



## Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Center – Statewide Partnerships “Serving Every Texan Every Day”

### Leveraging & Synergizing Strengths

- The Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Center – Statewide Partnerships (TVMC) expand veterinary medical education, research, undergraduate education, and outreach throughout the state to meet all of the veterinary medical education needs of the State of Texas. Culminating a seven-year plan, Texas A&M University and the Texas A&M University System announced in 2016 the initial partnerships between the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM) and four Texas A&M System universities - West Texas A&M University, Prairie View A&M University, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, and Tarleton State University.

### Ensuring a Bright Future for the Youth of Texas

- The TVMC recruits, encourages, and mentors those students with a passion for a career in veterinary medicine. It helps strengthen their credentials for admission to the CVM and their preparation for success in the rigorous veterinary curriculum.

### Investing Wisely for Texans

- The TVMC partnerships allow the CVM to meet all of the veterinary medical education needs of Texas in the highest quality, most cost effective manner. The CVM has a 100 year history of achieving excellence and graduating exceptional veterinarians who serve their communities, state, nation, and world. The CVM is one of the most highly ranked veterinary medical education programs in the world.

### Ensuring Diversity to Best Serve Texas

- All four of the Texas A&M System universities have significant underrepresented minority student populations with interest in careers in veterinary medicine. Ensuring diversity of the veterinary profession that more closely resembles the demographics of Texas will result in higher quality animal health and a greater reach of veterinary care.

### Meeting State and Unique Regional Needs of Texas

- The exceptional strengths of each partner university and those of the world class CVM will be leveraged with synergy and affordability to meet both statewide and regional needs of Texas. Each university partner has unique livestock, wildlife, and/or veterinary technology programs:
  - West Texas A&M** operates its own feedlot in the Panhandle, a region that feeds a third of the nation's beef cattle 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.

### Building on Existing, Substantial Investments

- The Texas A&M University System invested \$120 million from the Permanent University Fund (PUF) in 2011 to fully fund the Veterinary & Biomedical Education Complex (VBEC) on the Texas A&M campus, with no state legislative appropriation. This innovative, state-of-the-art complex enables the CVM to meet the ever-evolving needs for veterinarians, both rural and urban, far into the future, the numbers of which are expected to increase in concert with the escalating Texas population. The VBEC ensures the CVM is able to fulfill both the 2009 charge and the 2016 charge by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to increase class size, rural and food animal veterinarians, and diversity.
- The VBEC not only allows the CVM to accept more veterinary students, it also supports creation of the partnerships that encourage more underrepresented minority and rural students. These veterinary graduates are more likely to return to and remain in their home regions after graduation, where they will become community leaders and contribute to the economy at the local and state level.
- Rural practitioners must have the most comprehensive education due to the multiple species they serve. Since there is less likelihood of referral to a specialty center, there is an infinite need to be very technically proficient.
- The VBEC is key to extending the reach of veterinary education and research beyond College Station through the TVMC partnerships. The TVMC indeed serves the needs of Texas in the highest quality, most cost effective manner through an integrated network that connects talented educators, distant communities, and multiple regions of the state through strategic partnerships.

# The Impact

Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Center (TVMC) partnerships will leverage and synergize the strengths of the CVM, Texas A&M University, the Texas A&M System, and constituencies to:

- Impact the health of Texas through advancing animal, human, and environmental health (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
  - Ensuring diversity in the veterinary profession

## Timeline

**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 increase its DVM class size in the current educational facilities without adversely affecting the students' education.

**2010-16** — Discussions were held with West Texas A&M, Texas A&M AgriLife, and livestock industry representatives regarding the need and pipeline for large animal and rural veterinarians to serve the livestock industries and return to rural communities. The discussions continued to gain momentum under WT leadership of Dr. Dean Hawkins and refinement of a strategic partnership to accomplish that goal.

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

**2011** — Texas A&M University Legislative Tuition Revenue Bond (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, its Chancellor, and Board of Regents approved \$120 million from the Permanent University Fund (PUF) to fund construction of the VBEC and the Small Animal Hospital expansion.

**2012-2013** — Construction plans occurred for the \$120 million VBEC by engaging the entire college and visiting innovative, cutting-edge facilities across the country.

**2016** — The CVM, again, received full accreditation by the AVMA COE with no substantial compliance issues cited.

**2016** — A CVM Class Size Task Force, that included Texas Veterinary Medical Association (TVMA) representation, was formed by the CVM Dean. Using existing data and data-driven projections, the task force recommended that the class size be increased by 30 students.

**2016** — The TVMA Board of Directors expressed strong support for the TVMC Strategic Partnership plan by the CVM and its proposed class size increase. They TVMA provided a letter of support to the CVM Dean.

**2016** — The \$120 million CVM VBEC was completed, enabling immediate and future class size increases to meet the veterinary medical education needs of Texas far into the future and to provide state-wide reach.

**2016** — The 2016 THECB report, "Veterinary Medical Education in Texas: An Update," was completed. The conclusion was, "In summary, no new college of veterinary medicine is recommended at this time. However, the need to address the pending shortage of large animal veterinarians could be addressed in a variety of ways."

**2016** — An MOA for West Texas A&M & Prairie View A&M was signed, and two CVM faculty positions have been funded at West Texas A&M.

