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DELTA DENTAL of IOWA AWARDS DENTAL EDUCATION LOAN REPAYMENT

ANKENY, Iowa – September 5, 2007 – Delta Dental of Iowa has awarded a \$50,000 educational loan repayment grant to Corning dentist Maria Fuller as part of a program to recruit dentists to rural communities and other areas of the state that have a shortage of dentists. Fuller also received additional support by the Corning community to establish her practice in Adams County.

Delta Dental has awarded eight dental education loan repayment grants since the program began in 2002. To be eligible for loan repayment, grant recipients agree to practice in a designated dentist shortage area and devote at least 35 percent of their practice to Medicaid-eligible, elderly, disabled, and other underserved patients over a three-year period. 89 of Iowa's 99 counties are currently designated by the Iowa Department of Public Health as dentist shortage areas in at least one of the standard federal criteria.

“Delta Dental is pleased to fund a program that establishes a foundation for dental practitioners to make a commitment to rural Iowa,” said Donn Hutchins, President and CEO. “Dr. Fuller will be a valuable member of the Corning and Adams County communities for years to come. We also want to encourage other rural communities to join with Delta Dental to support community development efforts to encourage dentists to practice in rural Iowa.”

The loan repayment program is a component of Delta Dental of Iowa Public Benefit program that invests in projects that improve the oral health of Iowans. The program is a collaborative effort with the Iowa Department of Public Health, Delta Dental of Iowa, and the University of Iowa College of Dentistry that assists in addressing the dental professional shortages in rural Iowa.

Delta Dental of Iowa is the largest and most experienced provider of dental benefits in the state. The Iowa company is a member of the Delta Dental Plans Association, a national organization of not-for-profit Delta Dental plans. The national association is the largest dental

benefits carrier in the nation providing coverage to more than 50 million people in nearly 88,000 employer groups.

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