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Delta Dental Foundation Awards \$4,500 Smiles for Kids Grant to the Alice Aycock Poe Center for Health Education

Raleigh, NC (April 20, 2018) – The Alice Aycock Poe Center for Health Education received a \$4,500 Smiles for Kids grant from the Delta Dental Foundation (DDF) to complete necessary updates to their Dental Health Theater.

The Poe Center’s Dental Health Theater educates approximately 1,750 children annually from 90 counties across North Carolina. Their dental programs focus on basic hygiene and building the essential knowledge needed to care for your teeth and gums. The Dental Health Theater enhancements will allow the theater to continue to provide engaging, interactive content to enhance dental health learning.

“The Poe Center greatly appreciates our partnership with the Delta Dental Foundation,” said Executive Director Ann Rollins. “This Smiles for Kids grant will be instrumental in helping to ensure that our Dental Health Theater is properly equipped and maintained to continue to educate children on the importance of their oral health.”

The Delta Dental Foundation focuses on ensuring that children and adults in North Carolina receive high-quality oral health education and dental care. The grant received by The Poe Center is one of 19 grants totaling \$65,800 that DDF is donating to North Carolina oral health organizations and programs. This is the third Smiles for Kids grant received by The Poe Center. Grant recipients were selected based on criteria that included the number of at-risk children served, the uniqueness of the program, the level of community involvement in the program and the ability to measure results.

“Tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood disease today, and children miss 51 million hours of school every year due to dental issues,” said Curt Ladig, president and CEO of Delta Dental of North Carolina. “The Delta Dental Foundation’s grant to The Poe Center will help reach more underserved children and provide them with the high-quality dental education they need to develop healthy behaviors and show up for school pain free and ready to learn.”

About The Alice Aycock Poe Center for Health Education

The Alice Aycock Poe Center for Health Education is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating and empowering North Carolina's children, youth and their families to make choices that increase positive health behaviors. Since establishing its Raleigh facility in 1991, the Poe Center has provided health education to over one million children in 87 of the 100 counties in North Carolina for 25 years. By engaging in fun, highly interactive lessons, preschoolers through twelfth graders receive information that follows the NC DPI Healthful Living Essential Standards on a variety of health topics, including nutrition, dental health, general health, family life and drug prevention. For additional information about the Poe Center, please visit www.poehealth.org.

About the Delta Dental Foundation

The Delta Dental Foundation is a nonprofit, charitable organization established in 1980, which serves as the philanthropic arm of Delta Dental of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and North Carolina. 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.deltadentalnc.com.

About Delta Dental of North Carolina

Delta Dental of North Carolina is a nonprofit dental service corporation created in 1970 to provide dental benefits throughout the state. Its mission is to improve the oral health of the communities it serves. It does so by providing affordable access to oral health care with the largest network of providers, including two out of every three dentists, in North Carolina.

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