

For Immediate Release

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Note: Abbreviation for Northeast Iowa Community College is NICC.

NICC FOUNDATION AWARDED DELTA DENTAL GRANT FUNDING

PEOSTA—The Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) Foundation received a grant from the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation this week that will fund purchases of advanced digital x-ray equipment, new dental sensors and monitors for patients, and new computer software for students enrolled in the college's Dental Assisting program. The NICC Foundation and Delta Dental announced the \$50,000 grant at a Peosta campus ceremony on Feb. 21.

The grant funding announcement also officially starts an NICC Foundation campaign to raise an additional \$25,000 in a Delta Dental Challenge Grant. The Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation will match the extra money raised to fund a second round of instructional equipment purchases, such as new hand pieces, additional sensors, electronic hand pieces, storage space units and x-ray training manikins.

NICC officials praised Dental Assisting faculty members for their efforts to obtain grant funding, and thanked Delta Dental for supporting a program that is unique in northeast Iowa. The funding also allows NICC to expand its free dental care services and outreach to low-income community members who visit the on-campus dental clinic at Peosta.

"We have the only dental assisting program in our district – we're one-of-a-kind," said Penny Wills, NICC president. "This funding and the opportunity with the Delta Dental Challenge Grant allow us to double the number of low-income people in our area who can obtain free dental care. The grant is exciting for the college, the NICC Foundation, our faculty and students, especially as we continue to build a new health sciences wing and dental assisting lab on campus," said Wills.

"The Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation is proud to support NICC's Dental Assisting program," 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."

Equipment purchases made possible through the first round of grant funding include: a ProOne panoramic x-ray machine that projects images of patient's upper and lower teeth on

one film; three Planmeca intraoral digital sensors that replace the need to use film for diagnostic images; three mounts for patient monitors, which allow patients to view images or conditions while receiving care in the dental assisting lab; and bridging software, so ProOne and sensors can interface with current Dental Assisting program software.

The NICC Dental Assisting program prepares students to assist dentists in all phases of dentistry. The program includes chairside procedures associated with general and specialty dentistry, radiology, laboratory and business office assistance. Clinical experience is an integral part of the educational program with rotations through various dental facilities. The Dental Assisting lab at the Peosta campus, and a future lab under construction in the campus' new health sciences wing in the main building, provides on-site dental care for low-income tri-state residents. The free dental care for qualifying patients provides critical health care for community members, as well as regular training opportunities for NICC students enrolled in the Dental Assisting program. For more information call NICC at (563) 556-5110, ext. 401, or visit www.nicc.edu/dentalassisting.

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 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 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 54 million people in more than 93,600 employer groups.

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