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Dr. Joseph McManus practiced pediatric dentistry for over 25 years and has served on the faculty of Columbia University College of Dental Medicine where he held positions of Associate Professor, Associate Dean and the Executive Director of the Faculty Practices. He now serves as an Associate Professor of Dental Medicine and the Executive Director of Community DentCare at Columbia University and as a consultant for Henry Schein Professional Practice Transitions Division. Watch this video to learn more about Dr. McManus' career in teaching dentistry.

Video Transcript

Dr. Joseph McManus: In dental education today, we certainly have a crisis. We need men and women to return to academics in some capacity. Our biggest need is in passing on the clinical information and expertise that practicing dentists have. We do have a shortage of faculty. We need people in the private sector in private practice to come back to academics to keep academicians like me honest. Sometimes we get tied up in the ivory tower mentality and people who are in private practice who teach on a part-time basis keep us all grounded in what's really important and what's going on in the private sector.

I teach dentistry because I want an opportunity to put a small fingerprint on the next generation of dentists in this country. To teach is a marvelous opportunity. The relationship you have with the student, the ability to influence that student, goes a very long way. As you go on in your career, financial success is important, but what do we leave behind? We make a life on not what we make, but we make a life by the moments that take our breath away. I think if you can influence the next generation of oral health care providers, I can't think of anything more stimulating or important that you can do with your professional life.