



SRJC Alumni & Friends Association

As a career changer, Trale Broudy was looking to transition to a career with plentiful job opportunities and places for employment. The healthcare industry in 2005 was a burgeoning field with an ever increasing demand for skilled dental hygienists, nurses and other professionals. With the encouragement from his personal dentist and family, Trale made a career change and enrolled in SRJC's Dental Hygiene Program.



Trale, a sociology graduate from UC Santa Cruz, has lived in Sonoma County since 1990 and managed a Sebastopol bakery prior to his enrollment in the dental hygiene program. Along the journey to completing his bachelor's degree at UC Santa Cruz, Trale spent time at two other universities including Wesleyan University and UC Santa Barbara. "I couldn't find my place at those schools. My time at the JC far surpassed those previous experiences. The JC has high quality teachers and people who care about teaching."

Trale cites the faculty at the JC as one aspect of the college that prepared him for a career in dental hygiene. At the JC, Trale was offered the opportunity to engage with his professors, work with them on his educational program and secure help from them when he had questions on content. Trale found the pre-requisite science courses for the dental hygiene program were more rigorous than classes at full four year universities and was impressed with the state of the art equipment of the JC. In the formal dental hygiene program, he found Dr. Christine Ford's periodontology class particularly challenging and applicable to his new profession. The course required observing periodontal surgeries in the field and applying theory to the treatment of actual patients in the dental clinic on campus.

The dental hygiene program requires students like Trale to work on real patients, with oversight by dentists and registered dental hygienists. One of the biggest challenges of the program for Trale was recruiting qualified patients and ensuring that these patients kept their appointments.

After graduating in 2010, Trale began working with a dentist he knew through his church with whom he had secured a position prior to completing the program. With his employer's consent, Trale developed a periodontal health program with protocols and new equipment. In addition, Trale's inner sense of volunteerism and desire to give back has propelled him in a new direction. He currently volunteers with Community Action Partnership of Sonoma, goes to Mexico to provide free dental services, works at the Berkley Free Clinic, volunteers at the Russian River Dental Clinic and more.

In the future, Trale looks forward to moving into the public health field in order to further help individuals in need. With his passion for volunteering and his desire to give back, Trale embodies the spirit of the JC as he works to make his community a better place to live.