

ALL IN Brief

January 1, 2014

To: UF College of Dentistry,

Welcome to 2014! I have a feeling it is going to be a great year and know, for certain, it is going to be a busy one.

Looking over the calendar for the coming year, it is already packed - accreditation, faculty development sessions, staff retreat, shared governance meetings, faculty searches, a dean's search, and then there are classes, patients, conferences, research.

Accreditation will be the focus of many meetings, emails, hours spent on the computer and discussions -- in the parking lots, elevators, hallways and anywhere else two or more dental people meet. It is sure to take a lot of energy from many of us, and in addition to that, we have all our "regular" work to attend to.

There is no doubt we need to be *All In* to make it all come together and I am confident that we will. Being all in requires all of us to understand issues and challenges that affect the college outside of our own silos.

At this time last year I thought I had a pretty complete understanding of the whole picture of the college. I thought wrong. I've been sitting in the dean's chair now for six months and from this perspective things do look very different. Some opinions I held about what should or shouldn't be done changed when I became responsible for balancing what is best for all areas of the college. I ask that each of you stop and ask yourself, and perhaps even educate yourself, about what the other side of the story might be as we work our way through 2014 so we can all work together -- all in.

That includes the financial picture of the college and how everything ties together. Although our financial model is very decentralized, but everything is highly interconnected. And while our financial position is greatly improved from last year, it is critical that we view our cash reserves as emergency reserves -- not as day-to-day operational or personnel funding. We need to be careful with our spending in 2014 the same way we were in 2013.

I hope you all are enjoying a wonderful break and I look forward to working with you when we return, refreshed and energized, when classes and meetings resume!

Sincerely,
Boyd Robinson, D.D.S., M.Ed.
Interim Dean
UF College of Dentistry

