INDIANA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY
IUPUI

January 4, 2011

Dr. Charles R. Bantz, Chancellor
Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis

Dear Chancellor Bantz,

Providing dental services at the Amish dental clinic was an enriching educational experience. This clinical experience was not only good for dental students to experience providing dentistry outside the dental school, but also it was a good community service learning experience. We interacted with multiple members of the Amish community and learned about their beliefs and ways of life. Some of the Amish children visiting the clinic for dental work did not speak English and presented a challenge. We learned to communicate and translate through the child's mother or father and use other types of body language to explain to the child what we were doing.

It was a great way to leave the routine of clinical work at the dental school and get to experience doing dentistry in a very different environment. We were able to see how a rural community safety-net dental office functions and got to experience using different dental equipment in a different environment. We were able to see how it feels to jump from chair to chair having multiple patients and the awesomeness of having a dental assistant at all times. The clinic's pediatric dentist, Dr. Lisa Leniski, was very helpful and an effective teacher.

This educational and service opportunity was very valuable learning experience that could not have occurred without the help of the Community Dental Clinic of LaGrange County, and also could not have occurred at the Dental School in Indianapolis. I think it would be very appropriate for this clinic to be recognized for their contributions to the community and IUSD by being presented the Chancellor's Community Award for Excellence in Civic Engagement.

Sincerely,

Cara B. Schriner
4th Year Dental Student and MPH Student

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