



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation Awards Dental Student Grants

NAPERVILLE, Ill. (May 20 2013) – The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation, the charitable arm of Delta Dental of Illinois, awarded two \$2,500 grants to graduating dental students at Southern Illinois University (SIU) School of Dental Medicine.

Education for oral health professionals is one of the key priorities of the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation. Through its student grants program, the Foundation recognizes outstanding dental students who have demonstrated service and commitment to oral health in Illinois.

“The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation is committed to improving oral health of Illinoisans. Our student grants program allows us the opportunity to invest in oral health professionals committed to that same mission,” said Lora Vitek, director of philanthropy & community relations for the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation.

The student grants program for graduating dental students in Illinois is a long-standing program both at University of Illinois Chicago College of Dentistry and SIU School of Dental Medicine.

To be eligible, recipients must pass their National Boards, be in the top 25 percent of their class academically or clinically, plan to practice in Illinois, demonstrate an interest and/or participate in community outreach initiatives, or have declared interest in the advanced pediatric dentistry specialty. The 2013 SIU School of Dental Medicine recipients are Rima Mounsef and Peter Lotowski.

Rima Mounsef plans to work in a rural Illinois area where she can “make the largest impact and lend a hand as often as possible to those in need.” She also plans to visit elementary, middle and high schools in her practice area to offer oral health education to improve oral health in the community. Mounsef was first in her class clinically. “I strongly believe the main purpose of dentistry, as a profession, is to help better the lives of patients,” says Mounsef.

Peter Lotowski has accepted a position as one of four residents at the Idaho State University Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) program. After completion of the one-year residency, Lotowski plans to return to the state and open a practice in rural Illinois. Lotowski participated in Give Kids a Smile Day events in St. Louis and at SIU. He also completed weekly rotations at the local Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and provided care to underserved individuals at the East St. Louis Dental Clinic. “Dentistry fulfills all the things I ever wanted from a profession. I have a tremendous passion for what I do,” said Lotowski.

“Access to oral health care is obviously an important step in improving oral health. The Foundation is proud to recognize these two deserving students. We look forward to seeing the impact they will make on oral health in Illinois,” said Vitek.

For more information on Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation's student grants program and/or to support programs and efforts of the Foundation, please contact Lora Vitek at lvitek@deltadentalil.org or visit www.deltadentalil.com/ddilfoundation.

About Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation

The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation (DDILF) was formed in March 2008 by Delta Dental of Illinois (DDIL), a not-for-profit dental service corporation with a mission to improve the oral health of the communities it serves. DDILF is the charitable arm of DDIL and works to support and improve the oral health of people in Illinois. In the past decade, combined efforts of DDIL and DDILF have provided more than \$2 million to programs and organizations in Illinois that improve the oral health of the residents of Illinois. DDIL provides dental benefit programs to Illinois employer groups and individuals and covers 2 million enrollees nationwide. DDIL and DDILF are based in Naperville, Illinois.