



# Veterinary Technician Program

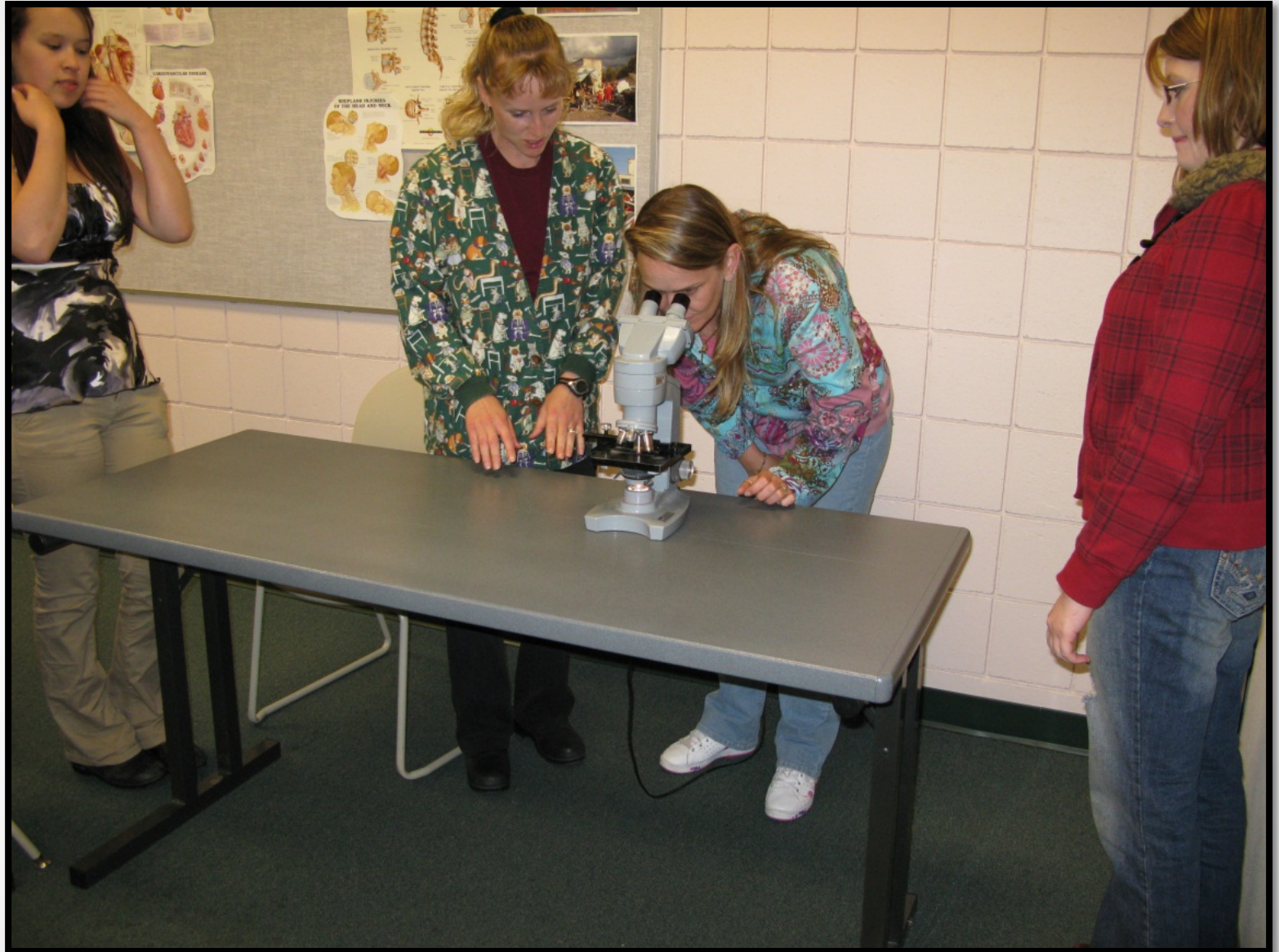


# History of the Program

- 2006: Developed agriculture classes
  - Fall 2006 started AGRI A194E – Introduction to Veterinary Technology
  - Fall 2008 added AGRI A194I – Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology
- 2007: Surveyed veterinarians and veterinary technicians at Alaska Veterinary Medical Association (AKVMA) state meeting
  - 18 veterinarians responded
  - 20 veterinary technicians responded

# 2007 Survey Results

- Survey looked at many variables
  - Number of veterinary technicians hired, salary, benefits offered, demographics, rate of turnover, sustainability, education preference, use of graduate pool list, education elements, qualities and skills needed
  - Had respondents rank proposed educational opportunities
    - 2-yr AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association) accredited associates degree: largest majority ranked as best option
      - 67% of veterinarians
      - 90% of veterinary technicians
    - 2-yr associate degree: ranked as second best option
    - Certificate program (9-30 credits): ranked as third best option
    - One intro class: considered not worth effort
    - No training: not desired





# History of the Program

- Fall 2009: began 21 credit Veterinary Assisting Occupational Endorsement Certificate (OEC) Program
- Fall 2010: surveyed veterinary community again at state meeting after first year of veterinary assisting program
  - 20 veterinarians responded
  - 18 veterinary technicians responded

# 2010 Survey Results

- Survey again looked at a number of variables
  - Number of technicians/assistants employed, skills needed, demographics, length of employment, market saturation, and need for veterinary technician program
  - Overall, 97% (37 out of 38) still wanted to see an AVMA-accredited veterinary technician program
    - 20 out of 20: 100% of veterinarians
    - 17 out of 18: 94% of veterinary technicians



# Graduates Employed

- 24 students have graduated from Veterinary Assisting OEC Program to date
- 32 students have completed coursework
- At least 16 out of 32 (50%) were working in career field at end of final practicum class
  - 11 were hired during or after practicum
  - 5 had been hired before practicum
    - At least 1 hired during earlier program classes
    - 1 promoted upon graduation from program





# Community Connections

- Advisory Board
  - Has been in existence since 2006
  - Consists of 13-15 members
    - Veterinarians: 2-4
    - Licensed veterinary technicians: 5
    - Veterinary assistant (graduate): 1
    - Full-time faculty members: 3
    - Business manager: 1
- 13 clinics have participated as practicum sites
- Adjunct faculty, guest speakers, and field trip sites



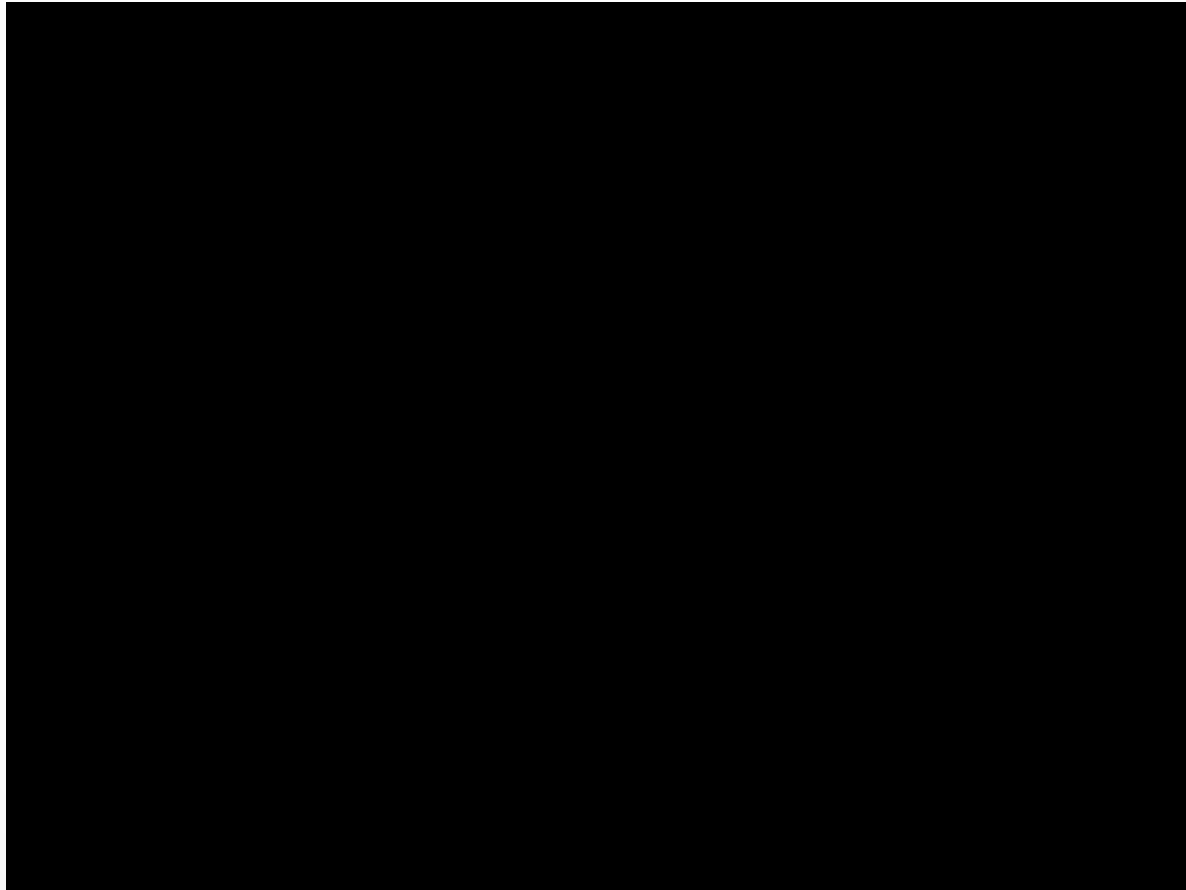


# Funding and Support

- TVEP
- State/University Funding
- Veterinary community



# Video of Program



# Differences Between Mat-Su College and UAF

## Mat-Su College

- 2-year veterinary technician program (equivalent of a nursing program for animals)
- 1-year veterinary assistant program (equivalent of a nursing assistant program for animals)

## UAF

- 2+2 veterinary program in conjunction with CSU's (Colorado State University's) veterinary school (equivalent of a physician program for animals)
- Veterinary science program – designed for lay people to make better animal care decisions in rural Alaska

# Future

- Expansion to AVMA-accredited veterinary technician program – estimated timeline
  - Spring 2013: Mat-Su Instructional Council
  - Fall 2013: UAA's University Advisory Board
  - Spring 2014: Board of Regents
  - Fall 2014: Start first cohort of students
- Job outlook for graduates (taken from U.S. Board of Labor Statistics)
  - 36% increase expected in the need for veterinary technicians and technologists through 2018
  - 33% increase expected in need for veterinarians, and more veterinarians means more technicians

# Conclusion

