

Yessica Escutia Ponce de Leon

Dr. Yessica Escutia Ponce de Leon was born and raised in Guanajuato, Mexico. She moved with her family to Woodstock, Illinois when she was a junior in High School. She was highly motivated to learn English as she had always dreamt of going to college and pursuing higher education, which she did!

After she graduated from Northern Illinois University with a B.S. in Biology and a minor in Chemistry, Dr. Yessica moved to Iowa City, Iowa to attend the University of Iowa College of Dentistry. Besides obtaining her DDS in 2017, she also discovered her passion for public health. She was the President and then the Club advisor of the Hispanic Student Dental Association and an active member of the Dental Public Health Club. This gave her the wonderful opportunity to give back to her community and even her own country. Dr. Yessica went on two service-learning trips to Xicotepec, Mexico. Wanting to learn more about public health, she took extracurricular public health classes, which lead her to graduate with Distinction in Public Health.

She then moved to Muskegon, Michigan where she worked as a National Health Service Corps scholar at an FQHC, Hackley Community Care Center. During the time she spent at HCCC, she got to witness how the current U.S. healthcare system works and many of the barriers' patients face while navigating our current system. She also fell in love with the fun challenge of treating children while working at two school-based programs.

Inspired by the things she learned over the last 5 years, Dr. Yessica decided to further her education by pursuing a Master's in Public Health and a Certificate in Pediatric Dentistry at UCLA.

When Dr. Yessica is not fighting sugar bugs, she is spending time with her husband, Jake, and their two cats, Valentino, and Roo. They love to travel, spend time outdoors, explore new hobbies, and restaurants, but especially visit their friends and families.