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**DELTA DENTAL OF IOWA ESTABLISHES FOUNDATION**



Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation Board Members from L to R back row Dr. Steven Hedlund; Jeff Plagge; Dr. Ed Schooley; Jennifer Lightbody; Donn Hutchins; (front row) Kathy Bradley; Dr. John Kearns; and Suzanne Heckenlaible (Executive Director). Not pictured Dr. David Johnson and Dr. Robert Russell.

ANKENY IA, September 15, 2008-- Delta Dental of Iowa has announced the establishment of the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation, a non-profit 501 (c)(3) supporting organization. The Foundation's mission is to support and improve the oral health of Iowans in all 99 counties.

"As the philanthropic arm of Delta Dental of Iowa, the Foundation will help us fulfill our not-for-profit vision," said Donn Hutchins, President and CEO of Delta Dental of Iowa and Foundation President. "Over the last six years, Delta Dental of Iowa has become a leading source for oral health project funding across the state. Many agencies throughout Iowa have received funding for oral health projects such as preventive sealant

programs at county public health centers, oral health education programs at Head Start programs, and research projects at the University of Iowa, College of Dentistry. We are pleased to contribute to these programs; our vision is to make a measurable difference in the oral health of Iowans.”

Since 2002, Delta Dental of Iowa has invested more than \$3.8 million in its Public Benefit Program for oral health projects. Working with a variety of statewide oral health stakeholders, the new Foundation Board will continue to invest in oral health projects that improve access to care, prevention, education and research.

“Dental is an inseparable part of health and overall wellness,” said Suzanne Heckenlaible, Executive Director of the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation. “The establishment of the Foundation further supports Delta Dental’s position as an oral health leader. We look forward to continuing to support community-based oral health projects that improve the overall health of Iowans.”

The Foundation Board includes the following:

- Foundation Chairman: John Kearns, DDS, Fleur Dentistry, Des Moines
- Foundation Vice-Chair: Kathy Bradley, President, Mid-Iowa Health Foundation, Des Moines
- Foundation President: Donn Hutchins, President & CEO, Delta Dental of Iowa, Ankeny
- Steven Hedlund, DDS, Iowa City
- David Johnsen, DDS, MS, Dean, University of Iowa College of Dentistry, Iowa City
- Jennifer Lightbody, Executive Director, Peoples Community Health Clinic, Waterloo
- Jeff Plagge, Chairman of Delta Dental of Iowa and Chairman, President & CEO, Midwest Heritage Bank, Clive
- Robert Russell DDS, MPH, Dental Director, Iowa Department of Public Health, Des Moines
- Ed Schooley DDS, MS, Vice President & Dental Director, Delta Dental of Iowa, Ankeny

Foundation Officers include:

- Foundation Secretary/Treasurer: Cheryl Harding, Vice-President & COO, Delta Dental of Iowa, Ankeny
- Foundation Executive Director: Suzanne Heckenlaible, Director of Government and Community Relations, Delta Dental of Iowa, Ankeny

Delta Dental of Iowa is the largest and most experienced provider of dental benefits in the state. As a not-for-profit, Delta Dental of Iowa invests in Public Benefit Programs through the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation that focus on access to care, prevention, education and research. Delta Dental of Iowa 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 51 million people in nearly 93,000 employer groups.

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