

## Dentists benefit from the Vermont Educational Loan Repayment Program

Delta Dental Plan of Vermont awarded a community match grant to three Vermont dentists for 2020, its eleventh year contributing to the Vermont Educational Loan Repayment Program for Dentists. The University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) administers the program. Through recruitment and retention, the program increases access to dental care in underserved communities by helping to repay the educational loans of dentists serving in workforce shortage areas.



### Krystal Kazemba, DMD

In July 2019, St. Johnsbury resident, Dr. Krystal Kazemba, joined St. Johnsbury Dental Associates, St. Johnsbury, as a pediatric dentist. She said, “my colleagues and I are dedicated to building lasting relationships with our patients to provide them with highly skilled dental care, while also promoting dental wellness and education in relation to overall

wellness.” She’s very appreciative of the financial support of her work provided by the educational loan repayment program.

Dr. Kazemba earned a B.S. degree in Microbiology and Cell Science at the University of Florida, Gainesville; an M.S. in Forensic DNA and Serology at the University of Florida College of Pharmacy, Gainesville; a Doctor of Dental Medicine from the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine School of Dental Medicine, Bradenton, Florida; and a Certificate in Pediatric Dentistry from NYU Langone Health, Holyoke Health Center, Holyoke, Massachusetts. She also benefitted from an externship in dental anesthesia at the University of Pittsburgh.

Congratulations to Dr. Kazemba, who was married on March 21, 2020. Her busy life has not been a barrier to civic involvement, which has taken many forms. For more than six years she’s been a volunteer with the American Red Cross, and she’s participated in such volunteer dental health outreach programs as Mission of Mercy, Day of Hope, Give Kids a Smile, and a mobile dental clinic.



### Aerwen Stagers, DMD

Dr. Aerwen Stagers has practiced general dentistry at Williston Road Family Dental, South Burlington, since 2012, purchasing the practice in 2014. Dr. Stagers said, “My mission is two-fold: first, to treat Vermonters from all walks of life equally, providing compassionate, quality dental care in a personal setting; and, second, I strive to educate my community about the importance of

dental health.” She said the receipt of educational loan repayment funds is helpful to her, because, “my team at Williston Road Family

Dental and I will be able to continue to serve the diverse community in South Burlington.”

During the last few years, Dr. Stagers and her team have shared their oral health knowledge with preschool children from three- to five-years old, teaching them how to brush their teeth properly. Another form of community outreach is holding food drives to support the Winooski food shelf and supporting the development of a new South Burlington food shelf.

Dr. Stager earned a B.S. degree from Pace University, Pleasantville, New York, and a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, Boston, Massachusetts. She also completed a dental residency at the University of Vermont Medical Center, Burlington. She lives in South Burlington with her husband, three children, and their dog.



### Brandon M. Vanasse, DMD

For the past year, Dr. Brandon Vanasse, of Newport, a Vermont native, has been the solo practitioner and business owner of a practice in Derby that he purchased in 2019 from Dennis LeBlanc, DDS. He worked with Dr. LeBlanc before purchasing the practice, confirming his desire to both practice general dentistry and live in Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom, an area where dentist recruitment is

difficult. “I am very grateful to have received the loan repayment funds again in 2020,” said Dr. Vanasse. “The continued support of the Vermont Educational Loan Repayment Program and Delta Dental Plan of Vermont matching funds has helped me continue my mission to provide dental care to this population.”

Dr. Vanasse earned a B.S. degree in Molecular Genetics from the University of Vermont, Burlington, and a Doctor of Dental Medicine from Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine (BUGSDM).

His volunteerism has included serving as a research associate at UVM Medical Center’s Emergency Department (Burlington); working with MEDLIFE to set up medical clinics and teach children about oral hygiene (Ecuador); working with BUGSDM Service Learning Projects to raise oral health awareness among inner city children and place free sealants (Boston); and providing Special Smiles dental screenings at Special Olympics events (Burlington).

Visit [www.vtahec.org](http://www.vtahec.org) for more information about the Vermont Educational Loan Repayment Program for Dentists.