You've shown me true strength and resilience while also pushing me out of my comfort zone and helping me grow into who I am today. You make even the hardest days feel lighter. True friendship is rare and I am so incredibly grateful that I have that with you. Thank you to my professors for being amazing role models to look up to in future careers. Each one of you has helped me get to this point and always pushed me to do things I didn't think I was capable of. To my family thank you for supporting me through my crazy schedule while always making time to check in. Sitting in my chair for hours and helping me every step of the way is something I deeply appreciate. Your encouragement carried me through, and I truly wouldn't be where I am without you. Thank you Mom, Dad, Andrea, Ashley, Patrick and my two wonderful nieces for always being my biggest cheerleaders. Lastly, Brandon, thank you for holding everything together at home and handling it all with patience and reassurance. Between late nights and weekend shifts at work, training our puppy Buck, and planning a wedding during such a chaotic time. You have always been there to support me, and I couldn't have done this with anyone else by my side. I appreciate you more than words can say.



Mount Wachusett
Community College