



College of Dentistry

Communications
305 West 12th Avenue
P.O. Box: 182357
Columbus, OH 43218-2357
www.dent.osu.edu

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Kathleen Kennedy
College of Dentistry
(614) 292-6977

College of Dentistry and Delta Dental Foundation Keep H.O.M.E. Coach Rolling to Area Schools

\$450,000 grant is largest in foundation's history

The Ohio State University President E. Gordon Gee and the College of Dentistry Interim Dean Carole Anderson accepted a \$450,000 grant on Wednesday from Delta Dental Foundation to help keep the college's mobile dental clinic rolling.

One of the College of Dentistry's slogans is "great smiles begin here," and thanks to the work done by the college's mobile dental clinic, called the "H.O.M.E. (Health Outreach Mobile Experience) Coach," great smiles really do begin when the coach visits Columbus area elementary schools to provide free dental care to the community's children in need.

Launched in 2005, the coach was funded for three years with support from the Columbus-based Osteopathic Heritage Foundations. Delta Dental Foundation's grant on Wednesday – the largest in the foundation's 28-year history – means the College can continue to serve Columbus' school children.

Gee and Anderson were joined at Wednesday's "Back to School" event at Columbus' Weinland Park Elementary School by Columbus City Schools Superintendent Gene Harris and Delta Dental of Ohio Marketing President Michael Clark.

"We appreciate this generous donation to the College of Dentistry's H.O.M.E. Coach, which represents a great example of Ohio State's service to the local community," Gee said. "The University's mission is to educate and to serve – and that service includes the kind of work that's being done by this mobile dental clinic, which is improving peoples' lives."

Gee also thanked the College of Dentistry's faculty and students who work with the H.O.M.E. Coach to provide dental care — and genuine caring — to Columbus' children in need.

Clark echoed Gee's praise of the work done by the H.O.M.E. Coach and the College of Dentistry's faculty, staff and students who are part of the outreach initiative.

“An important part of Delta Dental’s mission is to support our colleges of dentistry and the good work they do,” Clark said. “Here in Columbus and throughout Ohio we’ve supported programs that improve the oral health of under-served children, and the H.O.M.E. Coach is a prime example of our continuing commitment to this effort.”

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About the H.O.M.E. Coach:

The H.O.M.E. Coach provides much-needed dental treatment for underserved young Ohioans, which helps address their No. 1 unmet healthcare need. The H.O.M.E. Coach is staffed by 3rd- and 4th-year dental students as well as College of Dentistry faculty and pediatric residents from Nationwide Children’s Hospital. By working closely with Columbus Public Schools to treat children in need, the mobile dental coach provides a tremendous community healthcare resource while enhancing the educational experience of Ohio State’s dental students.

About Delta Dental Foundation:

The Delta Dental Foundation is a nonprofit, charitable organization established in 1980 by Delta Dental of Michigan, now Delta Dental of Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. The Foundation’s goals are to support education and research for the advancement of dental science, and to promote the oral health of the public through education and service activities, particularly for those with special needs. For more information, visit www.deltadentaloh.com.