**UNE Dental Education Loan Repayment Program for Vermont**

***generously sponsored by Delta Dental Plan of Vermont***

In October 2016, Delta Dental Plan of Vermont generously committed $50,000 to the University of New England College of Dental Medicine to establish a scholarship and loan repayment program. This is a demonstration of their belief that building a pipeline of dentists to Vermont’s rural and underserved areas is essential to improve the oral health of Vermont residents. As part of Northeast Delta Dental, Delta Dental Plan of Vermont is also uniquely dedicated to the College of Dental Medicine and provided deep financial support to establish UNE’s CDM, the first dental college for Maine and all of northern New England.

**Program Information**

* UNE-graduated dentists must practice dental medicine in a Vermont dental care facility in a Dental Health Professions Shortage Area (HPSA) as defined by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).
* For the purposes of this loan repayment agreement, an eligible dentist could be
	+ Practicing in their own private practice;
	+ Practicing as a partner in a private practice;
	+ Practicing as an associate in a private practice; or
	+ Practicing as an employee in a Federally Qualified Health Center or Community Health Center.
* For each completed year of service, graduates will receive $15,000 to be paid directly to their loan servicer.
* The contract is for three years.
* Participating dentists could be eligible for a total of $45,000 in loan repayment over three years.
* The dentist must agree to maintain a full-time clinical practice, defined as 32 hours of clinical practice and eight hours of administrative work, performed in no less than 4 days per week.
* The dentist must agree to designate, at a minimum, 5% of her/his patient panel for Green Mountain Care/Medicaid patients and enroll these patients within 12 months of signing of the loan repayment agreement.
* The UNE College of Dental Medicine will establish a rubric to prioritize and score applications for this competitive program. Priority will be given to applicants who demonstrate a commitment to remain in Vermont and practice in an underserved area.
* Applicants will be required to provide verification of employment.
* Applications must be received by 5:00 PM, Friday, March 31, 2017.
* If selected, awardees will attend a celebratory lunch on May 20th with Delta Dental and UNE CDM leadership. The awardee’s family members will also be invited.
* This information sheet offers a program overview only. For more information, to obtain an application, or to obtain or a copy of the contract agreement, please contact Amanda Langley, Community Outreach Coordinator, at alangley1@une.edu.