



## **Dental Hygiene Students Bring Smiles to Middle School Kids**

On any of a half dozen Saturday mornings during the school year, the Dental Hygiene center is in full action. Here, SCF hygiene students are working alongside volunteer dentists and dental hygienists. Their patients are a bus load of Harlee Middle School students who are receiving free dental services, including cleanings, X-Rays, fillings and sealants. Just as importantly, they leave with some dental care education, a

power brush, paste and floss. "In addition to providing the care, we let the children know there is a college in their home town. You don't have to go away," explained Dental Hygiene Program Director Anita Weaver.

Professor Weaver put the program together with the help of the Manatee Dental Society. Many of the professional hygienists who participate are SCF graduates. The

middle school students are members of the Boys and Girls Club, and often don't have regular dental care.

"Giving back to the community is part of being a professional" states Anita Weaver. "We want to instill that in our students." And they respond enthusiastically to the opportunity.

The Lawrence E. Ruf Charitable Fund of the Manatee Community Foundation provided the funds to help purchase the supplies necessary.