



Idaho State University: Empowering students to improve access and equity in oral healthcare



Challenge

Idaho State University (ISU) Department of Dental Hygiene, the only bachelor degree program of its kind in Idaho, has a mission to create professional leaders in oral healthcare. Committed to providing comprehensive, patient-centered care through innovation and current best practices, ISU sought to adopt new dental technologies that would empower the next generation of providers to improve access and equity in oral healthcare for underserved populations.

Solution

In 2021, ISU introduced MouthWatch intraoral cameras into their dental hygiene clinics, providing an affordable and user-friendly solution for capturing images and videos to enhance patient education. The cameras were quickly integrated into ISU's restorative program, enabling students to document pre-op, intra-op, and post-op images during procedures for learning purposes. MouthWatch cameras were also utilized on the dental hygiene students' teledentistry rotations to senior living facilities.

In late 2023, Idaho State University (ISU) implemented teledentistry through the TeleDent platform, a grant-funded initiative aimed at enhancing dental care accessibility. By integrating MouthWatch Intraoral Cameras with TeleDent, the university could dispatch nursing students to their extramural rotations to underserved areas to provide oral screenings and gather assessment data remotely. The students captured intraoral images and streamed live video via TeleDent, enabling off-site, supervising hygienists and dentists to provide real-time guidance and oversight.

This innovative approach empowered nursing students who are non-traditional dental professionals to deliver preventive treatments, such as fluoride varnish and silver diamine fluoride, in remote, underserved regions of Idaho without the need for an on-site dentist, enhancing the overall efficiency and reach of the program.

Since implementing MouthWatch solutions, the program has:

- Trained 64 nursing students across 2 cohorts to use teledentistry and intraoral cameras.
- Completed over 20 rotations with 8-12 students each.
- Provided 90+ oral health screenings.
- Applied 50+ fluoride varnish treatments.

Watch **Care That Inspires**, a video series by MouthWatch to learn more about Idaho State University's mission to improve access to care across Idaho.



TeleDent

A cloud teledentistry platform focused on connecting to patients and your care team. Securely message patients, meet patients face-to-face using live, recordable video conferencing, and securely share diagnostic info with your team, your specialists, and your patients.



By seeing intraoral images, patients gain perspective and appreciation, becoming motivated partners in their oral health journey.

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