

LLSR: ARE YOU CLOSE TO RECOGNITION?



(Left) Dr. Maria-Paz Smith, Former AGD President, (Right) Dean Armstrong, DDS, MAGD, LLSR

From volunteering on missions trips like the ones we highlight in the TexasGP, to serving on your local component boards, to taking courses that help you be the best dentist in your market, Lifelong Learning & Service Recognition (LLSR) helps to celebrate what many of you may already be achieving.

LLSR recognizes those who have already earned a Mastership, but continue to go above and beyond in the pursuit of continuing education. In Texas, there are currently only 34 dentists with this distinction through 2017. Last year, we welcomed Dean Armstrong, DDS, MAGD, LLSR; Frances Jones, DDS, MAGD, LLSR; Vincent Fontana, Jr., DDS, MAGD, LLSR; and our Texas AGD President Jeff Geno, DDS, MAGD, LLSR, to those ranks.

The Texas AGD is a community of passionate general dentists partnering together to assist one another in the JOURNEY through Fellowship, Mastership and LIFELONG LEARNING. With fewer than 1 percent of general dentists in the nation being Masters, LLSR is a distinctive honor.

from Amarillo, Texas. "Last year, when I received it - with others from the state of Texas out of only a dozen-plus in the country - I knew our state was special. When they read off how much we'd accomplished to get the LLSR distinction, it sounded like a lot, but I realized I would do it to provide the best care to my patients, regardless. I felt more honored than I'd even imagined I would. Doing the coursework and volunteerism seemed like a natural course of events to be the best dentist I could be, not like I was just checking off boxes to accomplish something to impress others. LLSR is not about that; it's about providing excellent care, because you care," Dr. Armstrong said.

"What can I say about LLSR besides "Fantastic?!", said Dr. Dean Armstrong, DDS, MAGD, LLSR, and Panhandle AGD Secretary/Treasurer

You may already be earning many volunteer hours through volunteer work or mission trips. Do you volunteer at a dental-related association, serve on the board, serve as an officer, etc.? Those hours count, too! And don't forget about CE - if you're already a Master, those CE hours can still go toward LLSR.

Requirements include 500 hours of CE (above the 1,100 needed for FAGD and MAGD) in 8 of 17 disciplines. Hours must have been earned since the date of Mastership was received or since a previous LLSR was received. A) At least 150 CE hours must be earned in participation course attendance; B) A maximum of 100 credits for teaching is allowed; C) A maximum of 100 credits of publication is allowed. Those receiving LLSR distinctions will be recognized at the Convocation Ceremony at the AGD Annual Meeting.

Lifelong Learning & Service Recognition (LLSR) is a program of formal recognition for Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) Masters in the areas of continuing education (CE), dental-related community service, and service to organized dentistry. It is not a credential and in no way may be represented to the public as such. LLSR was created to recognize the achievements of those AGD Masters who clearly recognize the professional obligation to remain current in their profession and to create an example so that each member of the dental profession never loses sight of this obligation. Achieving LLSR from the AGD tells colleagues and patients of your continued commitment to lifelong learning and quality patient care. A Master may receive LLSR multiple times, in a sequential manner, as long as all requirements are met. Once a Master is first recognized by this achievement, subsequent recognitions may include only those credits and points earned since the date LLSR previously was received. Masters of the AGD embody the AGD's principles and ideals. They accept an obligation to continually prove themselves worthy of Mastership (MAGD) throughout their professional lives. There are certain obligations that go along with the honor of becoming a Master in the AGD. Masters are expected to: 1) Continue their commitment to lifelong learning 2) Be a mentor to associates and new dentists 3) Improve the quality of CE 4) Be a voice of the general dentist.