

For immediate release  
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### **Delta Dental of Colorado Names New Dental Director**

DENVER -- Delta Dental of Colorado, the state's oldest and largest dental benefits organization, this month named Michael Makoto Okuji, DDS, the new dental director.

Okuji, a private practice dentist who is re-locating to Denver from San Francisco, earned his dental degree from the University of the Pacific. He also has a master's of public health degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and a master's of business degree from the UCLA Anderson School of Management.

As dental director, Okuji will oversee the 3,000 dental providers who partner with Delta Dental of Colorado to care for more than a million members statewide. In addition to his private practice, Okuji also has worked as group practice director for the UCLA School of Dentistry and was an assistant clinical professor at the University of Southern California (USC), teaching health promotion, disease prevention and epidemiology.

"We are pleased Dr. Okuji has joined our team," says Kate Paul, Delta Dental of Colorado president and CEO. "He is uniquely qualified to understand the challenges dentists face in providing quality dental care at an affordable price, especially in light of health care reform."

Okuji says he looks forward to meeting the Colorado dental community in person when he starts at Delta Dental in August. Nearly nine out of 10 dentists in Colorado participates in Delta Dental networks. He also will work closely with the Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation, which is focused on eradicating cavities in Colorado's children.

"Dentistry has given me the opportunity to experience so many different things in my career, and I'm grateful for that," he says. "I want to give back by working with Delta Dental of Colorado and the dental community. I look forward to meeting my colleagues."

Delta Dental of Colorado has been in business for more than 50 years. As a non-profit, its mission is to improve the oral health of the communities it serves.