

A) Why are you applying for this position?

I became an Accredited Member of the AACD in 2018. It took me ten years to become Accredited. I met my mentor at one of the scientific sessions. We began reviewing cases, and he gave me feedback by reviewing the criteria and recommending what I could do to improve the final result. I began to pass cases one by one. I slowly started to believe that I had the skills needed to become Accredited. This experience was life changing. I had been through many challenging situations before, including running two marathons, starting my own practice, supporting my family financially while my husband went through a career change, and overcoming health issues. But somehow getting accredited was always in the back of my mind. I couldn't stop until I reached my goal. The monumental challenge of being awarded Accredited status has made me very proud of the credentialing process. Having the opportunity to serve on the American Board of Cosmetic Dentistry would be an incredible honor. If I could help the Academy continue to provide the Accreditation process to its members, it would be my way of protecting the credential and giving back to the AACD.

B) Have you served on boards in the past?

I have not served on a board in the past.

C) Leadership skills and organizational style

I started my dental practice from scratch twenty years ago. I manage ten employees on a daily basis. I lead the office with a calm yet firm disposition. Many of my staff have been with me for years; notably my assistant who has been with me for eighteen years. I feel that we have low turnover because I am approachable. Although I am meticulous with office protocol, the staff can express their concerns to me. I feel that every team member is irreplaceable. I value their efforts and let them know. I also feel strongly about doing the right thing. Though there are shortcuts that could be taken, I feel that doing a task the right way, or doing it twice until it's correct is the only way.

When working with others, I feel I am diplomatic and fair. When conflict arises, I am willing to hear the other side before making a decision.

D) Accomplishments and approach to fulfilling obligations

When given an obligation to fulfill, I see to it that the task becomes a priority. This year, I am serving as the Chair of AACD Awards Committee. We work closely with each other to vet and choose nominees for each award category. We meet as a group to vote and make decisions while maintaining complete confidentiality. I am also in charge of compiling the first ever manual for members who will hold my position when my term ends.

On behalf of the University Outreach Program, I am presenting a Smile Design lecture to the students of the University of Michigan. If I can spark an interest in the Accreditation process for some of the students, I am hoping it will increase new membership.

In 2018, I cowrote and helped create a video about Accreditation to inspire members to continue striving for Accreditation.

I am a Fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry and an Accredited Member of the AACD. I hope to continue on this path and hopefully become a Fellow Member of the AACD.

E) Balancing friendships when policies or ethical issues create conflict

My first priority will always be to uphold the Bylaws, Strategic Plan and policies of the AACD. If I am elected as a Board member, my only focus will be to respect and uphold those policies. Although I would always strive to maintain friendships, being elected to serve on the board is a serious commitment. If a conflict arises, I would still uphold the policies of the AACD.

F) What do you bring to this position that is unique and distinctive?

I've never been handed the easy route through life. I've always had to work hard to reach my goals. I have a strong work ethic and desire to grow as a dental professional by being around like-minded people. I also am able to laugh and learn from my mistakes. I know my sense of humor and desire to do the right thing is unique and distinctive.

G) Please give us an idea of where you see your interests and expertise supporting the advancement of the AACD Strategic Plan and reflecting an alignment with the Academy's core purpose.

In line with the motto "Responsible Esthetics," my practice philosophy is "Conservative Restorative Dentistry." It really pains me to cut healthy tooth structure, and my patients know and appreciate my conservative approach.

I believe that cosmetic dentistry should not be about who has the fanciest office or the best social media presence. At the end of the day, it should be a balance between time-tested conservative principles and the best new ideas with an educated dental provider at the center. The AACD is a champion of conservative care; and the credential provides for a rigorous protocol that separates the best cosmetic dentistry providers from the rest.

In my 22 years of experience as a dentist, I have been a member of many organizations. I have never felt a part of most of those organizations. I paid my dues and at the very most attended conferences. The first time I felt like I belonged to an organization was when I met my mentor Dr. Stephan Orser. He made the time to give me critical feedback about my case submissions. I was humbled by his dedication to the AACD and his generosity. I wish I met him earlier on in my

accreditation journey. If I can reach out to another member in the way my mentor reached out to me, I know I can elevate their professional practice.

As far as the actual Accreditation process, knowing that my work was evaluated and passed has given me confidence clinically and philosophically. I feel I would represent the academy and the credentialing process in a way that it has not been represented before. Many general dentists do not know about the credential, as well as many patients. I would like to see the AACD's presence increase at the university level and in general to the public. I am often explaining to patients what Accreditation means. I feel with my acting experience, I could help to launch advertising campaigns to the general public via social media and television.

H) How will I make a difference and form a bridge between the Board and our members?

My path to accreditation was not an easy one. It took longer for me than it takes most people. I feel that there are members who are discouraged or have given up on the process because they feel it is too difficult. I know this because there was a time when I too felt discouraged. If I am able to help reach out to those members that are so close but stuck, it would be life-changing for them. I know there are members who have veered off the path, but with the right resources could be very close to attaining accreditation.

I am also often asked by general members and non-members who have not started the Accreditation process what my experience was like becoming accredited. I offer them advice and positive reinforcement along with my email if they have further questions. I can see myself in many of the members that attend the scientific session; they are curious and a bit daunted by the accreditation process. I think I can help familiarize and expand our membership base by reaching out to more general dentists.

Lastly, dentistry can be a lonely profession. Feeling like one belongs to a group, whether big or small, certainly helps to make one feel less lonely in their professional journey. I know that when someone from the AACD reaches out to me, I feel more connected to my profession and to the AACD. I think that if members are made to feel more of a part of a close-knit group, it would benefit them in many ways. For example, Dr. Jim Peyton reached out to me after I passed my first case to ask if I would write an article for the JCD regarding my case. It boosted my confidence immensely and I was thrilled that he reached out to me. In the end, I published my first article.

I) Please list any leadership courses or webinars taken.

I am currently taking the Executive Presence Leadership course offered by Cornell University.

J) What else should we know in order to consider you as an applicant for this position?

I am a member of the Screen Actors Guild. I have a passion for acting and connecting with others through acting.

K) Has any dental licensing board taken adverse action against your license or is there any action pending?

No

L) Have you ever been convicted of a felony or are there any charges pending or under investigation?

No