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Delta Dental of Colorado CEO Kate Paul Announces Retirement Plans

Paul to retire in first quarter of 2017 following 15 years with Delta Dental and nearly 50 years in healthcare management

DENVER – Delta Dental of Colorado President and CEO Kate Paul will retire in the first quarter of 2017 following 15 years leading the organization and 50 years in healthcare management, she announced today.

“I have had the honor of serving an extraordinary organization,” Paul said. “Now is the time for the next president and CEO to take this organization to the next level.”

Paul will continue to lead Delta Dental through early 2017, as the company performs a national search for her replacement. At that time Paul also will complete her two-year term as board chair of Delta Dental Plans Association.

“Kate has left an indelible mark on our organization,” said Marilyn Taylor, chair of the board of directors for Delta Dental of Colorado. “Her leadership has been exemplary, and Delta Dental has thrived with her at the helm. She will be greatly missed but leaves an organization that is stronger because of her contributions.”

Delta Dental is the largest and most experienced dental insurer in Colorado, covering more than 1.2 million members. During her tenure, the company achieved substantial growth in its membership, positive operating gains, improved business operations and developed a workforce culture that attracts and retains top talent. But it is the advancement of the nonprofit insurer’s mission to improve the oral health of Coloradans that is the biggest source of pride for Paul, she said.

“Our dedication to our nonprofit mission has allowed us to develop and support efforts that are making a real difference in people’s lives,” Paul said. “We have shown we can improve the quality of life of Coloradans by helping them improve their oral health. There is no greater reward than knowing you made a positive impact in people’s lives.”

The company has devoted more than 50 percent of its annual gain (\$64 million) to local oral health community initiatives since Paul took the helm. Some initiatives include:

- “Cavities Get Around,” a multi-year, bilingual public awareness campaign on the importance of oral health;
- Dental Hygienist Co-Location Program, which places hygienists in health settings to better integrate oral health and overall health;
- The Frontier Center, a nationally recognized education center at the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine where future dentists and doctors learn side-by-side; and
- The Delta Dental Fund, which provided free dental care to thousands of Coloradans.

Prior to joining Delta Dental, Paul served in various management roles for Kaiser Permanente, most recently as group operations president covering operations in Colorado, Kansas City, Portland, Seattle and Hawaii. During her career, she notched many firsts, becoming the first woman at Kaiser Permanente to hold titles including regional president. That theme continues today, as she serves as the first female board chair for DDPA, whose independent member companies serve one-third of all Americans with dental insurance.

Paul is a past chair of the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Denver Branch. She currently serves on the Boards of the Denver Art Museum, National Jewish Health, Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health System, and The COPIC Companies. She has been a director of two publicly traded companies and has served on the board of a number of numerous nonprofit organizations including the Denver Zoological Foundation, Mile High United Way, the Economic Club of Colorado and The Colorado Trust, including service as its Chair.

Paul is the recipient of numerous awards including the Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce and the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce.

About Delta Dental of Colorado

Established in 1958, Delta Dental of Colorado is the largest, most experienced dental benefits provider in the state. It is a nonprofit organization that serves over 1.2 million Coloradans with high-quality, cost-effective, evidence-based dental plans. Delta Dental of Colorado's mission is to improve the oral health of the communities it serves. Delta Dental of Colorado is a member of the national Delta Dental Plans Association (DDPA). For more than 50 years, the DDPA has worked to improve oral health nationally. Delta Dental member companies serve more than 62 million people nationwide. For more information, visit our website at DeltaDentalCO.com.

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