



INCREASING DIVERSITY – TO REFLECT CALIFORNIA’S POPULATION

Diversity = the variety of personal experiences, values, and worldviews that arise from differences of culture and circumstance. Such differences include race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, language, abilities/disabilities, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, and geographic region.

The University has determined if it is to serve the interests of the State of California, it must seek to achieve diversity among its student bodies and among its employees. Diversity is integral to the University’s achievement of excellence. At the School, Associate Dean Sean Owens and Diversity Officer Yasmin Williams are leading efforts to promote diversity within our student population by developing pipelines to increase the number of underrepresented students and fostering a supportive and inclusive learning environment. Multiple strategies have been identified including:

Creation of a Multi-Cultural Advisory Board – Potential board members are being identified to assist the School in developing activities and initiatives to support students and engage the School community on the unique challenges and advantages of a multi-cultural population.

Development of a Multi-Cultural Seminar Series - to begin spring 2015, campus and outside speakers will be invited to share their experiences and perspectives to promote multi-cultural and diversity awareness. The first speaker, Mikael Villalobos, Administrator of Diversity Education at UC Davis, has extensive experience in social justice work and diversity education.

On-line Training Certificate Program – this initiative partners with the Center for Diversity and Inclusion in Veterinary Medicine at Purdue University’s College of Veterinary Medicine. The training program is designed to provide veterinary students, professionals and support staff with skills in communication, leadership, teaching and learning, and cultural competency. This initiative will be formally launched at the School in late January 2015. Funding has been committed to support ten students and ten faculty participants.

STUDENT LEAD EFFORTS TO IMPROVE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVENESS

Establishment of a “VOICE” Chapter – the UC Davis Veterinary Students as One in Culture and Ethnicity (VOICE) Chapter was formally launched last year and is currently led by seven very dedicated students. The VOICE Chapter is part of a national organization working to increase awareness and sensitivity to socio-cultural issues and celebrate multiculturalism in the veterinary profession.



As one of their first initiatives, VOICE is establishing a **mentorship program** for UC Davis pre-veterinary students. VOICE students have linked up with UC Davis Pre-veterinary Students Supporting Diversity and with Early Academic Outreach Program students enrolled in animal science and the biological sciences to mentor them on pre-vet requirements, application tips and encourage them in their pursuit of a veterinary education. Faculty member Lillian Cruz-Orengo will be working with program leaders to identify and encourage faculty colleagues to become mentors through this initiative. The goal is to create a strong cadre of faculty and students to provide on-going advice and support to increase applications from multi-cultural candidates to veterinary school.

Recently the VOICE Chapter, Lesbian, Gay, Veterinary Medical Association (LGVMA) Club, and the Veterinary Student Outreach (VSO) Club have joined together to develop a **Coalition of Veterinary Students for Diversity and Inclusiveness**. The individual club activities are often geared to smaller audiences and one-on-one support. In contrast, the Coalition's activities and seminars will promote broad awareness and sensitivity for the entire School community of faculty, staff and students.

EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE DIVERSE STUDENT POPULATIONS IN VETERINARY MEDICINE

The School is working on many fronts to increase the interest in math, science and especially veterinary medicine by high school and undergraduate college students as a key strategy for diversifying the veterinary community. Specific efforts include:

California State Summer School for Mathematics and Science (COSMOS)

The School regularly participates in the COSMOS program for high school students in the "biomedical cluster." This four-week residential program allows students who excel in math and science to work with veterinary and human medicine faculty and students to learn more about the fields. To date eight participants of this program have gone on to veterinary school.

Veterinary Medicine Exploration Academy

The academy, part of the UC Davis Early Academic Outreach Program, annually provides high school students with a first-hand look at the fields of study that make up veterinary medical education. This three-day program challenges students to engage and learn as participants in laboratory practical analysis, anatomy review, pathology, radiology and a variety of lectures presented by veterinary faculty, graduate students and staff.



Pre-Vet Students Visit Campus

More than 8,000 undergraduate underrepresented students attended the 12th Annual Pre-Medical and Pre-Health Professions Conference last October. The conference included advisors from more than 500 U.S. medical, dental, pharmacy, nursing, veterinary and public health schools. Featured speakers from the nation's leading health-care voices included Richard Carmona, the 17th United States surgeon general, and Barbara Numann, the first woman president of the American College of Surgeons. The conference consisted of 350 workshops and panel discussions, of which 58 were focused on a broad array of veterinary medical topics. More than 800 students attended the veterinary sessions.



For more information on the Diversity initiatives and activities
keep checking back at:

<http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/students/diversity/index.cfm>