



**Office of University Communications
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: Stacie B. Royster
Media Relations Manager
202-238-2332
sroyster@howard.edu

Howard University College of Dentistry Receives \$2.2 Million from Health Resources and Services Administration

Washington, D.C., September 11, 2007 – The Health Resources and Services Administration has awarded Howard University College of Dentistry (HUCD) \$2,195,800 over a three-year span in support of its Pediatric Dentistry Residency Program. Funding of the Advanced Education Program in Pediatric Dentistry (AEPPD) will facilitate an increase in much needed community outreach efforts and develop culturally competent oral health care professionals in Pediatric Dentistry who, as a result, will provide care to the underserved, uninsured and underinsured populations in the United States and the global community.

“This generous funding enables our continuous efforts to attract the best and brightest African-American and other underprivileged students to Howard in our quest to reduce oral health disparities in the pediatric population in underserved communities,” said Dean Leo E. Rouse, D.D.S., F.A.C.D., Howard University College of Dentistry.

Disparities in oral health care across the country have been raised to the forefront in recent months, spearheaded by news of the death of 12-year-old from Maryland who died from untreated dental decay. A bill that would strengthen dental care for children of working poor persons will soon be considered by members of Congress.

The grant provides stipends and tuition/fees for six first year and six second dentistry residents. Other facilities providing support to the program include Howard University Hospital Children’s National Medical Center, The Spanish Catholic Health Center, The HSC Pediatric Center and Howard University College of Medicine.

Presently, 80 percent of all African-American pediatric dentists have been trained at HUCD, located in the inner city in the midst of a large African American and Hispanic population. The 2004/05 American Dental Association survey of minority enrollment in AEPPD in dental schools reveals that of the total of 394 positions available, 27 were filled by African Americans, 41 by Hispanics, 83 by Asians and one by a Native American.

Howard University is one of 48 U.S. private, Doctoral/Research-Extensive universities and comprises 12 schools and colleges. Founded in 1867, students pursue studies in more than 120 areas leading to undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees. Since 1998, the University has produced two Rhodes Scholars, a Truman Scholar, 19 Fulbright Scholars and 10 Pickering Fellows. Howard also produces more on-campus African-American Ph.D.s than any other university in the world. For more information about Howard University, call 202-238-2330, or visit the University’s Web site at www.Howard.edu.

###