

Vermont dentists benefit from the Vermont Educational Loan Repayment Program

Delta Dental Plan of Vermont recently awarded a community match grant to two Vermont dentists for the 2015-2016 year. For five years, Delta Dental Plan of Vermont has contributed to the success of the Vermont Educational Loan Repayment Program for Dentists by awarding matching grants. The University of Vermont College of Medicine Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) administers the program on behalf of the State of Vermont.

Through recruitment and retention, the goal of the program is to ensure a stable and adequate supply of dentists to meet the oral health care needs of Vermont citizens and especially to increase access for the Medicaid population. It provides repayment of educational loans for dentists serving in designated shortage areas or in documented special need areas in the state. Recipients must sign a service agreement contract and practice a minimum of 20 hours per week at designated sites.

Ronald St. John, DMD

Dr. Ronald St. John of Newport, Vermont, practices general dentistry in Island Pond. Dr. St. John earned a Bachelor's degree in biology at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville and a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree from the University of Florida College of Dentistry in Gainesville. He first practiced dentistry at Birchwood Dental Centre in Newport, Vermont, where he received many referrals from North Country Hospital. He now practices dentistry at Island Pond Health and Dental Center, a Federally Qualified Health Center. This health center serves a significant number of Medicaid and Medicare patients in a rural, underserved region of Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. Dr. St. John and two of his dental hygienist colleagues participate in Vermont Head Start's Tooth Tutor program.

Dr. St. John is an avid hockey fan and enjoys cross-country skiing, cycling, and hiking. He and his wife have two teenage sons.

Cheyenne E. Warren, DDS

Dr. Warren of Stowe, Vermont, practices general dentistry and dental surgery at The Health Center in Plainfield. The Health Center is a practice engaged in dentistry, family medicine, mental health, and diagnostic radiology, with services available to Medicare and Medicaid patients and other vulnerable populations. Dr. Warren is a Vermont native who is committed to practicing in Vermont. Her educational background includes earning a Masters of Biochemistry, a Doctor of Dental Surgery, and completing Advanced Education Study in General Dentistry, all at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. During her advanced studies and residencies, Dr. Warren provided dental services as a volunteer in weeklong missions to underserved Virginia communities and at the Charlottesville Free Clinic.

Dr. Warren's many interests include playing the piano, long-distance running, skiing, fly fishing, cycling, soccer, and water sports. She met her husband, now a Marine Corps reservist, while he attended The United States Naval Academy. They have an infant son.

Visit www.vtahec.org for more information about the Vermont Educational Loan Repayment Program for Dentists.