



## SANTA CRUZ COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES

1000 Emeline Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
(831) 454-4130 | [www.santacruzhumanservices.org](http://www.santacruzhumanservices.org)

RANDY MORRIS, DIRECTOR



# News Release

**Date:** June 12, 2025

**Contact:** Adam Spickler

[Adam.Spickler@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:Adam.Spickler@santacruzcountyca.gov) | (831) 588-0692

## WORKFORCE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY EMPLOYER CHAMPION ANNOUNCED

*Dientes Dental Care Recognized as Employer Champion by County Workforce Development Board*

On May 28, 2025, the Santa Cruz County Workforce Development Board (WDB) awarded Dientes Community Dental Care with a coveted Workforce Achievement Award, as its 2025 Employer Champion. The award, which celebrates community impact, is given annually to local employers who provide individuals who have overcome adversity with innovative and inclusive pathways into meaningful employment.

"Selecting Dientes as our 2025 Employer Champion was especially meaningful for our Workforce Development Board," said Santa Cruz County WDB Director Andy Stone, who helped lead this workforce initiative recognizing successes of both local workers and employers. "Dientes has proactively partnered with the Santa Cruz County Office of Education and Workforce Santa Cruz County to create the Dental Assisting Apprenticeship Program to address the increasing demand for skilled dental assistants and provide local workers with an opportunity to earn while they learn."

The Dientes apprenticeship program, supported by Workforce Santa Cruz County's On-the-Job Training and funded in part by the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, provides apprentices with paid training, enabling them to earn wages while gaining new skills. This approach helps Dientes build a strong talent pipeline from within, reducing turnover and increasing retention of skilled employees.

Moreover, the apprenticeship program helps ensure consistent access to quality of care for the patients Dientes serves. The program allows Dientes to address skill gaps and learning needs during the training phase of an apprentice's placement, rather than after hiring and onboarding a new dental assistant.

For more information about the Workforce Achievement Award program and past recipients, please visit: [www.workforcescc.com/success-stories](http://www.workforcescc.com/success-stories). To learn more about what Dientes Community Dental Care's apprenticeship program does and why it was awarded as an Employer Champion, please visit: <https://bit.ly/WAA-2025-Dientes>.

PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE ♦ PROMOTING SELF-SUFFICIENCY ♦ ALLEVIATING POVERTY

STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY BY IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF ALL COUNTY RESIDENTS