



Impact Statement

Project Title: Developing an Accessible & Affordable Pipeline of Rural, Large-Animal Veterinarians

Issue:

A major challenge facing the veterinary profession is the cost associated with obtaining a DVM. A secondary challenge is the shortage of large-animal / food-animal veterinarians in rural communities. The Department of Animal Sciences (ANSCI) has a large enrollment of undergraduates; many of which join the program with aspirations of pursuing a veterinary degree. As the entrance requirements to the OSU Columbus campus have escalated during the past several years, there has been a continuous shift within these undergraduates towards an interest in equine, companion and exotic animals, and away from food animals (beef, sheep, dairy, poultry, and swine).

What has been done:

We have developed and presented a proposal outlining a collaboration among the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM), Department of Animal Sciences (ANSCI), and OSU ATI (OSU Regional campus in Wooster, OH that provides 2-year degree programs) to develop a more affordable and accessible pathway for students from rural communities to obtain a DVM with the intent that these students would be more likely to return to these communities as practicing food-animal veterinarians. This pathway includes the possibility of obtaining three degrees (AS, BS, and DVM) within seven years or less.

This pathway is possible due to several existing programs coupled with recent changes:

- A previously established early commitment model between ANSCI and CVM
 - Recent changes to the admission requirements for CVM
 - A newly developed pathway in ANSCI for students to complete the final credits of their BS during the initial years of pursuing their DVM
 - Advising capacity on the Wooster campus (Dr. Elizabeth Parker 50% ANSCI, 50% OSU ATI)
- This program will benefit OSU ATI as a recruiting tool and will help implement changes outlined in the ATI re-envisioning process and begin to augment its culture and image
 - This program will benefit ANSCI by increasing enrollment of students with a food-animal focus
 - This program will benefit CVM by developing a pipeline of students to address shortages of food-animal veterinarians in rural communities
 - This pathway can be used by any student to address accessibility and affordability issues in their pursuit of a DVM; this complies with objectives outlined in President Drake's 2020 Vision:
 - Accessibility – OSU ATI has open enrollment; this pathway provides a transition phase for students from small rural schools to increasing larger education environments: OSU ATI provides smaller classes, hands-on opportunities, and is embedded in a smaller community.
 - Affordability – Potential saving of >\$34K (> \$50K if commuting to OSU ATI; see below)
 - Complete a professional degree within seven years rather than eight (-\$21.7K)
 - Complete first two years at a regional campus rather than Columbus (-\$12.5K)
 - Complete first two years at OSU ATI as a commuting student (-\$29.1K)

Impacts/New Partnerships:

- CVM has embraced the plan and has reserved seats for students who enroll in this program
- OSU ATI is developing an A.S. to augment the recruitment of students to flow into this program

Outcome of Project (societal impact/ measure of increased quality of life)

The program is working its way through the Academic Affairs approval process. Feedback of the concept and pathway has been positive and supportive from all the collaborators and from prospective students and their parents.

How has your project been aided by your FSLI experience?

The guidance on managing up and managing down was invaluable in setting the groundwork and support among the collaborators. The training in negotiating was also valuable in that it reinforced the need to communicate that benefit that all parties would gain by joining in the collaboration and that it served not only the University goals, but also the needs of our students and their respective communities. It was also beneficial to visit with members of this cohort who work in similar colleges and departments within their respective institutions.

Contact information:

Henry Zerby
Zerby.8@osu.edu