

Serving

Every Texan Every Day



**VETERINARY MEDICINE
& BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES**
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

★ Texas A&M
University

★
Prairie View A&M
University

Texas A&M
University-
Kingsville
★



Serving Every Texan Every Day

Culminating a seven-year plan, The Texas A&M University System announced partnerships to expand veterinary education, research, and undergraduate outreach into several regions of the state through four A&M System universities. The partnerships are between the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM) and West Texas A&M University, Prairie View A&M University, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, and Tarleton State University.

In 2009, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) reported there was no need for a second veterinary school but that the CVM could increase enrollment to meet future state needs. The study focused on the need to increase the number of underrepresented minorities entering the veterinary profession and enlarging the pipeline of rural-based veterinarians to better serve the livestock industry and deer and wildlife interests.



"Texas agriculture feeds and clothes the country. We will always need small animal veterinarians to take care of our pets, but we also need more large animal veterinarians helping to protect our state's agricultural economy."

**~ Chancellor John Sharp,
Texas A&M University System**

All four of the Texas A&M System universities have significant underrepresented minority student populations, unique animal science programs, and ties to the livestock or wildlife industries in their regions:

- **West Texas A&M** operates its own feedlot in the Panhandle, a region that feeds a third of the nation's beef and boasts expanding dairy and swine industries. The Beef Carcass Research Center and the Nance Ranch Teaching and Research Facility are located there.
- **Prairie View A&M's** International Goat Research Center, with more than 1,000 dairy and meat goats, is one of the largest and oldest goat research programs in the nation. It specializes in genetics, reproductive physiology, nutrition, and veterinary health.
- **Texas A&M-Kingsville's** Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute is the leading wildlife research organization in Texas. It also has a Veterinary Technology program with a new state-of-the-art facility.
- **Tarleton State** operates the state's only university-based dairy as a public-private partnership and collaborates regularly with the dairy cattle industry. The university also has a Veterinary Technology program.

In response, the Texas A&M University System began enhancing its agriculture programs at the four universities while planning a state-of-the-art Veterinary and Biomedical Education Complex (VBEC) in College Station. With no state appropriation available for construction during the recession, the Texas A&M University System invested \$120 million from the Permanent University Fund.

"This initiative is ultimately about service to our state. It extends the reach of our highly-ranked College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences while also putting the prospect of a veterinary education on the radar of more students throughout Texas."

**~ President Michael Young,
Texas A&M University**



VBEC, which opens this fall, allows the CVM to accept more veterinary students and create the partnerships that encourage more underrepresented minorities and rural students, who are more likely to return to their home regions, to work as veterinarians who support the state's agricultural economy.

Opening VBEC is key to extending the reach of veterinary education and research beyond College Station. While the state's population has boomed, class size of the veterinary school remained virtually flat due to older, cramped facilities. The new facility will allow the CVM to meet the need for both the veterinary and livestock industries as the demand for veterinarians grows now and far into the future.

VBEC will easily accommodate an initial increased class size of 20 to 30 new veterinary students in each class, as well as increases to meet any needs in Texas into the foreseeable future. By providing new learning opportunities for students who attend the four Texas A&M System universities, the CVM intends to increase the number of students from those regions.

Toward that goal, the CVM intends to initially add veterinary faculty to teach undergraduate courses, strengthen the curriculum, and expand research partnerships with industry in each region. The CVM will offer relevant parts of the veterinary curriculum at sites other than College Station. The CVM is in the process of hiring two faculty members to teach and conduct research at West Texas A&M. The CVM will also seek appropriations to add more faculty at West Texas A&M and duplicate those efforts at Prairie View A&M, Texas A&M-Kingsville, and Tarleton State.

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This cost-effective, graduated approach to expanding veterinary education leverages the state's assets to their highest and best use while being mindful of Texas taxpayers and following the guidance of the THECB's study.

"The Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences has served animal owners in Texas and beyond for 100 years. We intend to expand our ability to respond to the needs of our diverse populations and to the needs of the veterinary profession by linking the vast strengths of Texas A&M across the state. This program puts boots on the ground where they are needed, as they are needed."

**~ Dr. Eleanor M. Green,
Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine**



"The partnership with the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences is a unique opportunity for our students, our faculty and our region. The Texas Panhandle is well known for its beef, equine and swine industries and, hence, provides the perfect location for a hands-on educational experience for students, for research and for outreach. We are pleased to be part of this venture and look forward to what it can do for WT and the livestock industry in the Texas Panhandle and Texas."

~ Dr. J. Patrick O'Brien, President, West Texas A&M University

"We are thrilled that Texas A&M has created this pipeline for more students to study Veterinary Medicine in the State of Texas. Agriculture education is vital to the success of every community and a cornerstone of Prairie View A&M University. We are proud that our faculty will be able to expand our tradition of service, research and teaching in this critical area."

~ Dr. George C. Wright, President, Prairie View A&M University

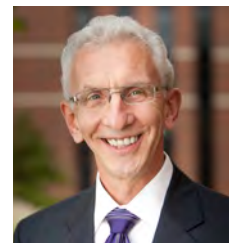


"This is a wonderful development for students from the veterinary technology program at Texas A&M-Kingsville. It will provide opportunities for collaboration with their peers around the A&M System and as well as the preparation necessary for veterinary school. It is a win-win situation for our students, the A&M System, and the state of Texas."

~ Dr. Steven H. Tallant, President, Texas A&M University-Kingsville

"From our roots as an agricultural college, Tarleton has provided educational programs in animal health for many years. We operate the only university dairy in the state and have one of only two four-year Vet Tech programs in Texas. Over the past 10 years, we ranked near the top among universities sending students to the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. We are pleased to participate in this unique partnership that will help even more students reach their dream of becoming veterinarians."

~ Dr. F. Dominic Dottavio, President, Tarleton State University



Leveraging and Synergizing Strengths

The CVM is creating an integrated system that connects distant communities and regions of the state through strategic partnerships. Key members of the A&M System are logical pilot sites, starting with **West Texas A&M** and then **Prairie View A&M**, **Texas A&M-Kingsville**, and **Tarleton State**. After establishing programs at these sites, remaining needs and opportunities will be assessed.

These partnerships will leverage and synergize the strengths of the CVM, the A&M System, and constituencies to:

- Impact the health of Texas through advancing animal, human, and environmental health (Global One Health) throughout the state
- Invest in the young people of Texas, and therefore the future of Texas, as they seek professional careers in veterinary medicine, biomedical sciences, and related disciplines
- Contribute to the stability and growth of the Texas economy by:
 - » Supporting and protecting the \$15 billion Texas livestock industries, from large operations to small acreage livestock producers
 - » Enhancing the health and well-being of the \$3 billion deer industry and the wildlife species of Texas
 - » Advancing the \$4 billion veterinary profession, which provides jobs for Texans in rural and urban communities
 - » Encouraging and supporting rural veterinary medicine



Unique Contributions of Each Partner

Clearly, there is a strong need for statewide access to veterinary education and outreach programs, expanded collaborations in animal health research, and even greater service to the livestock industries, animal owners, and the veterinary profession. The recruitment, advisement, and mentorship of potential Texas A&M veterinary students from these communities will be impactful. This concept will facilitate the return of students to their home communities, where they will contribute to the economic viability of Texas communities, and at the same time increase the diversity of the veterinary profession in Texas. The partnerships that will make statewide access possible will comprise educational, research, and outreach components tailored to leverage the strengths of each institution and address the needs of their respective regions of Texas. Each of the partnerships below offers unique, but related opportunities and benefits.

- **The CVM at West Texas A&M:** Texas ranks first in the nation in cattle production. The Panhandle region yields tremendous economic value to the state, the cattle industry, and its economic well-being are constantly vulnerable to emerging infectious diseases, which could have devastating consequences. The health and welfare of animals and its impact on human health and the environment are of paramount importance. A partnership between West Texas A&M and the CVM, enriched by collaborations with Texas A&M AgriLife, the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, and the animal industries offers unique opportunities for a stronger, more tangible connection with the CVM.
- **The CVM at Prairie View A&M:** Texas ranks first in small ruminants, both sheep and goats. Prairie View A&M's program emphasis on small ruminants is a natural fit for a partnership with CVM to help address Texas's small acreage livestock health. Additional partnership possibilities include enhancing undergraduate opportunities in public health with Global One Health emphases and pre-veterinary interests.
- **The CVM at Texas A&M-Kingsville:** With its focus on wildlife research and cervid (deer) research, the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute at Texas A&M-Kingsville provides a logical partnership for deer and wildlife medicine. Teaching, research, and outreach in wildlife medicine could be enriched and expanded as a result of stronger collaborative efforts with and presence of the CVM. In addition, Texas A&M-Kingsville already has a veterinary technology program in which the CVM could be an asset.
- **The CVM at Tarleton State:** With its presence in north central Texas and further growth in the Panhandle, the Texas dairy industry continues to expand. Tarleton State operates a large dairy in a unique private partnership arrangement in the region and rich collaborations exist with the dairy cattle industry. With its large number of pre-veterinary students and its veterinary technology program, Tarleton State is uniquely positioned for a stronger partnership with CVM.

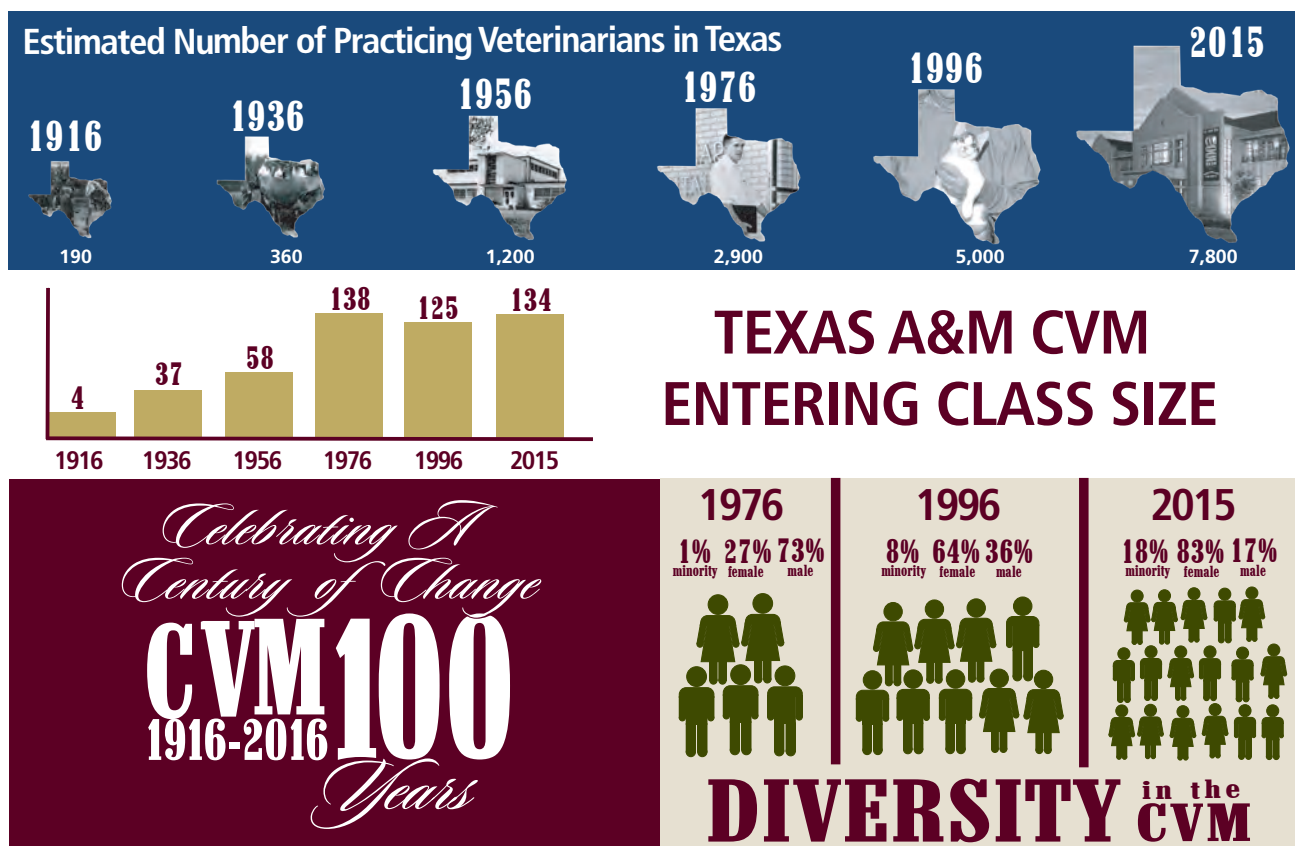


Guiding and Supporting Students

In all of the partnerships, promising young people with interest and aptitude in careers in veterinary medicine will be recruited and mentored to strengthen their pre-veterinary educational foundation and credentials. Further mentoring of veterinary students throughout their veterinary curriculum at the Texas A&M CVM will provide the guidance and support needed to pursue veterinary career paths relevant to the needs of Texas. Young people from rural backgrounds are more likely to return to rural communities, so particular emphasis will be placed on recruiting and guiding these students. In addition, high-impact learning opportunities for students, such as DVM externship programs, distance education, remote medicine, and telemedicine, will be provided. Relevant parts of the veterinary curriculum can be delivered at each site.

From the Student Perspective

The DVM class size at the CVM has been capped at 132 for many years, with an average of 35 Texas students attending veterinary school outside Texas each year. With the completion of VBEC in June 2016, the CVM is moving toward increasing the annual DVM class size by 20 to 30 students to meet the near-term and future needs of the state in a responsible manner.



The recruitment, advisement, and mentorship of potential CVM veterinary students from rural communities will be impactful. This concept will facilitate the return of more students to their home communities, where they will contribute to the economic viability of Texas communities and at the same time increase the diversity of the veterinary profession in Texas.

The focus at each partner institution will be to recruit talented students from the region and help them be as successful as possible in the pre-veterinary program and then build the pipeline directly to the CVM at Texas A&M University.

A pre-veterinary program is one that has students who wish to pursue the field of veterinary medicine, earn a DVM degree, and enter one of the many careers that this degree prepares them to hold.

All pre-veterinary programs include a series of prerequisite course requirements that help to prepare students for the rigorous professional program. Doing well academically is important, but many factors are used to select each class of student, including leadership roles, veterinary and animal experience, and letters of reference. The existing pre-veterinary program at each school is already strong and this partnership will further help the students be uniquely prepared to enter the DVM program.

In this program, CVM faculty at each institution would integrate and help meet specific needs. After establishing programs at each A&M System site, remaining veterinary needs in Texas and opportunities will be assessed.

The Best Investment for Texans

The CVM is part of a system that allows us to reach and better serve all regions of the state and is a true strength within this proposal. The proposal allows for partnerships that meet specific regional needs. We have been building a quality program for the past 100 years, and are entering our second century. We have a proven record of training the very best veterinarians in the world.

As innovators, we are always looking for better ways to serve and have a 100-year history of building nationally and internationally recognized educational, research, and outreach programs of excellence.

We are a cost-effective source of professional education with one of the lowest tuitions and mean student debt levels in the nation. We are proud to provide the education that makes us the third best program in the country at nearly the lowest cost in the nation. No one else provides better value added for their students.

This proposal will allow every Texas community to be better served by excellent educational opportunities for young people, cost-effective education and outreach, extension of faculty to meet regional needs, more communities receiving veterinary care, and directed research on issues that affect the animal industries of the state.

The ability to recruit a more diverse student body will be of great benefit to the student, the educational process, the profession, and the regional areas of the state where the students return to practice.

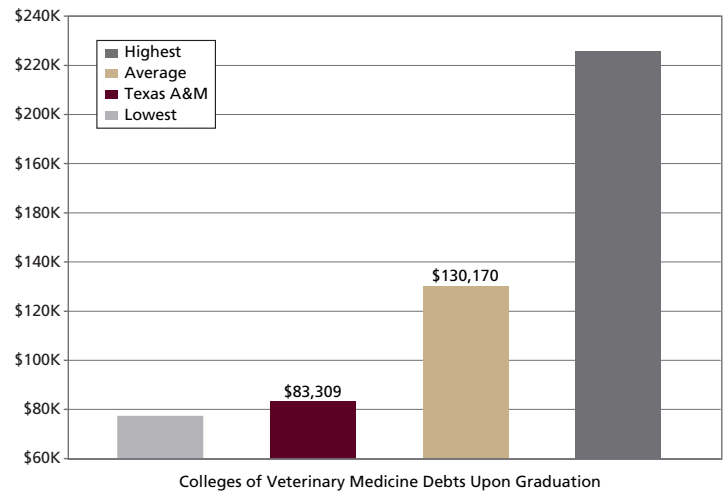
This proposal allows the CVM to serve the needs of Texas in the highest quality, most cost effective manner by creating an integrated network that connects distant communities and regions of the state through strategic partnerships.

This integrated network of Texas A&M University System partnerships will best leverage the investment of the state of Texas by expanding the reach of its nationally and internationally renowned college of veterinary medicine, and enable Texas to substantially expand its current veterinary strengths with a modest investment, particularly when compared to the initial and recurring investment required for a new veterinary school that wishes to achieve excellence.

This is a long-term plan and solution to the needs of the animal industries that are critical to the health of this state. We are asking animal industry leaders to partner with us and help recruit, train, and ensure the success of the very best students in Texas.

2015 Average DVM Debt Load Upon Graduation

Texas A&M DVM graduates have one of the lowest average debts of all colleges of veterinary medicine in the US.



Timeline: Serving Every Texan Every Day

2009 — The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) in its report, "Projecting the Need for Veterinary Medical Education in Texas," recommended that the CVM expand its veterinary student enrollment. Further, the THECB concluded that Texas needs could be met best and most cost effectively at Texas A&M without building another veterinary college in Texas.

2009 — The American Veterinary Medical Association's (AVMA) Council on Education (COE) noted that the CVM could not add one more DVM student in their current educational facilities without adversely affecting their education.

2010 — A university study of facilities concluded that three of the CVM's six major buildings were in poor condition, and the other three were in below average condition.

2010 — A joint proposal prepared by Drs. Jason Osterstock and Dan Posey regarding the development of the CVM's Professional Student Training Programs and Recruitment Strategies in the Texas Panhandle and infrastructure development has been under discussion with CVM stakeholders ever since.

2010 — Discussions with West Texas A&M (Dr. Dean Hawkins) gained momentum regarding the pipeline for large animal veterinarians to return to West Texas and a strategic partnership to accomplish that goal.

2011 — The new Veterinary & Biomedical Education Building (VBEC) was identified as the top construction priority at Texas A&M University.

2011 — Texas A&M University Legislative TRB request to fund new CVM educational facilities was denied/not funded, but because of the importance of the project, the Texas A&M University System approved \$120 million from Permanent University Funds (PUF) to fund construction of VBEC and Small Animal Hospital expansion.

2012–2013 — Construction plans occurred for the \$120 million VBEC by engaging the entire college and visiting peer facilities across the country.

2014 — Ground was broken on VBEC.

2015 — The CVM DVM Class Size Task Force was established to study data for class size expansion and make recommendations based on these data.

2015 — In preparation for a likely DVM class size expansion, discussions continued with A&M System schools and key industry stakeholders to expand the DVM student pipeline.

2015 — Early fall 2015, A&M System leadership pledged support to expand the CVM partnerships across Texas, beginning with West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas as part of a system-wide initiative of "Serving Every Texan Every Day."

Nov. 17, 2015 — The CVM leadership team met with large animal commodity stakeholders in Austin, Texas at the Texas Beef Council headquarters and proposed the system-wide initiative "Serving Every Texan Every Day."

Nov. 20, 2015 — A white paper was disseminated to the large animal commodity stakeholders who met in Austin with the CVM leadership team.

Nov. 30–Dec. 3, 2015 — The AVMA's COE site visit team came to Texas A&M, and the official report is pending, but exit interviews indicated that the CVM is a very strong program.

2016 — Completion of the \$120 million CVM VBEC is slated for June 2016, at which time the DVM class size can be expanded.



Serving the Livestock Industries and Rural Communities



Increasing the Diversity of Our Student Body



Enriching the Lives of Rural Texas Youth



CVM Hallmarks

- The CVM was established in 1916 to serve the Texas agriculture, livestock, and cattle industry; it is the only college of veterinary medicine in Texas.
- The CVM is ranked No. 6 in the world and No. 3 in the United States by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), an educational services firm that has rated the top 50 veterinary medicine schools globally.
- The CVM is one of the largest colleges of veterinary medicine nationally with over 527 DVM students (entering freshmen classes of approximately 132 students).
- In 2014, the CVM, with Texas A&M AgriLife, dedicated phase I, a \$33 million component of the \$80 million Thomas G. Hildebrand, DVM '56 Equine Complex.
- The CVM broke ground on the new \$120 million Veterinary & Biomedical Education Building (VBEC) on April 30, 2014. Another major initiative involves the renovation of the receiving, lobby, and pharmacy area for the Small Animal Hospital.
- As of May 2015, the CVM has graduated 7,697 DVMs, comprising over 5% of veterinarians nationally.
- The undergraduate Biomedical Sciences Program (BIMS) is the largest degree granting undergraduate major at Texas A&M University, with a student enrollment of 2,280 for 2015–16.
- Our BIMS students make up a large portion of Aggie students accepted by Texas medical (68%), dental (60%), and veterinary (37%) professional schools.
- The BIMS program has partnered with 14 Texas junior colleges to create 2+2 admissions agreements that facilitate the admission and transfer of qualified students from these junior colleges into the BIMS program.
- The CVM's Texas A&M Institute for Preclinical Studies (TIPS) is home to many collaborative research efforts, which incorporate the use of spontaneous animal models into clinical trials of new drugs and devices. It is one of the few good laboratory practice (GLP) large animal facilities in the nation. TIPS' imaging capabilities are among the best in the world.
- CVM researchers have cloned more species than any other institution in the world (cat, cow, deer, horse, goat, and pig). The first cloned horse in North America was born at Texas A&M University.
- The CVM is home to the Michael E. DeBaKey Institute for Cardiovascular Sciences, a national leader in cardiac device research.
- In collaboration with the Texas Heart Institute, the CVM launched the \$14 million Center for Cell and Organ Biotechnology, which included a \$3 million matching state investment through the Texas Emerging Technology Fund.

CVM Administration



Kenita Rogers, DVM, MS, DACVIM
Executive Associate Dean



Karen Cornell, DVM, PhD, DACVS
Associate Dean, Professional Programs



Robert Burghardt, MS, PhD
Associate Dean, Research & Graduate Studies



Evelyn Tiffany-Castiglioni, PhD
Associate Dean, Undergraduate Education & Dept. Head, Veterinary Integrative Biosciences



Belinda Hale, MBA
Assistant Dean, Finance



Rosina "Tammi" C. Krecek, FRSSAf, MS, PhD, MAP, MBA
Interim Assistant Dean, One Health



C. Jane Welsh, PhD
Assistant Dean, Graduate Studies



Elizabeth Crouch, PhD
Assistant Dean, Undergraduate Education



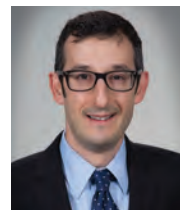
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Assistant Vice President of Development (Texas A&M Foundation)



David Nelson, DVM, CCP
Interim Director, Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH)



Misty Skaggs
Chief of Staff, Office of the Dean



Sam Wigington
Director of Facilities

Eleanor M. Green, DVM, DACVIM, DABVP Carl B. King Dean of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Eleanor M. Green holds the Carl B. King deanship of the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM) and is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) and the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (ABVP). She is the current president of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC).

She received a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Animal Science from the University of Florida and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) from Auburn University. She established a veterinary practice in Mississippi as partner/owner. She became a founding faculty member of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University.

Her academic appointments have included: equine faculty member at University of Missouri; head of the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences and director of the large animal hospital at the University of Tennessee; chair of the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences and the Chief of Staff of the large animal hospital at the University of Florida.

She previously served as president of three national organizations: the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP), the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (ABVP), and the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians (AAVC).

Her awards include: 2004 Award of Distinction from the University of Florida College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, 2011 Wilford S. Bailey Distinguished Alumni Award from Auburn University, 2012 Women's Progress Award for Administration and 2015 Distinguished Achievement Award for Administration at Texas A&M University, and induction into the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame in 2013.





VETERINARY MEDICINE & BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY



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