Dr. Monica MacVane-Pearson is the Associate Dental Director for La Clínica de la Raza Fruitvale. After receiving her DDS from McGill University in Canada, she started a one year residency program at Dugoni School of Dentistry at the University of the Pacific (UOP). Through the Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) program at UOP, Dr. MacVane-Pearson did her AHEC dental rotation at La Clínica Fruitvale in Oakland, where she gained valuable pediatric experience and exposure to community dentistry. She found herself to be a strong supporter of La Clínica’s prevention-based model towards oral health improvement, as well as its dedication to enacting positive changes at the community level through events like health fairs.

While she did not initially plan on establishing a career in community health, she greatly enjoyed the ability to help both individuals and communities through her work at a community health center. After completing her residency program, Dr. MacVane-Pearson accepted a position at La Clínica Fruitvale and has served as the clinic’s Associate Director for the past five years.

“Before my AHEC rotation with La Clínica, I didn’t know about clinics like this and systems like the federally-qualified health center (FQHC) system. One of the reasons I didn’t go back to Canada was because we didn’t have clinics like this there [at the time]. My true calling as a dentist is to help people this way.”

About La Clínica and the East Bay AHEC. . .

- The Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) program is authorized through Title VII of the Public Health Service Act.

- La Clínica de la Raza is a member of the East Bay Area Health Education Center (AHEC), which is housed at the Community Clinic Consortium, a non-profit organization representing four different member community health centers (CHC’s) across 26 different sites.

- The East Bay AHEC provides ongoing support to its members like La Clínica so they can continue to provide education and rotation opportunities to health students throughout the east bay, like Dr. Mariam Hashoush. In this way, community health centers are able to attract diverse and motivated staff, while continuing to provide quality, affordable care to the populations they serve.

- For more information on the program, visit: [http://www.cal-ahec.org/ebay.htm](http://www.cal-ahec.org/ebay.htm)