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### **Delta Dental of Iowa Research Award to Dental Public Health Graduate Student**

ANKENY, IA, September, 2006--Delta Dental of Iowa has awarded a Graduate Thesis Award to Dr. Kecia Leary, a graduate student at the University of Iowa's College of Dentistry.

Dr. Leary, who is conducting master's research in the Department of Preventive and Community Dentistry, will focus on the role of the school nurse in the oral health of Iowa's public school students.

The Delta Dental of Iowa Graduate Thesis Award was established in 2004 through the company's Public Benefit Program which assists the oral healthcare needs of underserved Iowans. The thesis awards fund up to \$15,000 for costs associated with conducting master's or doctorate thesis research in dental public health.

*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 member companies. The national association is the largest dental benefits carrier in the nation, providing coverage to more than 47 million people in nearly 81,000 employer groups.*