

The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation Pledges \$500,000 Grant to
Expand Oral Surgery Clinic at
Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine

*Grant for Oral Surgery Clinic will help
enhance student dental education and improve patient care*

January 7, 2009, LISLE, Ill. – The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Delta Dental of Illinois, has pledged \$500,000 to [Southern Illinois University \(SIU\) School of Dental Medicine](#) to help the School double the capacity of its Oral Surgery Clinic in Alton, Illinois.

The grant, distributed through annual \$100,000 donations over five years, will provide resources to create two patient recovery areas, increase the waiting room capacity and create three additional oral surgery rooms, including a full oral surgery suite with conscious-sedation capability.

“Through this generous gift, we will be able to significantly enhance the dental education we provide our students and increase the care we provide our patients,” said SIU School of Dental Medicine Dean Ann Boyle.

Dr. Boyle noted that each day, at least 25 patients call the SIU School of Dental Medicine’s main patient clinic, requesting oral surgery services, and more than 50 additional patients call requesting emergency dental care. These requests are in addition to routinely scheduled surgical services provided for patients at the dental school.

“Due to our present physical limitations and the increased demand for emergency care, we have been unable to manage the volume of patients needing treatment in the Oral Surgery Clinic,” said Dr. Boyle. “We are grateful to the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation for providing the resources necessary to allow us to better serve our oral surgery patients.”

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Part of Delta Dental of Illinois' mission is to improve the oral health of the communities it serves. As such, through its Foundation, it supports organizations that help improve access to oral health and expand educational opportunities that lead to better oral health.

"The increasing demand for oral surgery services and emergency care clearly warrants expansion of the SIU School of Dental Medicine Oral Surgery Clinic," said Dr. Robert E. Dennison, president and chief executive officer of Delta Dental of Illinois. "Our grant will not only help the Oral Surgery Clinic treat more patients, but also provide SIU dental students greater clinical education opportunities. We are proud to support SIU and its good work by doing what we can to advance this unique surgery clinic."

"Access to oral health care and oral health education helps improve overall oral health. The SIU School of Dental Medicine does important work on both fronts. Supporting the expansion of the Oral Surgery Clinic is a wonderful opportunity for Delta Dental of Illinois to help improve access to oral health programs in Illinois and provide better education for SIU dental students," added Dr. Frank Maggio, D.D.S, a member of the Delta Dental of Illinois Board of Directors and a practicing periodontist in Elgin. "We're delighted to support the school."

The expansion will allow the school to treat approximately twice as many patients and offer additional oral surgery procedures. It will also increase accessibility between the oral surgery rooms allowing faculty to more comfortably supervise surgical procedures which will provide students with a broader range of clinical experiences.

The first annual \$100,000 donation for the \$500,000 grant was made in November 2008. In 2005, Delta Dental of Illinois provided SIU with a \$250,000 grant to help the dental school expand its Main Clinic. The Main Clinic expansion included 24 new operatories and a new classroom.

The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation, formed in May 2008, is the philanthropic arm of Delta Dental of Illinois, a not-for-profit dental service corporation with a mission to improve the oral health of the communities it serves. The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation works to improve the oral health of people in Illinois by supporting organizations and programs that help raise awareness of oral health, make oral healthcare more accessible and affordable to underserved people in Illinois, and improve education for oral healthcare professionals.

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