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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Announcing Vermont Veterinary Student Scholarships**

Students graduating veterinary school generally have an extraordinary debt load, with some students having borrowed up \$350,00. This is a crushing amount of debt for young veterinarians just starting out in their career and can take decades to pay off.

The Vermont Veterinary Medical Association Foundation's mission is to provide scholarships for Vermonters attending veterinary school to help lower the debt load they face upon graduation. Applicants are chosen based on their overall burden of debt, academic achievement, desire to return to practice in Vermont, and their ability to overcome obstacles which confront them upon entering the veterinary profession. Funds are raised through contributions from veterinarians in Vermont and from the New England Veterinary Medical Association Conference.

Since its establishment in 2012, the VVMAF has contributed \$56,000 to Vermonters attending veterinary school. The number of scholarship applicants in 2018 exceeded the number of awards given, and it was a difficult task to make the decision this year among extraordinary candidates.

The VVMAF is pleased to announce the recipients of their 2018 scholarships:

**Heather Curley of Jericho** is a senior at the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine. She plans to work in Vermont at either a small or mixed animal practice. She has strong ties to Vermont and the VVMA and volunteered at the VVMA Summer Meeting in 2017.

**Melissa Trayah of Colchester** is a junior at Tufts University Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine. She plans to become a radiologist and work in Vermont after going through a radiology residency. She has worked at multiple referral hospitals in the Burlington area.

Congratulations to these Vermont students!

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