

Mesa teacher named to human rights institute post

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A Mesa teacher has been named the deputy executive director of the Educators' Institute for Human Rights.

Kim Klett, an English teacher at Dobson High School, has served as an international program coordinator supporting the institute's partnerships in Bosnia, Herzegovina and elsewhere since joining the staff in 2016.

At Dobson High in 2001, Klett developed a semester-long literature course on the Holocaust and other genocides.

She became a teacher fellow with the Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2003 and joined its regional education corps in 2005.

A Carl Wilkens Fellow in 2001, Klett also is a trainer for Echoes and Reflections, a professional development program for teachers of the Holocaust. She sponsors student activism clubs, including STAND and Anti-Defamation League's A World of Difference.



Dobson High English teacher Kim Klett, right, works as executive director of the Educators' Institute for Human Rights on her own time, coordinating international partnerships and teaching students about the Holocaust and other genocides. (Special to the Tribune)

She also works with the East Valley Jewish Community Center in Chandler, serving on many of its education committees, and is on the board of the Phoe-

nix Holocaust Survivors' Association.

"We've been so lucky to have an educator with Kim's extensive experience on our staff, and her skill set is perfectly suited to this new role at EIHR," said Educator's Institute Executive Director Kate English. "Kim's hard work and professionalism frame all of her endeavors."

The Educators' Institute for Human Rights develops partnerships with teachers in countries recovering from conflict to provide training in best practices on human rights, genocide prevention and Holocaust education.

It seeks to help educators and students worldwide to better understand the history of mass atrocities, including the Holocaust, and apply the lessons to their lives in order to create a more tolerant, educated and peaceful future.

English praised Klett's contributions stating:

"She does this work over and above her full-time commitment to the students of Mesa. We are proud of her work."

People can sink their teeth in MCC dental hygiene deal

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If you haven't been to a dentist for a while, a group of Mesa Community College students have a deal for you.

Fourteen second-year dental hygiene students – supervised by a licensed dentist and hygienist – will be giving free X-rays and oral health and cancer assessments 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 2, at 5855 E. Still Circle, Mesa on the A.T. Still University campus on Baseline Road near Recker Road.

Dental student Mai Mounabah said the students also will provide free or radically reduced-cost cleaning for people who need it.

The effort is a win-win for both students and patients: The patients get an important check-up and the students get experience – and possibly some people they can try their newly acquired cleaning skills on.

"The reason why we conduct oral cancer screenings is to detect any indication that a patient might have oral cancer," Mounabah explained. "Oral cancer has a high mortality rate because it often goes unnoticed because most people don't know you can have cancer in your mouth."

If lesions are detected, the patient is referred to a physician.

As for cleaning, the less clean a per-



These Mesa Community College second-year dental hygiene students are preparing to provide free oral screenings as part of their class work but also because they enjoy giving back to the community. (Special to the Tribune)

son's teeth, the better in some respects.

The students need to demonstrate their skill at cleaning teeth with varying degrees of tartar buildup.

Mounabah said students are especially looking for people whose teeth are in the higher levels because they "are also more difficult for us to find" and yet they are needed for the students' final exams.

This is a screening only, participants will not be guaranteed an appointment, receive a comprehensive exam or receive any definitive treatment during the

screening appointment. Although the screening is complementary, patients selected as a patient for the program will be charged for customized oral health care services.

The Mesa Community College Dental Hygiene Clinic offers a full range of dental hy-

giene services in the evening at the Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health Clinic.

Should teeth need a cleaning – done by appointment 5:30-8:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays – the students accept dental insurance. And even patients who don't have insurance get a deal, since the students charge less if a patient can afford to pay.

Those who cannot afford to pay anything may qualify for free cleaning – with expenses covered by the students

themselves.

"We have student funds that go towards covering the cost of treatment for patients who can't afford it," Mounabah explained. "This way we ensure the patients are able to get the care that they need without cost being an inhibiting factor. We work diligently throughout the year by hosting multiple fundraisers and selling numerous dental products in order to raise enough money in our student funds account to be able to pay for these patients."

As for the discounts available by having the students do the cleaning, she added, "Our rates for treatment start at \$35 for a basic cleaning and can go up to \$375 for a deep cleaning. The cost varies, based on individual patient need. These rates are a lot less than a standard dental office that can charge \$800-\$1000 for a deep cleaning without insurance."

While the students only need to successfully complete a two-year program to get a state license, they need a four-year degree to teach. Starting next year, MCC will offer a concurrent degree program with Northern Arizona University, enabling students to get a bachelor's degree while studying at MCC.

Screenings will be done on a first-come, first-served basis, but people who want a specific time – and know they'll be there – can call 602-558-8452.