

Media Contact:

Lisa Konen
Communications Director
303.889.8649, lkonen@ddpco.com

For Immediate Release**Endowed Scholarship in Pediatric Preventive Dentistry Honors Executive Director's Efforts to Help Colorado Kids Improve Oral Health**

DENVER – December 19, 2016 – Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation and the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine have announced the "Barbara Springer Endowed Scholarship in Pediatric Preventive Dentistry." This scholarship was established to honor Barbara Springer's commitment to helping the underserved and to pass the torch to the next generation who share her passion for improving the dental health of Colorado's children.

"This scholarship is a tribute to Barbara's character, huge heart and generosity to kids and communities who need an oral health care helping hand," said Denise Kassebaum, DDS, MS, Dean of the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine. "It will impact current students who are the future health care workforce dedicated to serving the needs of Colorado's communities."

Established by a \$100,000 donation from the Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation, distributions from the scholarship fund will be used to provide at least one scholarship annually to a third year dental student who has an expressed interest in pediatric dentistry and serving the underserved.

For the inaugural Barbara Springer Endowed Scholarship in Pediatric Preventive Dentistry, the CU School of Dental Medicine selected Grace Diehl. Grace grew up in Colorado, and attended CU Boulder where she earned undergraduate degrees in Integrated Physiology and in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology. She plans to apply for pediatric dental specialty programs this summer. Like Barbara Springer, Grace is confident, capable and has a big heart.

"Barbara has been a driving force behind the success of the Foundation, making it what it is today," said Allison Cusick, Executive Director of Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation. "She is a true advocate for kids' oral health and preventing tooth decay. She will be greatly missed, but we know her legacy and commitment to touching young lives will live on through this endowment."

Ms. Springer served as a leader at Delta Dental of Colorado from 2002-2016, serving as the Executive Director of the Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation and the Vice President of Administration and General Counsel for Delta Dental of Colorado. Under her leadership, the Foundation has made good dental health a community priority with a major focus on preventing tooth decay in Colorado's kids. Key initiatives have included the support of educational programs that target vulnerable families; dental education for medical and dental students at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus; a focus on teaching good oral health habits and prevention; the importance of dental health for pregnant women and children, as well as, initiating policy changes that improve communities' oral health.

For more than a decade, the Foundation and Delta Dental of Colorado have been partners with the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine. Both have supported leading-edge programs such as the Frontier Center 4 Health, the Delta Dental of Colorado Endowed Chair in Early Childhood Caries Prevention and the Heroes Clinic. These projects have helped to build the foundation for innovation and collaboration at the School.

###

About Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation

Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation's (DDCOF) mission is to improve the state's oral health by eradicating childhood tooth decay. Over the past 15 years, the Foundation has been solely funded by Delta Dental of Colorado. DDCOF's initiatives have included educational programs targeting low-income, high-risk families; support of dental health education for medical and dental students as well as providers; and opportunities to teach good dental habits and cavity prevention among pregnant women and children. As a 501(c)(3) organization, the Foundation works to make good dental health a community priority. A core belief is that, because dental disease is almost 100 percent preventable, efforts to improve oral health will result in a healthier Colorado overall. To learn more about Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation, please visit www.deltadentalcofoundation.org.