



Health Implications and Planning as Educational Institutions Prepare to Reopen

Interview with Armine Gharpetian, DDS, President of Glendale Unified School District Board of Education

Dr. Armine Gharpetian currently serves as the President of the Glendale Unified School District Board of Education. She was first elected to serve on the GUSD Board of Education in 2013 and was re-elected in 2017. Armine was born and raised in Iran and migrated to United States in 1988. Shortly after settling in Glendale, CA, she attended Glendale Community College and later transferred to UCLA to receive her Bachelor's degree in Biology. She then continued her education and earned a Doctorate degree in Dentistry from The University of the Pacific School of Dentistry in San Francisco. Dr. Gharpetian has been practicing dentistry for 23 years and currently operates a boutique Invisalign office in Glendale. She is a member of American Dental Association, California Dental Association, San Fernando Valley Dental Society and a long time member of the Armenian-American Medical Society. Armine has dedicated many years serving her community and currently serves on several non-profit boards: Glendale Youth Alliance, Glendale YMCA, Verdugo Hills Council Boy Scouts of America, Glendale Clean & Beautiful and Healwithin International. Armine has received several recognitions and awards: Business Life "Women Achievers" Award, D&M Educational Foundation "Woman of the Year" Award, and the Western Dioceses of Armenian Church "Honoree of the Year" Award, just to name a few. Armine has been happily married to her husband Vartan Gharpetian, former Mayor of Glendale, for 26 years and they are blessed with three beautiful daughters.



Dr. Vicken Sepilian is a Reproductive Medicine specialist and is the founder and director of American Fertility Specialists Medical Group. He is double board-certified in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, as well as Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Sepilian has been an active member of the Armenian American Medical Society (AAMS) holding multiple leadership positions, including serving as the President from 2009 to 2013. Dr. Sepilian served as the Chairman of the 11th Armenian Medical World Congress and currently is the President of the Armenian Medical International

Congress (AMIC), a nonprofit organization with chapters all over the world, with the aim of coordinating global efforts in improving healthcare in Armenia. Passionate about community education, in 2008, Dr. Sepilian launched the "Your Health" educational TV program aimed at sharing with the community the latest and most important healthcare topics. Since 2008, the show has been making house calls to tens of thousands of viewers helping educate them on preventative care and healthy lifestyles. In 2010, Dr. Sepilian, alongside other civic leaders and the former Mayor of the City of Glendale co-founded the Glendale Health Festival. Dr. Sepilian worked closely with city and state officials and local hospitals to organize this large-scale event with the aim to improve the health of the community. Dr. Sepilian is a strong believer that success and wealth are measured by life's experiences and human interactions and that true happiness and purpose are achieved by giving. Cherished memories include debates about life and death with Dr. Jack Kevorkian, delivering pens to students in villages in Sri Lanka and teaching chess to orphans in Nepal.



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