



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Dental School Applicant Documents *Lessons in a Lunch Box Experience***

**Owings Mills, Maryland**, February 5, 2022. Recently, the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) reported that one dental school applicant cited the *Lessons in a Lunch Box* program. The candidate wrote about the program in the 2022 ADEA AADSAS (Association of American Dental Schools Application Service) application as an example of academic enrichment under the “experience type” section. The Children’s Oral Health Institute has praised ADEA for tracking the *Lessons in a Lunch Box* data.

The nonprofit has sponsored the program to encourage 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade children to, “See Yourself Becoming a Dentist,” since 2008. Therefore, 2022 equates to the year when these first youth who have been exposed to *Lessons in a Lunch Box* qualify to apply to dental school or to a dental hygiene program. This culmination of the first distribution of the lunch boxes, with the application process to dental school, some 14 years later is an invaluable milestone delivered via this ordinary container. The bright orange lunch box cleverly designed to include career focused messaging, health care information, and *Dental Care in a Carrot®* has proven to provide excitement, inspiration and exposure that connects elementary school children to the profession of dental medicine.

This primary school introduction, in some part has led to the ultimate dividend, a candidate to applying to dental school. The COHI credits many for helping to plant the seeds that likely contributed to this applicant selecting dentistry as a career. The nonprofit has said corporate sponsors, organized dentistry, dental school deans, and student dentists, civic groups and the many supportive volunteers should all feel triumphant.

“It’s heartening to see the positive impact that innovative resources can teach young students about oral health, even setting them on a career path toward dentistry,” said Karen P. West, DMD, MPH, President and CEO of ADEA. “Such programs are crucial in developing the next generation of oral health professionals.”

To date nearly 65,000 children and their families across the country and as far as the North Pole have been recipients of the *Lessons in a Lunch Box: Healthy Teeth Essentials & Facts About Snacks* program. Please visit The Children’s Oral Health Institute for more information at [www.mycohi.org](http://www.mycohi.org).

*Prevention that Empowers Globally!*