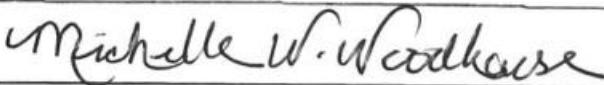


NOMINATION SIGNATURE PAGE

2024 Virginia Outstanding Faculty Awards

Nominations must include this as the cover page of the nomination package PDF submission

Name of Applicant:	Dr. Megan Taliaferro
Institution:	Tidewater Community College
Category (choose only one): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Baccalaureate Institution• Masters/Comprehensive Institution• Research/Doctoral Institution• Two-Year Institution• Rising Star	Two-Year Institution
Signature of President or Chief Academic Officer:	
Printed Name of President or Chief Academic Officer:	Dr. Michelle Woodhouse Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer
E-mail address of President or Chief Academic Officer:	mwoodhouse@tcc.edu
Telephone number of President or Chief Academic Officer:	757-822-1062

MISSION STATEMENTS

Tidewater Community College (TCC) Mission Statement

Tidewater Community College provides collegiate education and workforce training to individuals of all ages, helping them achieve their goals and contribute to the vitality of the regional and global community.

Tidewater Community College (TCC) Vision Statement

To be our community's first choice for education, opportunity, partnership, and innovation.

Virginia Community College System (VCCS) Mission Statement

We give everyone the opportunity to learn and develop the right skills so lives and communities are strengthened.

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Dr. Megan Taliaferro joined Tidewater Community College's faculty in 2015. In her years at TCC, she has established herself as a passionate educator and advocate for veterinary professionals. She began her early career as a clinical veterinarian, working in emergency and general practices across Virginia. Recognizing the growing demand for high-quality veterinary care challenged by existing workforce shortages, she transitioned into higher education to launch the first veterinary science department in Hampton Roads. She truly embraces TCC's mission of providing education and workforce training that contributes to the vitality of the local and global veterinary community.

Dr. Taliaferro's passion and scholarly interest is creating novel and innovative workforce training programs that remove educational barriers to support marginalized students. Her students are usually first-generation college students, juggling both work and family commitments while pursuing higher education in veterinary medicine. Her ability to support her students through compassionate pedagogy has resulted in a 96% student retention rate and the addition of over 150 approved veterinary assistants and over 100 licensed veterinary technicians in Hampton Roads since 2017. Her passion for her students and her commitment to veterinary workforce development have won her grants and numerous awards from both TCC and the local Hampton Roads veterinary community.

Teaching

Teaching is at the heart of everything Dr. Taliaferro does, and she loves sharing her joy for veterinary medicine with her students. One student said "she shows excitement when speaking about her favorite areas of veterinary medicine, and there are many. I would describe her lecture style as dynamic; you don't have time to lose focus, she keeps you engaged and learning."

As the founder of the veterinary science department and creator of two nationally accredited veterinary education programs, Dr. Taliaferro personally developed fifteen undergraduate lecture courses and three laboratory courses in the college's veterinary curriculum. These classes cover a wide range of subjects in veterinary medicine, from comparative anatomy to large animal medicine and surgery. Her courses are structured around case-based learning, where students learn course concepts and then work in small groups to apply their knowledge to real life veterinary cases. This case intensive approach to learning emphasizes critical thinking skills and agile decision making, which is paramount in today's fast paced veterinary environment. Her comprehensive veterinary curriculum has created well-rounded graduates and in 2022 resulted in a 100% pass rate on the Veterinary Technician National Examination. Fewer than ten programs nation-wide have achieved this goal.

Her passion for educational accessibility to support working, first generation college students resulted in her being the first faculty member at TCC to offer hi-flex classes starting in 2019. Recognizing that many of her students, as working parents, were missing classes due to family commitments, she had her classroom outfitted with high fidelity cameras, monitors, speakers, and microphones. These modifications allowed the simultaneous teaching of both in-class and distance learning students. She advocated for and received approval in 2020 to provide this flexible learning environment for all classes in the veterinary technology curriculum. Her initiative aligns with the Virginia Community College System's Opportunity 2027 Strategic Plan by reducing educational barriers and promoting a fair and equitable teaching environment for

students from all backgrounds. Since the implementation of hi-flex teaching in the veterinary science department, Dr. Taliaferro has seen student retention rate in the veterinary science department rise from 86% to 96%.

Dr. Taliaferro has pioneered a proactive approach to addressing the veterinary workforce shortage. Since many students enter college without considering veterinary medicine as a career option, she frequently visits high schools to discuss careers in the veterinary field. In 2022 she took the next step in early workforce development by partnering with Virginia Beach public high schools to design and launch a dual enrollment veterinary assistant program at TCC. This innovative partnership transports high school students to the TCC veterinary science facility four days a week, where they participate in a rigorous 9-month training program to learn small animal medicine, surgery, radiology, laboratory medicine, and nursing clinical skills. Upon completion of the program, the students receive a national veterinary assistant credential and are workforce ready and employable at graduation. This not only addresses the veterinary workforce shortage in Hampton Roads, but also serves as a stepping-stone to students interested in pursuing veterinary technology or veterinary medical degrees in college.

Despite managing over 90 students in the veterinary science department, Dr. Taliaferro maintains an active teaching load. She teaches thirteen veterinary courses, including veterinary anatomy and physiology, breeds and behavior, veterinary office management, clinical pathology, hematology, parasitology, and surgical nursing. She also teaches four laboratory courses in hematology, parasitology, anatomy and physiology, and laboratory techniques.

Dr. Taliaferro's commitment to excellence in teaching has resulted in several awards including TCC's Faculty Reward for Professional Excellence in Teaching and selection as a participant in the 2018 VCCS Instructional Excellence Academy.

Dr. Taliaferro was also recruited to be an instructor in the Eastern Virginia Medical School's Master's in Laboratory Animal Science, which allows her to teach and interact with graduate level students entering the field of animal research.

Discovery

Dr. Taliaferro's research and scholarship has focused on enhancing veterinary education accessibility. Although many students seek to pursue higher education in veterinary medicine, they are often unable to forgo working full-time to pursue a degree. With the severe veterinary workforce shortage, it is imperative that educational programs be innovative and think outside the box to allow full-time working students the ability to be successful in degree attainment.

This passion for educational accessibility resulted in her selection as Tidewater Community College's 2021 Batten Fellow for Technological Innovation and Leadership. During her two-year fellowship, she researched best practices in leveraging technology to offer flexible attendance options for traditional 3-hour weekly laboratory courses. Her Batten fellowship project titled "Using Technology in the Classroom and Laboratory to Blend Distance and Traditional Learning for a Clinical, Hands-on Training Program" was implemented in 2022. Utilizing a \$20,000 grant, she created a veterinary laboratory that allows students the ability to practice clinical skills utilizing high-fidelity models and simulations in lieu of a structured, formal laboratory taught by an instructor. This new lab space has reduced the on-campus attendance requirement for TCC's veterinary technology students to only twice monthly. Prior to this modification, most students had to reduce their working hours to maintain adequate attendance at weekly

laboratory classes. Dr. Taliaferro's laboratory modification allows veterinary technology students the ability to maintain a full-time job and still graduate with an associate degree in two years.

Her publication and presentations focus on educating other community college programs of the urgent need for innovation to support full-time working community college students. Her paper "Use of a Clinical Skills Training Center to Supplement a Distributive Model of Education in a Veterinary Technology Program" was published in *Inquiry*, the academic journal for the Virginia Community College System, in 2023. Her paper outlines three key characteristics that can be applied to any academic program to support marginalized students – flexibility for on-campus attendance, technology use to off-set faculty constraints, and high-fidelity models and simulations to facilitate rapid learning of advanced skills. She has spoken on hi-flex learning and flexible attendance options at Tidewater's Community College's Teaching Excellence Seminar Series and Tidewater Community College's annual Learning Institute.

Dr. Taliaferro's passion for utilizing technology to support students has resulted not only in flexible attendance educational models, but also the development and creation of novel veterinary simulators. In 2020, she worked with faculty in both TCC's veterinary and EMT programs to develop anesthesia training simulators for veterinary technology students. Utilizing software that is only available for human medical training programs, she led the department in editing the software to reflect animal physiology more accurately.

Knowing that the field of veterinary medicine is constantly evolving, Dr. Taliaferro maintains an active veterinary license and attends continuing education seminars each year to stay abreast of changes in the field. She maintains memberships in the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association which allows her to provide her students with the most up-to-date knowledge.

Knowledge Integration

Dr. Taliaferro managed all aspects of program development from conceptualization through design, editing, implementation, and national accreditation for two veterinary academic programs at TCC. This process involved recruiting feedback from key stakeholders, including local veterinary hospitals, state and national veterinary organizations, and the Virginia Community College System.

Dr. Taliaferro knew that the veterinary workforce shortage problem could only be addressed by supporting the working student demographic. She developed the first distributive model of veterinary education in Virginia, where students receive part of their clinical education at private veterinary hospitals where they are employed. This innovative design, coupled with flexible on-campus attendance options, has allowed students the ability to work full-time and still graduate with an associate degree in two years.

To support this distributive model of education, Dr. Taliaferro secured multiple strategic partnerships to enhance student learning and increase student training opportunities. She secured partnerships with Christopher Newport University to support laboratory animal medical training, Norfolk SPCA for small animal dentistry training, The Virginia Beach Animal Care and Adoption Center for small animal anesthesia and surgical assisting training, the Chesapeake Humane Society for small animal nursing training, the Portsmouth Humane Society for small animal nursing training, and Bridlewood Stables for large animal nursing training. Dr. Taliaferro also collaborates with other TCC departments, including medical technology, radiology

technology, and EMT programs, to offer cutting-edge equipment and training to her veterinary students.

As program head, she wrote the 2020 self-study report for the Veterinary Technology program and hosted the AVMA accreditation team at TCC, which resulted in the first successful accreditation of a veterinary technology program in Virginia in over forty years. She is the sole author for annual accreditation reports and her efforts have resulted in successful yearly reaccreditation of TCC's veterinary academic programs.

Recognizing that innovative pedagogy to support the working student demographic only works if financial limitations are eliminated, Dr. Taliaferro has also worked to increase scholarship funding for veterinary technology students. In 2020, Dr. Taliaferro secured the Thomas Ammons Scholarship for Veterinary Technology, which funds two \$5000 scholarships for veterinary technology students each year.

In addition to her current students, Dr. Taliaferro believes in the importance of continuing to educate and support her growing alumni network. The veterinary department at TCC hosts the Virginia Licensed Veterinary Technician Association's annual fall conference. This conference brings together experts in veterinary medicine to educate veterinary technicians across Virginia.

Service

Dr. Taliaferro has demonstrated a strong commitment to both the field of veterinary medicine and the students in her charge. She secured a \$143,000 2023 VCCS G3 Innovation Grant to address urgent labor needs in the veterinary health care field. The G3 grant will expand the animal treatment area of the TCC veterinary department and create the addition of a second hi-flex classroom. These modifications will allow the TCC veterinary program to expand, increase the number of graduates, and provide the pet-owning community of Hampton Roads with much needed veterinary professionals.

Dr. Taliaferro is also dedicated to animal welfare, including the patients used in TCC's veterinary program. As the attending veterinarian for TCC's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee she has developed and implemented over seventy-seven standard operating procedures for animal husbandry and care. These standards detail fair treatment of all animals used in the program including limiting animal repetitions, assigning lead instructors to manage animal pain and distress, and promoting low-stress animal handling techniques.

As a testimony to her efforts to support animal welfare, she was awarded the Thomas M. Ammons III Award for Animal Welfare in 2021 by the Norfolk SPCA. This award recognizes individuals who have made a difference in animal protection and welfare in the Hampton Roads community.

Dr. Taliaferro also cares deeply for the TCC community and the success of all TCC students. She is a member of the Program Prioritization and Assessment Committee (2021-Present) which seeks to prioritize and enhance key academic programs at the College. Her numerous awards at TCC are a testament to her commitment to the College and student success. She has been the recipient of the 2016 Faculty Reward for College and Community Service, the 2017 Special Achievement Award, 2022 Faculty Leadership Award, and 2023 Faculty Reward for Professional Excellence in Institutional Responsibility.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I entered veterinary medicine because I love animals, but becoming a teacher is what finally taught me to love people too. I realize this is a strange statement to make. And to be honest, I never truly disliked people. I had plenty of friends growing up and enjoyed getting to know colleagues in school and in the workplace. I thought humans were okay, but I always thought animals were amazing. Animals radiated unconditional love, companionship, and kindness and people, well, people could be tricky. I knew what a dog wanted when he looked up at me with his sweet, soft eyes and wagging tail. I found humans to be so much harder to read. Learning the ins and outs of animal behavior paled in comparison to navigating the cutthroat world of middle school lunchroom politics.

I was so enamored with animals that at the ripe old age of eight, I proudly announced to my parents that I would one day be a veterinarian. My parents chalked it up to a phase, like a kid saying they wanted to be a police officer or a fireman or an astronaut when they grow up. Most kids change course along the way.

But I never wavered in my desire to help animals. I found my first job as a kennel attendant at a local vet office when I turned sixteen. Dog walking turned into veterinary assisting and then, many years later, I became a licensed veterinarian. I was living my dream of helping animals – the very life that I imagined when I was just eight years old.

After thirteen years of practicing small animal medicine, I still woke up every day eager to help animals, but I also started to look forward to helping the interns at my practice too. I felt a thrill when I would show a student a new skill or help them work through their first case. I would beam with pride when they managed a patient on their own; my pride even stronger than if I had managed that patient myself. This surprising, unexpected tug towards teaching became a new passion and when I was offered the opportunity to create and develop a new veterinary department at Tidewater Community College, I jumped at the chance.

I initially taught the way I was taught – boring, staid lectures. I would stand at the front of the classroom with a power point, a laser pointer, and my droning voice. I watched the students' eyes glaze over, but I didn't worry about it too much. My eyes glazed over in school, and I turned out okay, didn't I? I expected prompt, weekly attendance at my lectures. I didn't miss many lectures in undergraduate or graduate school, so why should they? Of course, I wasn't working during my schooling and my parents were generously paying my tuition, but I quickly discounted those advantages.

It took me less than a year to see that this teaching philosophy wouldn't work with the average community college student who was already less likely to graduate than a student at a four-year institution due to the pressures of balancing education, work, and family. My first eye-opening experience occurred in my second semester of teaching. A student didn't take a test on Canvas by the due date. A zero on the exam meant he would fail the course and be dropped from the veterinary program. When I confronted him about his irresponsibility, he mentioned that he had lost power in his apartment due to a storm. No power equals no internet. No internet meant no Canvas test access. I blithely responded that he should have driven to a Starbucks for free Wi-Fi, already dismissing his story as a lazy excuse. When he mentioned that he didn't have a car and didn't have the extra money for bus fare, I was simultaneously stunned and ashamed of my lack of perspective. His story reminded me of that poem, "For want of a nail the shoe was lost..." For want of a bus fare, the class was failed. For want of a class, the degree was lost.

That was my first introduction to marginalized students, but it wouldn't be my last. As a new professor, I was still learning how to write a syllabus, create a Canvas course, and utilize a rubric, but I also made time to dive into the world of educational equity – attending VCCS lectures and continuing education to figure out what those words meant and how they applied to my students. Research by Thomas Bailey, Shanna Jagers, and Davis Jenkins in the community college system influenced my pedagogical ideology – give my students a chance and they can succeed just like anyone. I acknowledged the barriers my students faced in their educational journey and the many small, daily ways I could reduce and eliminate those barriers. I also could not compare my students to my own educational background, which came from a place of invisible privilege. I soon embraced a compassionate learning environment that valued equity.

My students astonish and impress me every day. Every student in the veterinary technology program works full-time, most are parents and almost all are first-generation college students. They are constantly navigating obstacles that most four-year college students (and professors) wouldn't even need to consider. What do you do if your car breaks down, you can't afford the repair, and you have to get to campus to take an exam? How do you graduate from a program that has a zero-tolerance attendance policy when you're a single parent with a sick child? Educational equity, to me, means that every student in the veterinary science department at TCC is given the opportunity to develop to their full academic potential. What does this look like in reality? It means my students can decide on a week-by-week basis if they want to attend a class in person or online. This means transforming a weekly, formal laboratory class to laboratory exercises that can be practiced in the veterinary simulation lab on a student's own time. This looks like advocating for scholarships for veterinary students from local patrons and the state. I may not be able to remove every obstacle in my students' paths, but I will always be their champion, looking for ways to add more equity-based instruction into TCC's veterinary program.

I started off this essay discussing how I fell in love with people, but I haven't forgotten my first love – the animals. Veterinary medicine is in the midst of a crisis. There is a current shortage of 59,000 licensed veterinary technicians in the US and an estimated 75 million pets in the US may not have access to veterinary care by 2030. I look at teaching as not only helping my students achieve a better life by earning a credential or degree, but also as a way to produce veterinary professionals that help animals. When I practiced clinical medicine, I would treat 8-12 patients per day. Now, I graduate 65 veterinary assistants and technicians each year that go on to help many animals each day. My career change to teaching has meant that I've had a larger impact on animal welfare than I ever did as a solo veterinarian.

Although I am so proud of the department and programs I've built at TCC, I'm even more proud of my students. They may be first generation college students, but they truly belong in higher education. I embrace my role as student champion and passionate advocate for educational equity. The community of veterinary medicine is stronger with the addition of these driven students who, with a little help from me, have conquered every obstacle in their path. I may have started my career as a veterinarian, but I am now proud to call myself a teacher.

Megan A. Taliaferro, DVM Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

- August 2002, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, Blacksburg, VA
- August 1998, B.S. in Biology, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg VA

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **2015-Present, Veterinary Science Department Program Head**
Tidewater Community College, Virginia Beach Campus
- **2015-Present, Professor**
Tidewater Community College, Virginia Beach Campus
Courses taught:
 - VET 100 Introduction to Animal Science Lecture (10 sections)
 - VET 100 Introduction to Animal Science Laboratory (16 sections)
 - VET 101 Introduction to Veterinary Assisting Lecture (4 sections)
 - VET 102 Care and Maintenance of Small Domestic Animals Lecture (10 sections)
 - VET 103 Veterinary Office Assisting Lecture (15 sections)
 - VET 190 Coordinated Internship in Veterinary Assisting Lecture (3 sections)
 - VET 111 Anatomy and Physiology of Domestic Animals Lecture (5 sections)
 - VET 111 Anatomy and Physiology of Domestic Animals Laboratory (10 sections)
 - VET 115 Laboratory Techniques I Lecture (5 sections)
 - VET 115 Laboratory Techniques I Laboratory (10 sections)
 - VET 116 Animal Breeds and Behavior Lecture (5 sections)
 - VET 121 Clinical Practices I Lecture (5 sections)
 - VET 121 Clinical Practices I Laboratory (9 sections)
 - VET 212 Animal Disease II Lecture (5 sections)
 - VET 212 Animal Disease II Laboratory (8 sections)
 - VET 215 Laboratory Techniques II Lecture (5 sections)
 - VET 215 Laboratory Techniques II Laboratory (10 sections)
 - VET 216 Animal Pharmacology Lecture (5 sections)
 - VET 290 Coordinated Internship in Veterinary Technology Lecture (3 sections)
- **2022-Present, Instructor**
Laboratory Animal Science Program
Eastern Virginia Medical School, Norfolk VA
Courses taught:
 - MLAS 513 Comparative Anatomy and Physiology (2 sections)

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

- 2010-2015 Associate Veterinarian, Nansemond Veterinary Clinic, Suffolk VA
- 2007-2010 Associate Veterinarian, Banfield of Chesterfield, Richmond VA
- 2007 Emergency Veterinarian, Veterinary Referral and Critical Care, Richmond VA
- 2003-2005 Emergency Veterinarian, Woodbridge Animal Hospital, Woodbridge, VA

- 2002-2003 Associate Veterinarian, Crosspointe Animal Hospital, Lorton, VA

GRANTS

- 2023, G3 Innovation Grant, Virginia Community College System, \$143,000
- 2021, Batten Fellowship for Technological Innovation and Leadership Grant, Tidewater Community College, \$20,000

PUBLICATION

Taliaferro, M. (2023). Use of a Clinical Skills Training Center to Supplement a Distributive Model of Education in a Veterinary Technology Program. *Inquiry: The Journal of the Virginia Community Colleges*, 26 (1). Retrieved from <https://commons.vccs.edu/inquiry/vol26/iss1/7>

PRESENTATIONS

- 2023, Using Technology in the Classroom and Laboratory to Blend Distance and Traditional Learning for a Clinical, Hands-On Training Program, Tidewater Community College Center for Teaching Excellence Seminar Series
- 2023, All Creatures Great and Small: The Remarkable Human Animal Bond, WHRO Fall Lecture Series
- 2020, Teaching and Advising Students via Zoom and Canvas Studio, Tidewater Community College Learning Institute

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2023, Faculty Reward for Professional Excellence in Institutional Responsibility, Tidewater Community College
- 2022, Faculty Leadership Award, Tidewater Community College
- 2021, Thomas M. Ammons III Award for Animal Welfare, Norfolk SPCA
- 2019, Faculty Reward for Professional Excellence in Teaching, Tidewater Community College
- 2017, Faculty Special Achievement Award, Tidewater Community College
- 2016, Faculty Reward for College and Community Service, Tidewater Community College

PUBLIC AND COLLEGE SERVICE

- 2017-Present, Attending Veterinarian, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, Tidewater Community College
- 2021-Present, Program Prioritization and Assessment Committee, Tidewater Community College
- 2021-Present, Public Relations Subcommittee, Virginia Veterinary Medical Association
- 2021-Present, Licensed Veterinary Technician Shortage Subcommittee, Virginia Veterinary Medical Association
- 2021-Present, Faculty Sponsor, Virginia Licensed Veterinary Technician Association Fall Conference

EXCERPTED LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Marcia Conston, Ph.D., President, Tidewater Community College Dr. Taliaferro represents the highest standards of teaching, scholarship, and service that the award embodies. She is an innovator in the classroom, utilizing technology in creative ways to support the needs of a diverse student population. Her passion for educational accessibility has reduced barriers for veterinary students at TCC, ensuring that everyone has access to a quality education, regardless of background. Beyond the classroom, Dr. Taliaferro serves as an ambassador for TCC and the multiple partnerships she has secured. Her involvement and outreach efforts have strengthened our institution's ties with the local veterinary community. Dr. Taliaferro's commitment to excellence in teaching, expertise in veterinary medicine, and innovative approach to education have enhanced the veterinary programs at TCC.

Siabhon M. Harris, Ph.D., Dean of Natural Sciences, Tidewater Community College One of Dr. Taliaferro's most striking attributes is her steadfast commitment to her students. Her approach to the role of an educator is nothing short of inspiring. Dr. Taliaferro consistently goes above and beyond to ensure that her students receive the necessary guidance and support for their academic success. Her capabilities have led to an impressive 96% student retention rate, underscoring her exceptional teaching and mentoring abilities. Dr. Taliaferro's visionary approach to curriculum development, coupled with her unwavering commitment to excellence, has led to the establishment of nationally accredited veterinary educational programs that are unmatched in quality. Her tireless efforts to enhance educational accessibility, especially for marginalized students, have proven instrumental in addressing the workforce shortages plaguing the veterinary field. Furthermore, Dr. Taliaferro's innovative utilization of technology to facilitate flexible attendance options for students stands as a testament to her commitment to dismantling educational barriers. Her work has not only boosted student retention rates but has also set a new standard for educational inclusivity. Her research and scholarly contributions have left a significant imprint and have contributed to the advancement of the field.

Michelle Woodhouse, Chief Academic Officer, Tidewater Community College Dr. Taliaferro is a seasoned professional and is well respected by her peers and beloved by her students. All who get to know her recognize her kind demeanor and ability to help students succeed in all Vet-related courses. She has given several workshops at the college and within the community. She is engaged and dedicated to providing quality teaching at TCC. Dr. Taliaferro has served diligently on various committees at TCC, including Program Prioritization, Instruction, and Assessment. I cannot think of a more deserving faculty member than Dr. Megan Taliaferro for this prestigious award. She exemplifies excellence in scholarly teaching and research and acts with the highest integrity and honor.

Greg Frank, Emeritus Dean, Tidewater Community College Dr. Taliaferro is one of the most dedicated professors I have ever seen. She often holds tutoring sessions to help ensure her students' success – even transitioning to weekly zoom tutoring sessions during the pandemic to keep her students on track with their learning. Her dedication to her students has resulted in one of the best pass rates in the country on the Veterinary Technician National Examination. In addition, she has received glowing reviews from the national veterinary accrediting teams.

Noah Meyers, LVT, Instructor, Veterinary Technology Program, Tidewater Community College Under her leadership, the program boasts a remarkable 92% 3-year average pass rate for the Veterinary Technician National Examination – a testament to her exceptional skills in

curriculum development and student preparation. She ensures her students not only receive an excellent education but are also impeccably prepared for their future careers. Her teaching methodologies, rooted in her years of hands-on veterinary experience, focus on engaging and student-centric approaches, consistently inspiring her pupils to attain their fullest potential both academically and professionally.

Patricia Seeger, LVT, Assistant Professor, Veterinary Technology Program, Tidewater Community College Dr. Taliaferro's tenure at Tidewater Community College has been marked by her unwavering passion for education and her genuine desire to empower her students. Through her nurturing and intellectually stimulating approach, she instills a strong work ethic, critical thinking skills, and a sense of responsibility in her students, preparing them to excel in their chosen field. Her commitment to innovation within the Veterinary Technology Program is truly commendable. Dr. Taliaferro continuously updates the curriculum to incorporate industry best practices, emerging technologies, and advancements in veterinary medicine. Her insights and dedication have been instrumental in maintaining the program's reputation as a center of excellence in veterinary technology education.

Lacy Shirey, Executive Director, Chesapeake Humane Society Chesapeake Humane Society has partnered with Dr. Taliaferro and her Tidewater Community College team on various programs and initiatives, most notably their Licensed Veterinary Technician and Veterinary Assistant programs. Several of our staff members have gone through her program, and many of them began working with us as an intern. This past January, I invited Dr. Taliaferro to be a guest speaker for an event at our local public radio station, WHRO. I knew she was a great speaker, but I realized at that event how much compassion and empathy she brings to the world of veterinary medicine and in her role as an educator.

Marcie Willis, LVT, 2021 Veterinary Technology Program Graduate I cannot express enough the admiration that I have for Dr. Taliaferro. She is a genuinely caring teacher that is attentive to her students' needs and continuously stays up to date with the latest veterinary technology information. Dr. Taliaferro makes each class fun and engaging with her interactive and energetic teaching style. I have never experienced a more dedicated teacher than Dr. Taliaferro

Analee Lanz, First Year Veterinary Technology Student, Tidewater Community College Dr. Taliaferro is my go-to person if I have a question regarding veterinary medicine and I know that she will find an answer if she does not know it on the spot. She has done this for me numerous times as I have a very curious mind. Her classes are always captivating, and she has a real talent of keeping her students engaged. Being a college instructor, I never would have expected to have her personal cell phone number. At orientation for this program, she had everyone program her phone number in their phones and advised us that we could reach out to her any time we needed to.

Stephanie Bailey, Second Year Veterinary Technology Student, Tidewater Community College After having Dr. T for many classes in the past two years I am spoiled as a student. She responds promptly to questions, grades assignments faster than you would think possible, and is a great lecturer. Dr. T's strengths are enthusiasm for subject matter, organization, flexibility (within reason), and compassion. She shows excitement when speaking about her favorite areas of veterinary medicine, and there are many. I would describe her lecture style as 'dynamic'. You don't have time to lose focus, she keeps you engaged and learning.