Meet the 2014 FIND Recipients

**Dr. Carla Kucirek**, practicing at Southwest Iowa Dental Associates in Shenandoah, is a 2014 FIND Loan Repayment Award recipient. Dr. Kucirek is a 2014 graduate from Creighton University School of Dentistry and began practicing in June 2014. She is currently an associate dentist with a path to partnership.

When Dr. Kucirek was looking for a place to land following graduation, she was looking for a general practice that was family oriented that offered a wide range of services and where the people were down to earth. She found that and more in Shenandoah.

Dr. Kucirek’s goal is to provide a successful lifelong service to underserved Iowans while practicing in a rural community. Shenandoah is a city in Fremont and Page counties in southwest Iowa with a population of 5,150. Tri-County Bank is a partner in the community support for Dr. Kucirek’s FIND award.

**Dr. Ryan Oetken** joined Epworth Family Dentistry in rural Dubuque County in July 2014. Dr. Oetken is a 2013 graduate from the University of Iowa College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics. Following graduation, he completed a General Practice Residency Program at Truman Medical Center Lakewood in Kansas City, Missouri.

Dr. Oetken will practice as an associate to buy and work alongside Dr. Kim Kissell. Through Dr. Oetken’s residency, he has gained great experience working with diverse populations and will be an asset as he works with Dr. Kissell to serve underserved Iowans in Epworth, a community of approximately 1,800, and the surrounding areas.

Born and raised on a family farm in Akron, Iowa, Dr. Oetken is no stranger to rural Iowa and Epworth is lucky to have a new provider in the community. Dr. Oetken’s FIND loan repayment is supported by the City of Epworth.
Give Your Career a Head Start

Fulfilling Iowa’s Need for Dentists (FIND) initiative is in its seventh year of assisting dental students with establishing practice locations in Iowa. IADG staff has prepared a planning document, called FIND & GROW, takes into account all community aspects and considerations for attracting a dentist, and what the student should consider in making his/her location and practice decisions. The outline takes students through the four years of training and offers suggestions as they progress from D1 and on to completing the D4 year and graduation. Each student’s path will be different, of course, as to progress and aggressiveness to locate a practice. However, each year does allow for proper planning and a step-by-step process that will help narrow their scope and ultimately lead to a final decision on a successful practice location in Iowa. Contact Deb Hoyle at the U of Iowa Practice Opportunities Office or Bruce Hansen and Sue Cosner at IADG for a copy.

Maren Lenhart at Delta Dental

Maren Lenhart is the Public Benefit Planning Analyst for Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation. Maren’s role includes analytic review and reporting on data for the Foundation’s oral health projects related to prevention and education, access to oral health care for children and the elderly, and fluoridation. In addition, Maren works on the dental loan repayment program for private practice dentists in rural communities and assists with community relations activities for Delta Dental of Iowa.

Prior to joining Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation, Maren was an oral health consultant and project coordinator for Iowans for Oral Health, a statewide coalition to support community water fluoridation. Her experience also includes more than eight years as a general dentistry assistant and involvement with oral health initiatives throughout the state. Maren received a Masters of Public Health from Des Moines University and bachelor’s degree from Iowa State University.

Financial Resources for Rural Counties

Consider Iowa Area Development Group (IADG) your partner when trying to gather financial resources. Beyond FIND funding available through the program IADG can help identify financial resources through our utility partners (RECs and Telcos) and their “lower interest” revolving loan funds. There may also be USDA rural development funding for qualifying locations and projects. IADG staff can assist you in packaging financial resources for your project to keep you on target. IADG can also introduce you to local leaders and economic development officials that may also have loan funds or tax breaks for certain projects. Contact IADG for assistance in identifying potential resources wherever you are considering a location in rural Iowa.

Dentists FIND Rural Iowa

The Iowa League of Cities featured the FIND program in the November 2014 issue of their magazine, Cityscape. The magazine is the premier communication publication for Iowa’s elected city officials, distributed to over 6,000 individuals in 954 cities. Beth Jones, Public Benefit Manager at Delta Dental of Iowa reminds city officials in the article that when officials are recruiting businesses to their communities that dental care is one service/business they cannot forget about. Also included in the article is Dr. Travis Harbaugh’s FIND story with Allison Family Dental – a successful $100,000 FIND recipient in Allison, Iowa located in Butler County. For a copy of the article you can contact Bruce Hansen at bhansen@iadg.com or Sue Cosner at scosner@iadg.com; 800.888.4743.

Creighton University Lunch & Learn

Iowa Area Development Group will be presenting the FIND program and other resources at Creighton University on February 19th. IADG staff will be highlighting the opportunities and competitive advantages for a dental practice in rural Iowa.

Save the Date! FIND Office Hours

Bruce Hansen and Sue Cosner will be at the University of Iowa on January 16, February 20, March 13 and April 17 for office hours.

Contact Us:

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