



2026 NADL VISION 21 MEETING
JANUARY 15 – 17, 2026

CAESARS PALACE HOTEL & CASINO | LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

A large, 3D-rendered tooth is the central focus, appearing to be made of a translucent material with a blue grid pattern overlaid on it. The tooth is set against a dark blue background filled with faint, glowing blue outlines of various dental structures, including teeth, jawbones, and dental tools. The overall aesthetic is high-tech and futuristic.

BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS

NADL ANNUAL AWARDS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026

Congratulations to all of the 2026 NADL award winners!
There are few greater honors than to be recognized by your peers for achievements in the profession that has meant so much to your life.

SUPPLIER MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

GARLAND DENTAL SERVICES

For nearly three decades, Garland Dental Services has been a trusted partner to dental laboratories nationwide, earning its reputation through reliability, expertise, and an unwavering commitment to customer support. Founded 29 years ago as a specialized equipment repair company, Garland Dental Services built its business on a simple but powerful principle: service comes first. That philosophy remains the cornerstone of the organization today and is what sets Garland Dental Services apart as NADL's Supplier of the Year.

Headquartered in Garland, Texas, and led by President Daniel Serrago, CEO Rebekah Serrago, and COO Chris Wilson, Garland Dental Services provides both digital and traditional laboratory equipment and supplies from premium manufacturers, along with comprehensive technical support and repair services. Unlike many suppliers, Garland's service after the sale is not an add-on, it is the foundation of the company. With technicians experienced in both legacy and state-of-the-art technologies, Garland Dental Services supports everything from 30-year-old furnaces to the newest milling systems, ensuring laboratories can keep running without interruption.

As the dental laboratory industry shifted toward digital workflows, Garland Dental Services evolved alongside it. Expanding from a service-only model into equipment and supply sales was a natural progression, allowing the company to support custom-



ers from start to finish. This thoughtful growth has led to a steadily expanding team with added sales and inventory staff, and the establishment of a secondary service and sales facility in Florida, with future plans for additional service points across the country.

Customers consistently praise Garland Dental Services for its responsiveness, technical knowledge, and genuine care for laboratory professionals. Clients describe the team as a "go-to" resource and a true partner; one that educates, troubleshoots, and goes above and beyond to find solutions. With deep manufacturer relationships and hands-on expertise, Garland Dental Services has earned the trust of laboratories nationwide.

Through innovation rooted in service, steady growth, and an authentic commitment to the success of dental laboratories, Garland Dental Services exemplifies excellence in supplier partnership, making the organization a truly deserving recipient of this award.

***Congratulations to Garland Dental Services on being
presented the NADL Supplier Member of the Year Award!***

LABORATORY MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

ROE DENTAL LABORATORY, CDL

With more than 90 years of continuous operation, ROE Dental Laboratory, CDL, stands as a pillar of excellence, innovation, and leadership within the dental laboratory profession. Founded in 1933 and evolved through generations of technological change, ROE built a legacy rooted in trusted craftsmanship, forward-thinking innovation, and an unwavering commitment to advancing dentistry. This remarkable combination makes ROE Dental Laboratory, CDL, a truly deserving recipient of NADL's Laboratory Member of the Year Award.

Certified as a CDL since 1996, ROE employs 235 full-time team members, including 19 Certified Dental Technicians representing nearly every specialty area, and several dentists in key leadership roles. Led by CEO BJ Kowalski and Operations Director Joe Royer, ROE operates as a full-service laboratory offering comprehensive solutions ranging from traditional restorations to advanced digital workflows, guided surgery, and full-arch solutions, all manufactured in the U.S. using FDA-cleared materials.

ROE's impact on the profession extends far beyond its production floor. The laboratory has long been a driving force in innovation, holding multiple published and pending patents for groundbreaking technologies that have reshaped modern dentistry. Equally significant is ROE's commitment to education, demonstrated through more than 900 educational videos with over 1.5 million views, free online CE programs, and the publication of seven compre-



hensive educational books offered at no cost to the dental community.

Community involvement and philanthropy are also central to ROE's mission. From donating cases and supporting Dental Lifeline Network and MedWorks to mentoring students and serving underserved populations, ROE views giving back as both a responsibility and a privilege. Internally, the laboratory fosters a strong culture of transparency, recognition, and continuous learning, ensuring employees are empowered, valued, and equipped for long-term success.

"In an era where technology moves fast, ROE has never chased trends, they've set them. Their collaborative spirit, technical mastery, and commitment to precision make them an indispensable partner in full-arch dentistry and beyond. I am thankful for the opportunity to have them as a partner in my growth."

— Adam Frounfelter, DDS

Congratulations to ROE Dental Laboratory, CDL, on being presented the NADL Laboratory Member of the Year Award!

MERIT AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

JOHN MADDEN, MASTER CDT

John Madden, Master CDT, is a respected leader, educator, and innovator who has made a lasting impact on the dental laboratory profession over the last 17+ years. Throughout his career, John Madden, Master CDT, has consistently given back to the profession, making him a most deserving recipient of the NADL Merit Award for Outstanding Achievements.

John's career uniquely bridges academia, private laboratory practice, and industry leadership. John owns and runs John Madden Prosthetics, a small digital removable lab, is CEO of Minnesota Dental Innovations, Chief Digital Officer for Voyager Dental, and consults for some of the largest 3D printing companies and DSOs. Additionally, John works in the clinics at the University of Minnesota, managing the prosthetics lab and teaching students digital dentistry.

A Master CDT since 2024, John holds CDT certifications in Complete Dentures, Partial Dentures, Digital Workflow, Crown and Bridge, and Implants, placing him among the most comprehensively credentialed technicians in the profession. He was also part of the first group to earn the Digital Workflows specialty and has actively encouraged others to pursue this certification, helping raise the bar for professional standards nationwide.

Beyond the classroom and bench, John is a prolific educator and speaker. He delivers lectures and CE courses across the country, contributes regularly to professional publications including the Journal of Dental Technology, and serves on the JDT Advisory Committee. His influence extends into innovation as well, with authorship on 17 provisional or pending patents and one approved patent focused on digital dentures, partials, and workflow advancements.



John's service to the profession includes leadership roles with the NBC Board of Trustees, serving on several committees with NBC and NADL, and participation in NADL-led workforce initiatives to promote the dental laboratory profession. Equally meaningful is his community service, including ongoing work with Mission of Mercy and the Dental Lifeline Network, where his lab donates multiple cases each year to help restore smiles for patients in need.

"John deserves the recognition of this award for his service to the industry, tireless dedication to education, and unwavering mission to expand the reach and quality of dental prosthetics."

— Jonathan Weiss

Congratulations to John Madden, Master CDT, on being presented the NADL Merit Award for Outstanding Achievements!

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD

GENE PETERSON, CDT

With 33 years in dental laboratory technology, Gene Peterson, CDT, has built a distinguished career as an educator, innovator, researcher, and mentor. A former laboratory owner, Gene trained and developed countless technicians through hands-on apprenticeships, embracing an “open-book” philosophy at a time when knowledge sharing was rare. His commitment to mentorship continues today through his active involvement with Blue Sky Bio, LLC, where he serves



as Director of Education, and Pima Community College’s Dental Laboratory Technology Program, where he is an adjunct faculty and advisory board member.

As a pioneer in digital dentistry, Gene played a transformative role in shaping modern removable prosthodontics. He has been instrumental in developing groundbreaking digital workflows, software solutions, and educational content that have redefined denture fabrication and laboratory efficiency worldwide. His leadership roles at AvaDent, Sterngold, and Blue Sky Bio, along with his frequent invitations to lecture nationally and internationally, positioned him as a trusted authority and subject matter expert in digital dentures and implant-related technologies.

Gene’s passion for education is reflected in his impressive academic achievements, including a Master of Science in Biology with an emphasis in education and ongoing completion of his PhD dissertation focused on digital dentures. An accomplished author and lecturer, he has delivered over 2,200 hours of continuing education, published extensively in leading dental technology journals, and served on editorial committees for NADL and other professional organizations.

Through his dedication to education, mentorship, innovation, and service, Gene has elevated the standards of dental laboratory technology and inspired generations of technicians to pursue excellence. NADL is honored to recognize his lasting impact on the profession with the Excellence in Education Award.

Congratulations to Gene Peterson, CDT, on being presented the NADL Excellence in Education Award!

HALL OF FAME AWARD

KURTIS HELM, CDT

Kurtis Helm, CDT, dedicated nearly four decades to advancing the dental laboratory profession through leadership, education, service, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. With 37 years of experience, including five years as a dental laboratory technical trainer in the United States Air Force and more than three decades as a laboratory owner and professional leader, Kurtis's influence has been both broad and enduring.

After earning a degree in biochemistry from Texas A&M University, Kurtis founded Helm Dental Laboratory, LLC, where he continues to serve as owner and CEO. A Certified Dental Technician since 1994, Kurtis has consistently demonstrated a dedi-

cation to craftsmanship while embracing innovation and lifelong learning. His leadership guided Helm Dental Laboratory, LLC, to national recognition, including previously being named NADL Laboratory Member of the Year, while also earning him the NADL Excellence in Education Award.

Kurtis's contributions extend far beyond his own laboratory. He has been an active NADL member since 2008 and currently serves as a Trustee for the Foundation for Dental Laboratory Technology. His educational impact includes countless lectures, panel discussions at national meetings, published articles in the Journal of Dental Technology and IDT, and the creation of multi-year symposiums that brought together dental professionals for advanced education and collaboration.

Equally important is Kurtis's commitment to community service and workforce development. Through partnerships with local school districts, dental assisting programs, universities, and the VA, Helm Dental Laboratory, LLC, has provided education, training, and care to students, veterans, and underserved populations. His lab's long-standing support of initiatives such as Dentistry With a Heart, Wounded Warrior Project, the North Texas Food Bank, and breast cancer awareness reflects a belief that professional success carries a responsibility to give back.

Through decades of service, innovation, mentorship, and advocacy, Kurtis Helm, CDT, has helped shape the profession at every level. His legacy is one of leadership with purpose, embodying the very ideals the NADL Hall of Fame was created to honor.



Congratulations to Kurtis Helm, CDT, on being presented the NADL Hall of Fame Award!

CDT OF THE YEAR AWARD

HARI PRASAD, MASTER CDT

With 46 years in dental technology and more than three decades as a Certified Dental Technician (CDT), Hari Prasad, Master CDT, represents the very highest standards of technical excellence, professionalism, and integrity. As a Master CDT, an achievement held by fewer than one percent of CDTs, Hari has demonstrated mastery across multiple specialties while continually advancing the profession through education, research, and certification advocacy.

Hari's impact on certification is unparalleled. He has served the National Board for Certification in Dental Laboratory Technology (NBC) in nearly every capacity, including serving on the Board of Trustees, assisting with item writing and development, and constantly volunteering his time to the CDT program. Countless technicians have achieved their certification through his mentorship, preparation courses, and hands-on guidance. His commitment is personal, tireless, and unwavering, as he often gives his time on weekends and remains accessible to candidates whenever support is needed.

Beyond certification, Hari is a respected educator and researcher. As a director and professor at the University of Minnesota, he conducts advanced research in bone growth and regeneration, contributing to numerous peer-reviewed publications and international speaking engagements. His work bridges science, education, and clinical application, strengthening the profession on a global scale. He is also the owner of MP Orthodontics Solutions, further demonstrating his entrepreneurial leadership.



Above all, Hari exemplifies service. His career reflects a deep belief in mentoring the next generation, upholding ethical standards, and advancing dental laboratory technology for the benefit of patients and professionals alike.

"Hari has always been willing to give back to the industry in any way possible. This is the hallmark of a true dedicated professional." — Dan Elfring, Master CDT, MBA, DTG

Congratulations to Hari Prasad, Master CDT, on being presented the CDT of the Year Award!

THANK YOU 2026 NADL V21 SPONSORS

NADL would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the companies who support the 2026 Vision 21 Meeting. This meeting would not be possible without their generous support and participation.

(AS OF 12/9/2025)

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