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Contact: Elizabeth Cote (802-656-2179) – UVM Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program

Delta Dental Plan of Vermont Assists Vermont Dentist Recruitment

BURLINGTON, VT---A \$20,000 contribution from Delta Dental Plan of Vermont, in partnership with the Vermont Educational Loan Repayment Program for Dentists, has been instrumental in retaining one dentist in Vermont and recruiting two new, urgently-needed pediatric dentists to the state in 2008, according to Elizabeth Cote, Director of the University of Vermont Area Health Education Centers (AHEC).

“New dentists carry large educational debt; 200,000 to 300,000 is not uncommon, which often leads them to higher-paying positions in urban, not rural states,” says Cote. In response, the State of Vermont established an Educational Loan Repayment Program for Dentists in 2000. This program is through the Department of Health, administered by the AHEC, and helps dentists with their loan repayment in exchange for a one year service agreement in Vermont for each year they receive loan repayment assistance. Recipients must also agree to treat a percentage of Medicaid patients during their service agreement year(s).

“The Delta Dental Plan of Vermont contribution to the State’s Educational Loan repayment funding enables us to attract more dentists to Vermont and demonstrates Delta Dental’s commitment to good health for Vermonters,” she says.

“Our community match helped make it more financially attractive to new and existing dentists to practice in Vermont, which correlates well with Delta Dental Plan of Vermont’s oral health mission,” said Tom Raffio, President & CEO of Northeast Delta Dental.

Information about the Vermont Educational Loan Repayment Program for dentists, primary care practitioners, nurses, and nurse educators is available at www.vtahec.org.