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LSU School of Dentistry Receives \$25,000 Grant from Kool Smiles to Provide Pediatric Dental Care and Training

NEW ORLEANS – The LSU Health Sciences Center School of Dentistry (LSUSD) will provide needed dental care to 65 pediatric patients and additional pediatric training and experience to as many as 65 dental students thanks to a \$25,000 grant from [Kool Smiles](#), a leading provider of quality, affordable dental care for children and families in underserved communities across the United States.

“The partnership with Kool Smiles is a wonderful avenue to provide dental care to children in need all while furthering the education of our dental students who have a passion for pediatric dentistry,” stated Janice Townsend, DDS, MS, Board Certified Pediatric Dentist and Associate Professor of Pediatric Dentistry at LSUHSC School of Dentistry. “This grant will allow children to receive life-changing dental procedures that they might not otherwise have access to.”

The grant will match students interested in obtaining additional training and experience in pediatric dentistry with patients who do not have access to a Kool Smiles office, have limited financial resources, and are ineligible for government assistance.

“Given the ongoing issues with access to dental care in this country, Kool Smiles is pleased to support the education and training of future dentists who will help to bridge that gap and at the same time, continue our mission to bring quality dental services to the underserved,” said David Vieth, Executive Dental Director and Chief Dental Officer for Kool Smiles.

Dental services under the grant will include a preventive visit, an initial diagnosis, treatment plan and necessary restorative care. Patients receiving care through the grant funds would normally not be eligible to receive care at Kool Smiles or the LSUSD Dental Clinic. Typically, these patients are above 250% of the Poverty Income Guidelines and are not eligible for Medicaid.

Students will receive training in common pediatric restorative procedures, including amalgam and composite restorations, stainless steel crowns, pulp therapy treatment, and behavior guidance focused on patients age six and under, with some exception made for children ages six to eight.

The Department of Pediatric Dentistry faculty will select participating patients based on financial need and suitability as a teaching case. To apply, parents/guardians must complete a Kool Smiles Dental Need Grant application form; provide proof of income; and evidence of denial of Medicaid benefits or non-eligibility.

“We look forward to working with the LSU School of Dentistry as a true partner in meeting the educational needs of their dental students and increasing access to patients in need,” said Dr. Townsend.

Parents may call the Pediatric Dentistry Department at 504-941-8201 to set up a screening for this opportunity.

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About LSU Health Sciences Center

LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans educates Louisiana’s health care professionals. The state’s academic health leader, LSUHSC comprises a School of Medicine, the state’s only School of Dentistry, Louisiana’s only public School of Public Health, and Schools of Allied Health Professions, Nursing, and Graduate Studies. LSUHSC faculty take care of patients in public and private hospitals and clinics throughout the region. In the vanguard of biosciences research in a number of areas in a worldwide arena, the LSUHSC research enterprise generates jobs and enormous economic impact, LSUHSC faculty have made lifesaving discoveries and continue to work to prevent, advance treatment, or cure disease. To learn more, visit <http://www.lsuhs.edu>, <http://www.twitter.com/LSUHealthNO>, and <http://www.facebook.com/LSUHSC>.

About Kool Smiles

Kool Smiles is dedicated to creating a world of happy, healthy smiles. As a leading dental health provider, Kool Smiles' mission is to improve lives by providing high quality dental care in a fun, compassionate environment. Kool Smiles dentists are proud to offer care to kids and adults with almost any insurance plan, including State Children's Health Insurance Programs (SCHIP), Medicaid and Tricare. Kool Smiles also provides oral health education programs through partnerships with community schools and organizations. For more information, please visit www.mykoolsmiles.com.