

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vermont Dentists Support UVM Dental Residency Program to Ensure Continued Quality Dental Care

South Burlington, Vermont – June is Oral Health Month. It is also the month when the University of Vermont dental residency program commences. Dental graduates from all over the country come to the 1-year program to perform comprehensive dental care in the program’s dental clinic. The clinic, a state-of-the-art, \$1.6 million facility built in 2014, has up-to-date equipment and is structured to deliver efficient and quality care.

But, aside from providing valuable experience and education to dental graduates, this program is critically important on other levels as well. Vermont has an aging population, which includes the dental population. Many dentists are at or approaching retirement age and there are not enough new dentists moving to the State to replace them. This is a particular problem in rural areas, where access is not as good. Thus, recruiting dentists has become a focal point for the Vermont State Dental Society (VSDS) and its dentist members. The residency program, by exposing new dentists to Vermont and what its like to practice dentistry in the State, helps with recruitment. To date, approximately 50% to 75% of dental residents (currently a class of 4) stay in Vermont upon completion of their residency. Also, through the residents providing these clinical services, lower-income Vermonters are able to get dental treatment that they otherwise would not have been able to afford.

That’s why Vermont dentists have been so supportive of the UVM dental residency program. From making donations to pay for part of the cost to construct the facility to volunteering their time to supervise and teach residents on an ongoing basis, Vermont dentists understand the importance and value of the dental residency program.

“This program is a real factor in helping recruit needed dentists to our State,” said Vaughn Collins, Executive Director of VSDS. “Our members know it’s important and work hard to help it succeed. With June being Oral Health Month, VSDS celebrates this program and the efforts of our dentists to support it.”

Learn more at Vaughn.Collins@VSDS.org

About Vermont State Dental Society: VSDS is Vermont’s professional association for dentists. With just under 400 members, VSDS includes more than 80% of the practicing dentists in the state. VSDS works to enhance oral healthcare through providing resources, educational information and support for its members and the public, as well as advocating for public policies and systems to improve oral healthcare for all Vermonters.