



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Delta Dental of Illinois Awards Scholarship to Further Oral Health Care in Illinois

Mollie Rojas honored for research experience, demonstrated leadership among peers

NAPERVILLE, Ill. (May 4, 2016) – Delta Dental of Illinois today awarded a scholarship to Mollie Rojas, a Doctor of Medicine in Dentistry (DMD) candidate at University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) College of Dentistry. Rojas received the scholarship in recognition of her community work through her vast research experience and dedication to building strong patient relationships.

As part of its commitment to supporting local dentists and improving the oral health of Illinoisans, Delta Dental of Illinois recognizes outstanding dental students at Illinois schools each year who have demonstrated notable service and commitment to oral health in the state. These awards are given to students who plan to practice in Illinois, and serve as an incentive to encourage outstanding dental students to stay in the state and provide exceptional care. This year, Delta Dental of Illinois will provide \$10,000 in awards to five students who were selected by Board of Directors of the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation, the 501(c)(3) charitable arm of Delta Dental of Illinois.

“It’s part of our mission to improve oral health in Illinois, and that can only happen if our citizens have access to top oral health professionals,” Bernie Glossy, president and CEO of Delta Dental of Illinois said. “Today’s dental students are the future of dental care in our state, and Delta Dental of Illinois is dedicated to supporting their training through these awards.”

Rojas is the recipient of the Illinois State Dental Society Best Basic Science Research Award for 2016 and serves in an impressive array of leadership roles in her dental school class, including class vice president for the past three years. She is also a periodontal teaching assistant. She has conducted and presented on oral cancer research and co-written two textbook chapters which will be published later this year. After graduation, Rojas intends to work in general dentistry in the Chicago area.

“Ms. Rojas’ dedication to building strong patient relationships here in Illinois and her extensive research on oral cancer set her apart,” Glossy said. “Her interest in mentoring other dental students in the future also indicates a strong dedication to furthering oral health in our state.”

Scholarship recipients must have passed their National Board exams and plan to practice in Illinois. Additionally, they must demonstrate an interest in community outreach, have completed research on the improvement of oral health in a community or have declared interest in the pediatric dentistry specialty. In addition to Rojas, four dental students enrolled at SIU School of Dental Medicine will also receive scholarships.

About Delta Dental of Illinois

Delta Dental of Illinois (DDIL) is a not-for-profit dental service corporation that provides dental benefit programs to individuals and more than 5,000 employee groups throughout Illinois. DDIL covers 2 million individuals, employees and family members nationwide. DDIL is based in Naperville, Illinois and offers single-site administration and client services.