

Vermont Veterinary Medical Association Foundation, Inc.

88 Beech Street Essex Jct., VT 05452 (802) 878-6888 Kathy@vtvets.org www.vtvets.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Kathy Finnie, Executive Director
Vermont Veterinary Medical Association Foundation
802-878-6888
Kathy@vtvets.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - August 6, 2015

Announcing Vermont Veterinary Student Scholarships

Students graduating veterinary school have an average student loan debt of over \$162,000 according to a survey of the American Veterinary Medical Association. 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 \$39,000 to Vermonters attending veterinary school. The number of scholarship applicants in 2015 far 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 2015 scholarships:

Rebecca Calder of Shelburne is a senior at the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine and a graduate of the University of Vermont;

Megan Haughy of Richford is a senior at Oklahoma State University and a graduate of the University of Vermont;

Madalyn Kirbach of Mendon is a senior at Oklahoma State University and a graduate of Castleton State College;

Jessica Werner of Middlebury is a junior at Colorado State University and a graduate of Colby College.

Congratulations to these Vermont students!