



## CADAT / CDAA Joint Annual Conference April 10 – 11, 2026



**Stephanie Marquez, RDA**  
[marquezs@mdusd.org](mailto:marquezs@mdusd.org)

### **Course: *Forceps and Fun: Grasping What Makes Oral Surgery Different***

#### **Course Description:**

Scalpels, sockets, and sutures, oh my! 😊 Oral surgery can feel a little intimidating for dental assisting students, and sometimes instructors too. This course is designed for dental assisting educators and dental professionals who want to make oral surgery less scary, more approachable, engaging, and FUN for their students. Together, we'll look at practical strategies for turning complex oral surgery concepts into teachable, memorable, and hands-on learning experiences students will enjoy.

We'll look at creative ways to teach instrument identification, simplify specialized terminology, and reinforce surgical asepsis while also helping students feel more confident and less intimidated by the surgical environment. You'll leave with interactive ideas, teaching tips, and ready-to-use activities that make oral surgery less scary and a lot more engaging for both you and your students.

#### **Course Objectives:**

1. **Identify effective instructional strategies** for teaching oral surgery concepts to dental assisting students at varying skill levels.
2. **Differentiate between standard and surgical asepsis** and develop approaches for teaching advanced infection control protocols specific to oral surgery settings.
3. **Design engaging learning activities** that incorporate hands-on, small-group, and individual exercises and games to reinforce oral surgery concepts.
4. **Implement techniques to reduce student anxiety** related to surgical procedures while maintaining professional and safety standards.

#### **Speaker Bio**

Stephanie Marquez, RDA, is a dental assisting educator with over a decade of clinical experience, specializing in oral surgery, implant dentistry, and periodontal surgery. She holds a Teaching Credential in Career Technical Education and serves as an Instructor and Clinical Coordinator for the Mt. Diablo Adult Education Dental Assistant Program, where she prepares students for real-world practice through hands-on, confidence-building instruction that bridges classroom learning with clinical reality. Stephanie also teaches for Eloise Reed Seminars and the Santa Clara Dental Society, delivering monthly courses in infection control and the California Dental Practice Act. She is passionate about creating collaborative learning environments where students feel comfortable asking questions, building confidence, and growing into skilled dental professionals.