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New Tele-Health Care Project to Provide Dental Care to Underserved Communities in California

Senate Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg Applauds Project Launched by California Dental Association Foundation, University of the Pacific Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry, Verizon, and California HealthCare Foundation.

Sacramento, Calif. – More than four hundred foster-care students within the Twin Rivers Unified School District will be able to receive free dental care thanks to a new telemedicine project created jointly by the California Dental Association Foundation, University of the Pacific Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry and the California HealthCare Foundation with start-up funding from Verizon.

The groundbreaking project, which has received \$100,000 from the Verizon Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Verizon, is needed to address the ‘access to care’ crisis in California by connecting patients with critical dental services.

State Senate President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, who was on hand for the demonstration at the Twin Rivers School District offices, where the examinations will take place for the duration of the project, said: “The collaboration between the Verizon Foundation, Twin Rivers USD, the California Dental Association Foundation, the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry and the California HealthCare Foundation demonstrates that when partnerships are formed we can still do great things in and for our communities even during times of unprecedented budgetary constraints.”

Senator Steinberg represents Senate District 6, which includes the City of Sacramento, parts of Elk Grove, Citrus Heights and Rancho Cordova.

Verizon’s grant will support the first year of the Virtual Dental Home pilot project at the Twin Rivers school district and a second site in Southern California.

“The Virtual Dental Home is an innovative example of one of the many ways technology can improve the delivery of health care services,” said Tim McCallion, Verizon West Region president. “Verizon is proud to partner with the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry, the



California Dental Association Foundation, and the California Healthcare Foundation to bring this project to the community.”

The four-year pilot project will expand and improve access to dental services for people by giving participating dentists the technological capability to examine patients remotely with help from dental hygienists and dental assistants in underserved communities. After the remote examinations, dental hygienists and dental assistants will perform preventive and temporizing restorative treatment for the patient.

“This pilot project helps dentists improve the oral health of all Californians,” said Lindsey Robinson, DDS, chair of the CDA Foundation board of directors. “Thanks to the generous grant from Verizon, we will be able to bring dentistry into underserved communities.”

Project Director Dr. Paul Glassman, professor of dental practice at the University of the Pacific’s Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry, said: “This new care delivery model provides a much-needed community-based ‘virtual dental home’ for the state’s most vulnerable people, who will access dental services in their own communities as well as remove some of the barriers to receiving care in a traditional dental office setting.”

The pilot project will operate at 15 community locations across California in Los Angeles, the Bay Area, the Central Valley and northeastern California.

Planning and start-up activities during the first year will include the development of necessary protocols, data collection and evaluation systems, and a field test at six community locations. Nine more community locations will be added during the second year. The viability of the project will be evaluated at the end of the fourth year.

About the University of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry

The University of the Pacific Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry’s vision is to be a leading agent in the improvement of health by the advancement of oral health. Accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, academic programs include Doctor of Dental Surgery, International Dental Studies, Advanced Education in General Dentistry, Graduate Orthodontics and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene. Hallmarks include innovators of the humanistic model of education; only U.S. dental school to offer a three-year DDS program; strong clinical and practice management program; emphasis on leadership and giving back to the profession and community.

<http://dental.pacific.edu>



About California Dental Association Foundation

The CDA Foundation was formed as the philanthropic affiliate of the California Dental Association in 2001 with the mission to improve the oral health of Californians by supporting the dental health profession and its efforts to increase access to care for the state's most vulnerable people. The CDA Foundation works with experts in the dental profession, private business, academic institutions and government to produce programs that increase access to care, promote prevention education and intervention, advance health policy research and build a sustainable oral health workforce.

www.cdafoundation.org.

About Verizon

Verizon Communications Inc. (NYSE:VZ), headquartered in New York, is a global leader in delivering broadband and other wireless and wireline communications services to mass market, business, government and wholesale customers. Verizon Wireless operates America's most reliable wireless network, serving more than 87 million customers nationwide. Verizon's Wireline operations provide converged communications, information and entertainment services over the nation's most advanced fiber-optic network. Wireline also includes Verizon Business, which delivers innovative and seamless business solutions to customers around the world. A Dow 30 company, Verizon employs a diverse workforce of more than 235,000 and last year generated consolidated operating revenues of more than \$97 billion. For more information, visit www.verizon.com.

About the California HealthCare Foundation

The California HealthCare Foundation is an independent philanthropy committed to improving the way health care is delivered and financed in California. By promoting innovations in care and broader access to information, our goal is to ensure that all Californians can get the care they need, when they need it, at a price they can afford. www.chcf.org

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