
APVMA NEWSLETTER

Summer 2016

President: Nicholas Biondo | Vice President: Haley Wilson | Treasurer: Mackenzie Shannon
Secretary: Hunter Walker | WebMaster: Marissa Gonzalez

A Letter From the President:

Hello APVMA Members!

As we continue on through this summer, more than just the weather is warming up! The APVMA Executive Board is hard at work on strengthening the organizations outreach and ties with other veterinary medicine organizations, such as SAVMA, AAVMC, and even the AVMA. I've discussed a project our team is looking to work on in the next couple of months, especially during our in-person summer meeting in Tennessee.

When I ran for this position at the last symposium, I stressed the importance of reaching out to smaller universities and colleges within in APVMA-represented states, and with the help of the aforementioned organizations, especially the AAVMC, the APVMA executive board is aiming to create an ambassador program to represent the APVMA at lectures about veterinary medicine and the advantages organizations like the APVMA can provide to pre-veterinarians. While the hard logistics of this program are still underway, I can say that the goal of this program is to encourage pre-veterinarians to not only attend the annual symposium, but collaborate and discuss opinions and questions with each other no matter their location in the nation. If you believe the APVMA should have a representative come speak at your college or university about the benefits of joining, please email me at apvmapresident@gmail.com.

In addition to this project, the APVMA executive board will be updating our social media platforms and websites within the next month to reflect any of our recent news and updates. The current Facebook page has been abuzz with opportunities and discussion about all things Pre-Veterinary, and I encourage members to join the group to add their input! Also, be on the lookout on the social media platforms in the near future for ways that you can get involved in supporting the APVMA and other organizations that promote animal wellness.

If you or your organization has any questions regarding the APVMA, please send me an email at apvmapresident@gmail.com and have a wonderful summer!

Best Regards,



Nicholas Biondo

DON'T DREAM IT, BE IT

Tony Wynne

Director of Admissions & Recruitment Affairs, AAVMC

**Director of the Veterinary Medical College Application Service
(VMCAS)**



For most, the process of applying to veterinary school is a stressful and highly anxious period that is the apex of many years of anticipation and preparation. The reality, however, is that VMCAS is simply a tollbooth on the highway towards your final destination and with proper foresight and preparation, the process - at its core - can (and should) be quite simple. While there is no denying that acceptance to veterinary school is competitive, I have come to realize that most of the stresses and anxieties are unnecessary and can be easily minimized with a little preparation.

Before applying, you have got a significant amount of homework to accomplish in the form of research on veterinary schools: what schools appeal to me and why? Why will I be successful (and happy) at those schools? Do I meet the core requirements at those schools? What are the cost implications and can I realistically afford to attend these schools? The process is very much like renting an apartment; you would not sign a lease to live somewhere you had not seen and knew nothing about. Nor would you rent an apartment that you cannot afford just because people say it is a great place to live. Likewise, the lowest rent does not always mean you will be happy.

The most valuable asset that you have when applying to veterinary school is who you are. When it comes down to it, all the skills, knowledge and academic requirements you have amassed over the years, well, they speak for themselves and are static where the application is concerned. The key to a successful application is packaging all the non-static attributes (dynamic) in a clear and meaningful way so that veterinary schools can understand your journey as a person. Your diversities, adversities, and successes are the things you have to rely on that set you apart from the rest of the application pool.

Take the time to ensure you are making the most informed decisions when applying. Be an educated consumer that makes wise decisions based on your needs and wants over those of others. Use the resources available to you to aid in your decisions making process. The AAVMC, VMCAS staff, and school admissions officers are your allies in making these decisions. Don't just dream of being a veterinarian, be a veterinarian!

If you're still unsure, talk to me.

Tony - twynne@aavmc.org



The Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement

There are rural parts of the United States that do not have access to veterinary care. Ranchers and farmers are dependent on veterinary care for routine medical and emergency services that fight against disease, protect our food supply, and promote the overall well-being of livestock. There is a bill in Congress that could help.



In 2003, Congress established the **Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)** to recognize the importance of veterinary care for livestock animals and public health. The program provides selected food animal and public health veterinarians loan repayments of up to \$75,000 if they commit to 3 years of practice in an area of the country where they are needed the most. This financial agreement helps veterinarians, who face approximately \$135,000 in student loan debt, to make a living in a community where opening their own practice could be cost prohibitive. Since the start of the program, 285 veterinarians have participated in 45 states, Puerto Rico and on U.S. federal lands.

Unfortunately, when Congress created the VMLRP, it tacked on a 39 percent withholding tax per award, meaning money that could go toward placing more veterinarians in high-priority areas instead goes to the government. This is unfair, especially since awards for its counterpart program for human health medicine, the National Health Service Corps' Loan Repayment Program, are exempt from this withholding tax, which allows it to place more doctors and nurses around the country where people need them most.

The **VMLRP Enhancement Act** can solve this issue. This vital legislation will remove the withholding tax on the program awards, giving the U.S. Department of Agriculture the ability to give more veterinarians the opportunity to practice in these designated shortage areas without Congress having to increase the program's annual federal appropriation. If you're truly looking to prolong and ensure the future of large animal veterinarians and veterinarians in rural communities, the VMLRP is very important.





When you graduate from vet school with an excessive amount of student debt and are in need of a way to pay for it in a relatively quick manner, the VMLRP can allow for you to do so while still doing what you love as a practicing veterinarian. Without this program, society would be fighting an uphill battle to keep rural veterinarians in areas where they are needed most.

There are 285 veterinarians serving in 45 states since 2010 through the VMLRP!


You Can Help!

Tell Congress that U.S. ranchers and farmers depend on veterinarians for the care of their livestock. Pass the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act so we can get more veterinarians in rural communities across the country.

Congress can change this by enhancing the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program, which places veterinarians into areas they're needed most.

<p>286</p> <p>286 VMLRP awards have gone to veterinarians serving in 45 states.</p> 	<p>\$0.39</p> <p>Unfortunately, Uncle Sam takes a 39 cent withholding tax for every dollar the program awards.</p> 	<p>100</p> <p>100 more veterinarians could have participated if the program's steep withholding tax was removed.</p> 	<p>150</p> <p>More than 150 veterinary, commodity and agriculture-related organizations support this bill.</p> 
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TELL CONGRESS TO COCK-A-DOODLE-DO SOMETHING.



Leadership Abilities are Crucial in the Veterinary Field!

Not only does an APVMA officer position look great on your resumé, but it also helps you gain experience in leadership and networking. As an officer of the APVMA, you get the chance to work closely with experts in the field and build connections with APVMA accredited members and schools nationwide. An officer position also allows you to enhance and expand the organization in order to keep it thriving for current and future pre-vet students across the country. If you are interested in running for an officer of the 2017-18 term, be sure to attend the nominations at the upcoming symposium. The officer nominations take place during the President's meeting at 6:30 am on the Saturday of the symposium. The elections will take place Saturday evening at the formal dinner. It is recommended that you attend the President's meeting with one or more members from your school's pre-vet organization since one must be nominated prior to elections. Do NOT miss out on this wonderful opportunity! For further information on what an APVMA officer position entails, please feel free to contact any of the current officers:

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**Remember to check our
website, Facebook, and Twitter page
regularly for updates regarding the
symposium, scholarship/award
applications, veterinary school
information, and more!**

Website: www.APVMA.org

Facebook: **APVMA: The American Pre-
Veterinary Medical Association**

Twitter: **@apvma_prevets**



Animal Fun Facts!

- The leg bones of a bat are so thin that no bat can walk
- A single elephant tooth can weigh as much as 9 pounds
- Zebras can't see the color **orange**
- A type of "immortal" jellyfish is capable of cheating death indefinitely
- Warmer weather causes more turtles to be born female than male