

Beth Collington:

From the Committee to the Community

Beth Collington took on the role of president of exocad America in 2024 and has been a standout industry professional for many years. In addition to her busy career, she volunteered her time to lead the Foundation for Dental Laboratory Technology (Foundation) as chair and participated as a member of NADL's JDT advisory committee and business management committee (BMC) planning Vision 21. Collington shares more about why it is important to her to give back.

Why did you decide to volunteer for NADL committee work?

When I first considered volunteering for NADL's JDT and BMC committees, my motivation was rooted in a desire to give back to an industry that has given me so much. My experience as chair of the Foundation rounds out the perspectives and contributions I can offer to the BMC committee. Dental technology is constantly evolving, and I've always believed that progress happens when passionate professionals come together to share knowledge and shape the future. Joining these committees offered an opportunity to contribute and support initiatives that directly impact our profession.

The Foundation is another significant time commitment. What made this stand out to you as a worthwhile investment?

The Foundation stands out because of its mission: driving support for continuing education to advance dental laboratory technology. Education is the cornerstone of innovation, and the Foundation's work ensures that technicians and labs have access to resources that keep them competitive and informed. For me, investing time in something that strengthens the industry's foundation felt like a natural extension of my professional values. It wasn't just about meetings—it was about making a tangible difference.

What value did you feel you brought to NADL and Foundation leadership? Did you gain anything in return?

My value was invested in how to best leverage strategic perspectives with the discipline of execution. The privilege of engaging the rest of the board to collaborate while balancing our combined vision with practical actionable plans only added to an already amazing experience with this team of talented individuals. This group that brings the diversity of combined expertise in education only amplified the importance of the Foundation's and committees' work and encouraged participation in our efforts to support the technicians who

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utilized the resources available. Leadership is about listening, learning and growing together.

What is your impression of the NADL JDT/BMC committee work and the results?

The JDT and BMC committees are engines of progress. They don't just maintain standards—they elevate them. From shaping educational content to addressing emerging trends, the work is both proactive and impactful. I've been impressed by the level of dedication and expertise within these groups. The results speak for themselves: initiatives that strengthen our profession and ensure its relevance in a rapidly changing landscape.

Why should others participate?

We need to prepare so technicians are ready for tomorrow's digital challenges. If you are considering getting involved, please just do it. Committee work is more than a professional obligation—it's an opportunity to influence the future of dental technology. You'll build relationships, gain insights, and contribute to something bigger than yourself. Yes, it requires time and effort, but the rewards—both personal and professional—are immeasurable. When we volunteer, we don't just shape policy or programs; we shape the future of our industry. **JDT**