James B. Nesbit, D.D.S., Life Science, 1968

Dr. James Nesbit's mission is to make the world a better place – one country at a time. His work has taken him around the world to every continent in an effort to bring compassionate health care to those in need.

After graduating from HACC in 1968, James continued his education at Temple University, earning a bachelor's degree and then a doctoral degree in dental science. For more than 30 years, James had a family dental practice where he rendered care to inner city poor and the elderly in the Harrisburg area. He was recognized as one of America's top dentists in 1979 and 2009. When he retired, James donated his dental office equipment to set up school-based clinics in Harrisburg and Lancaster. He also established a dental facility in Jamaica for handicapped orphans and a clinic in Brazil. In 2004, he received the Mayor's Award for Distinguished Public Service from the City of Harrisburg and was recognized by WHP-TV as an "Angel Among Us."

More recently, James and his wife, Sheila Harman, a 1981 HACC graduate, have worked together on an HIV/AIDs project in Swaziland, South Africa, and on health care projects in the Amazon and with the Hualapai Indians in Arizona. For his humanitarian efforts, one of HACC's early graduates has received citations from the White House, the Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives, and Harrisburg's then Mayor Stephen R. Reed.