



Biennial Summer Conference

The theme of the 7th Biennial Conference will be “Making Teaching Matter: Empowering Educators to Navigate Challenges and Foster Success”. Our first keynote speaker will be Dr. Katherine Fogelberg, DVM, PhD, and author/editor of “Educational Principles and Practice in Veterinary Medicine” delivering three sessions within the 3 day conference entitled: “Encouraging agility and adaptability in veterinary medical education”, “Why active learning and how to incorporate it into your teaching” and “Qualitative research in veterinary education”. Additionally, Dr. Lauren Grider, DVM, MA, ALC, NCC, CCFP will be delivering two sessions entitled “The Perfectionism Problem” and “Building Better Boundaries”. The conference will include workshops delivered by the RTA Initiative groups as well as educational scholarship and teaching innovation presentations. Pre-conference, a Faculty Development Initiative VETS Selectives team will deliver a workshop on educational research.

Ongoing Efforts & New Initiatives:

Steering Committee: Starting the year with a complete update of the RTA Bylaws, the committee has also been focused on development of the website, in particular working with our developer to make it more accessible and user friendly. The Steering Committee also awarded travel grants to Fellows presenting RTA scholarship and for travel to the educational research workshop. Finally, the steering committee approved the second annual RTA awards, recognizing excellence in Educational Innovation, Educational Service, and Educational Scholarship.

Fellows Committee: Formerly known as the Members Committee, in 2024, the committee was renamed for clarity and to better reflect its engagement with the individuals that make up the RTA. The committee established two subcommittees: the Application Review subcommittee, which evaluates new and renewing fellowship applications, and the Partners in Education (PIE) subcommittee, which supports new Fellows through mentorship and RTA engagement. The committee also adopted a continuous application process with an annual October 30th review deadline. In Fall 2024, 19 new Fellows from 5 institutions and 7 renewing Fellows from 5 institutions were approved.

External Peer Review of Teaching Initiative: Four promotion/review packets were reviewed, with institutional advancement outcomes not yet known. From 2018–2024, 21 faculty successfully advanced. Our group’s rubrics and process were recognized for potential integration into the Academy of Veterinary Educators’ credentialing and the AAVMC Distinguished Teaching Award selection using our Educator’s CV. At our productive Winter Meeting in January 2025, we leveraged generative AI to develop a workshop for the 2025 Biennial Conference on Teaching

Portfolios and refine our Educator Evaluator Rubric for packet review.

Faculty Development Subcommittees Initiative:

Clinical Teaching: At the Winter Meeting, plans were made for a 2025 Biennial Conference Clinical Teaching workshop, building on the 2023 meeting’s themes of clinician well-being, active learning, and formative feedback. Discussions with the Educator Wellbeing subcommittee explored joint initiatives on wellness, AI-assisted feedback, and case-based teaching. The 2023 OSU Workshop reinforced structured feedback and learner engagement. Moving forward, the Clinical Teaching subcommittee will integrate emerging technologies, support faculty resilience, and enhance collaboration to improve clinical education.

Educator Wellbeing: Continued working on the results of the educator well-being initiative from 2022. The results from the Maslach Burnout Inventory, Professional Quality of Life, and Areas of Work Life surveys were presented at VetEd 2024 in Summer 2024. The initiative is working on designing and implementing a happiness challenge in Spring 2025, as well as working with the VETS: Clinical Teaching subcommittee on a collaborative project to promote well-being in the clinical arena.

VETS Fundamentals: In February 2024, VETS Fundamentals hosted a 1.5-day workshop at Midwestern University after the RTA Winter Meeting. The team also presented on the workshop’s history and a new AI-focused module at VetEd 2024 in Dublin.

Ongoing Efforts & New Initiatives: *(continued)*

Faculty Development Subcommittees Initiative (Continued):

VETS Selectives: One team hosted two seven-week Team-Based Learning (TBL) workshops in 2024, engaging 32 educators from partnering institutions. In June, a team led a 2.5-day Veterinary Education Research Workshop at Colorado State University with 23 participants—13 from CSU and 10 from RTA partner institutions (3 UA, 2 Midwestern, 2 WesternU, 1 OSU, 1 USU). A pre-conference workshop is planned for the 2025 Summer Biennial Conference.

Student Assessment developed and piloted a survey to understand veterinary educators' use of assessment, challenges, and needs. In Spring 2025, the survey will be distributed to RTA member institutions, targeting leadership, faculty, and academic support staff. At the RTA Biennial Conference at WSU, we will present survey results and facilitate an activity to guide future initiatives, ensuring data-informed decision-making and collaborative prioritization.

Quantification of Teaching Effort and Effectiveness Initiative:

This initiative finalized a modifiable teaching effort calculator, available for download by any institution. This tool quantifies teaching time while incorporating quality metrics. Current efforts focus on collecting user data to validate the instrument, with plans for publication in the Journal of Veterinary Medical Education.

Sharing High-Quality Educational Material Working Group:

Launched in late 2023, the Sharing Working Group has grown to include 43 RTA Fellows from all seven member institutions. In 2024, the group conducted a comprehensive needs analysis and co-developed a shared vision for cross-institutional curricular collaboration. Rather than limiting scope, the group is designing a flexible model for sharing—from complete instructional modules to individual assets such as images, videos, sound, whole slide images, diagnostic reasoning tools, and diagrams. Fellows have already begun reporting early benefits, and development is well underway on the group's first Sharing Prototype, which will launch in 2025 with examples from ten key content types. The group also contributed to a \$400,000 Spencer Foundation grant proposal (currently under review) and is planning a \$2 million proposal to build a comprehensive sharing library to serve all RTA schools.

Community Engagement Working Group:

The RTA Community Engagement Interest Group became an official Working Group in 2024, strengthening Community Engagement efforts in veterinary education. Prioritizing cultural humility and inclusion, the group moves beyond performative measures by embedding Community Engagement across institutional functions. Key initiatives included a workshop on belonging and a climate survey identifying systemic gaps. Future goals focus on mentorship, data-driven strategies, and sustained institutional support to ensure continuous, meaningful inclusion.

RTA Awards to Recognize Excellence in Education

The Steering Committee is pleased to continue the annual Regional Teaching Academy Awards, recognizing excellence in education in three categories: Educational Innovation, Educational Service, and Educational Scholarship.

1. Educational Innovation - *Recognizes individuals who have created and employed innovative strategies that have engaged and supported student learning.*

2024 Recipient: Jeffrey R. Abbott, DVM, PhD, DACVP - Washington State University

2. Educational Service - *Recognizes individuals who have had a significant impact in veterinary and biomedical education by facilitating, supporting or instituting best educational practices and/or policies at the local, regional or national level.*

2024 Recipient: Leslie Sprunger, DVM, PhD – Washington State University

3. Educational Scholarship - *Recognizes individuals who have advanced educational practice by publishing pedagogical research or sharing novel teaching resources.*

2024 Recipient: Ryane E. Englar, DVM, DABVP (Canine and Feline Practice) – University of Arizona

Looking to the Future:

Since its founding in 2011, the Regional Teaching Academy (RTA) has been a driving force for collaboration, innovation, and excellence in veterinary education. With the steadfast support of our Deans, the RTA has grown into a vibrant community of educators, dedicated to sharing best practices, fostering faculty development, and improving student learning. As we look ahead, we find ourselves at a critical moment—one where the future of veterinary education demands that we work together more than ever.

Higher education institutions across the country are facing financial and structural challenges, making collaborative initiatives like the RTA even more essential. When we share knowledge, resources, and proven educational strategies, we create far greater impact than any one institution can achieve alone.

The Faculty Development Initiative, External Peer Review of Teaching Initiative, Local Observation of Teaching Initiative (completed), as well as the Quantification of Teaching Effort and Effectiveness Initiative, have long served as the backbone of the RTA, providing critical support for faculty development, career advancement, teaching innovation, and student success. These well-established initiatives have strengthened veterinary education by ensuring high-quality teaching, faculty support, and assessment strategies across our member institutions.

At the same time, the RTA continues to grow and evolve in response to the needs of our community. The Sharing High-Quality Educational Materials Working Group, formed in late 2023, is pioneering cost-saving, scalable models for developing and distributing instructional resources. In addition to reducing redundancy in curriculum development, this initiative is also providing new opportunities for faculty from RTA institutions to engage in educational scholarship. The Community Engagement Working Group, approved as an official Working Group in 2024, is building strategies to foster a more representative and welcoming veterinary education environment. Additionally, the Educational Research Workshop, also new in 2023, is helping faculty integrate evidence-based research into teaching practice—an investment that will drive long-term improvements in veterinary education.

The RTA's strength lies in its ability to bring together educators, researchers, and administrators to collectively improve veterinary education. As we move forward, we will continue to expand opportunities for faculty development, support research-informed teaching, and cultivate an environment where shared resources and expertise enhance learning outcomes for all.

We remain deeply grateful for the continued investment and partnership of our Deans. Your support ensures that the RTA remains a catalyst for educational excellence—helping to equip faculty and students with the knowledge, skills, and collaborative spirit necessary to thrive in a rapidly evolving profession.

We look forward to another year of growth, innovation, and shared success

Finances and Activities

For information on the support and expenditures in the past year, see the attached table. It has been a good couple of years for the RTA. We met in person at Corvallis in 2023 and will be meeting in person in Pullman this summer. The Biennial meetings are well attended by all 7 member schools. The funding from the Dean's allows us to hold these meetings and great ideas are shared. We are grateful for your continued support. We continue to grow in our membership and the products coming out of the RTA continue to support member schools and increase the visibility of the RTA. Note: For more detailed information on the support and expenditures during 2022-2024, see the attached appendix.

2024 Highlights

- Biennial Conference, June 23-26, 2025
- Fellows Committee formed the Partners in Education (PIE) subcommittee,
- Sharing High-Quality Educational Materials Became a working Group
- External review letters provided for 4 teaching dossiers; 21 faculty advanced (2018–2024)
- Educator Well-being: Presented survey results at VetEd 2024.
- VETS Fundamentals hosted a workshop at MidwesternU.
- VETS Selective hosted Educational Research Workshop at CSU & two 7 week TBL Workshops.
- International Veterinary Education Symposium 2024 Peer Reviewed 2 Workshops & 2 Poster Presentations.
- Student Assessment piloted a survey on assessment use and barriers.
- Quantifying Teaching Effort: Finalized a modifiable teaching effort calculator; validating with user data; preparing for publication.
- RTA Travel Grant funded educators to attend Veterinary Education Research Workshop in Fort Collins, & VetEd Symposium.
- February 2024 Midwestern hosted the RTA Winter Meeting.