



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Delta Dental of Iowa makes major donation to DMACC Dental Hygienist Program

New gift lifts DMACC program to “state-of-the-art”

Ankeny, Iowa (June 22, 2009) - Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation has announced a \$75,000 award and a \$50,000 challenge grant to Des Moines Area Community College’s Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting Programs.

“This is the first grant of any kind for our Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting Programs,” said Sally Schroeder, dean of DMACC’s Health and Public Services Program. “Our students are thrilled with the news. We are also grateful to Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation for the foresight and commitment to our dental program. All of Central Iowa will benefit.”

The funds will be used to renovate DMACC’s Dental Clinic where students, with faculty oversight, see patients from the general public. New equipment will also be purchased.

“This remodel will make the DMACC Dental Clinic one of the best student facilities in the Midwest, as well as enhance the capability of providing low cost preventive oral health care to the community,” said Schroeder.

As a result of Delta Dental’s awards, DMACC’s Foundation is launching a Capital Campaign to take advantage of the challenge grant. Delta Dental will match all new contributions, dollar-for-dollar up to the \$50,000 total.

“Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation is proud to support DMACC’s Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting Programs,” said Donn Hutchins, the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation President. “Our donation and the matching challenge grant is a great way for Delta Dental to invest in the oral health of Iowans, while insuring needed training for hygienists and dental assistants.”

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There are currently 44 students in DMACC's one-year Dental Assistant program and 48 in the two-year Dental Hygiene program. "DMACC is committed to preparing students to meet the demands of the dental health care workforce," said Schroeder who noted that with the growing demand for health care professionals, employment is nearly guaranteed.

"The Foundation's support of DMACC ensures dental hygienists and assistants are being trained using the latest technology," said John Kearns, DDS and Chair of the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation Board. "As a dentist, I understand the importance of having well-trained dental hygienists and assistants that know the latest dental technology."

Schroeder said the DMACC Dental Materials Lab recently experienced a \$50,000 facelift. Renovations to the DMACC Dental Clinic are expected to be completed in May 2010. The DMACC Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting Programs combine academic and clinical course work. These programs were launched in 1974 on the DMACC Ankeny Campus where they continue to strive for the highest educational experiences for students entering the dental workforce.

DMACC has also recently launched a pre-professional program where aspiring dentists can take undergraduate coursework.

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Des Moines Area Community College is committed to educating, training and encouraging lifelong success for students of all ages. As Iowa's largest two-year college, DMACC annually serves more than 65,000 credit and non-credit students on six campuses located in Ankeny, Boone, Carroll, Des Moines, Newton and West Des Moines. As a result of continued record growth, DMACC has earned the rank of 17th fastest growing 2-year public college in the United States. For more information, visit www.dmacc.edu.

As a not-for-profit, Delta Dental of Iowa invests in oral health projects through the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation that focus on access to care, prevention, education and research. 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 51 million people in nearly 93,000 employer groups.

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