

Veterinary Technician National Examination Celebrating Diversity Award

What is the AAVSB VTNE Celebrating Diversity Award?

The American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) is committed to advancing opportunities for veterinary technicians representing the growing demographics of our society and to increasing opportunities for underrepresented communities within our industry. Nominations are accepted for veterinary technician/nursing students who promote and represent diversity and inclusion values. Candidates for the Award foster, cultivate, and preserve a culture of diversity, equity and inclusion and treat everyone with respect and dignity.

Who Can Apply?

This award is given to a Veterinary Technician/Nursing student from an AVMA-CVTEA or CVMA accredited veterinary technology/nursing program who is expected to graduate no later than June of the calendar year in which the award is being given. This award is presented to a minority student who has been traditionally underrepresented in the veterinary technician profession, inclusive of Black/African American, American Indians and Alaska Natives, Asians and Pacific Islanders, Hispanic/Latinx, gender, LGBTQ and students with disabilities.

The award recipient is selected based on their commitment to diversity and inclusion. The AAVSB celebrates diversity as it refers to the traits and characteristics that make people unique, inclusion as it refers to the behaviors and social norms that ensure people feel welcome in the veterinary profession to best serve the animals and public in communities of varied backgrounds, community involvement and/or volunteerism, and how the recipient has demonstrated cultural humility and cultural competence as a veterinary professional.

How is an Award Recipient Selected?

The Award committee includes the current Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE) Committee Chair and two additional veterinary technician professionals representing diverse backgrounds. The two additional professionals on the Award committee are recommended and selected by the VTNE Committee Members and AAVSB Board of Directors, with final approval by the AAVSB Board of Directors to serve for three years with the current VTNE Committee Chair.

Award & Value: One (1) VTNE Exam Voucher (current VTNE exam fee)

Application Deadline: March 15

Award Recipient Announced: May 1

Application Requirements Checklist

- One (1) page letter.
- Statement of expected graduation from an AVMA-CVTEA or CVMA accredited veterinary technology/nursing program with an Associate or Bachelor's degree by June 1.
- Academic letter of good standing on school letterhead completed by the Program Director or Registrar of the AVMA-CVTEA or CVMA accredited veterinary technology/nursing program.

Letter Outline

The applicant should submit a one-page letter on why they are deserving of the award. The letter should include a brief introductory paragraph about yourself including self-identification of demographic information in meeting the selection criteria, one to three concise paragraphs addressing the selection criteria, and a brief concluding paragraph to summarize your letter.

The following topics should be addressed in the letter:

- Significance in starting your veterinary technician career and the impact your meritorious efforts to champion diversity brings to the profession.
- Community involvement and/or volunteerism and the impact of those served.
- Exemplified leadership of student-centered inclusion initiatives.
- Strong commitment to actively promote and maintain diversity and inclusion in the veterinary profession to best serve the animals and public.
- Demonstrated importance of cultural humility and cultural competence as a veterinary professional.

The letter should be formatted as follows:

- Word Count: 1-page letters should be approximately 500 words in length.
- Line Spacing: single spaced.
- Font: Use a legible font, such as Times New Roman or Calibri.
- Font Size: 12-point sized font.
- Margins: "Normal Setting" in Microsoft Word (2.54 cm/1-inch margins).
- The following information should be included at the top of your letter (top left side):
 - Your Full Name (First and Last)



- Your Academic Program
- Anticipated Graduation Date
- The letter should be addressed to the AAVSB VTNE Award Committee.

Submission Details

Please submit your application package as a Word document or a PDF with the following naming convention: Last Name, First Name, and Award Name, e.g., Smith Casey AAVSB VTNE Diversity Award

Email completed application letter and letter of academic standing to vettech@aavsb.org with Subject: VTNE Celebrating Diversity Award Application