



Vermilion Community College Veterinary Technician Program

**Submitted by Jessi Kainz, CVT, VCC Vet
Tech Program**

This fall Vermilion Community College started the first semester of the new Veterinary Technician Program. The program, designed by Dr. Peter Hughes has been a huge success. The school currently has 23 students enrolled in the program. Twenty of those students are female! Students are currently taking Medical Terminology, Chemistry, Interpersonal Communication, Introduction to Veterinary Technology and Animal Husbandry. Animal Husbandry lab, by far,

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Message from Branch President, Pam Brunfelt

The year is off to a great start! Ruby Wahlsberg reminded us why it is important to support young women from the area in their pursuit of an education. Her presentation about NCWSSL at our September meeting was excellent. She was poised and organized. She said her experiences at the conference were life changing. The committee made an excellent choice, and she represented the Ely branch very well.

Sarah Guy Levar entertained us at our October meeting. She is so funny and well spoken. Her passion for her art showed through as she discussed her fascination with and love of watercolor painting. I remember using watercolor paints in school, but I never came remotely close to creating works of art as beautiful as Sarah's paintings. It was a wonderful program.

Thanks to the efforts of Marge Forsberg, we are once again poised to have a successful fundraiser for our scholarship initiatives. We have sold 100 coupon books and will participate in the sale days at Herbergers in Virginia. If you have not yet bought books, you will have another opportunity early in 2018.

has been the favorite for the students. In lab, they get to have hands on experience learning how to read animal behavior, practicing basic restraints, and learning how to care for them.

Vermilion Community College currently has two full time faculty members running the program and teaching students. Dr. Peter Hughes has spent the last year and half developing the program, designing laboratory space, teaching, and getting things ready for our accreditation in the fall of 2019. Jessi Kainz CVT was hired this summer and has been working on the schools Institutional Animal Care and Use Program, teaching, and forming the student chapter for the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (SCNAVTA).

In the following semesters, the students will delve deeper into nursing care, laboratory analysis, surgical care, dentistry, radiology and so much more!

The class has homemade dog toys available for \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00 and cat toys at 2 for \$3.00. All proceeds go towards the Vet Tech Program to make fundraising and community events possible, for example, homemade dog treats, bath and nail trims for the community dogs, and a Vet Tech Scholarship. If interested in getting your furry friend a toy, email Jessica.kainz@vcc.edu and she can make pickup or delivery to AAUW branch meeting arrangements.

If you have not yet seen the movie *Hidden Figures* or read the book of the same name, we might want to do so by the end of the year. We will be discussing the book during the January 9 meeting.

Laura Moberly has been so busy providing leadership to the Northern Lakes Arts Association that she has stepped back from AAUW for a time. As a result, we need someone to do publicity for us. It primarily involves sending out meeting announcements to the newspapers and preparing a few press releases for our bigger events. Please consider volunteering for this important board position.

Upcoming Events

**Ely Branch Meeting and Program
Tuesday, November 14, 6:45 pm Social,
7:00 pm Meeting
VCC, CL 124**

Increasing Rural Family Physicians and Vietnam War Veteran's Understanding of Agent Orange Exposure and Diabetes Mellitus Type 2 – Linda Olson Bergum, M.D. (and AAUW Member), Kirsten Larson, MS4 and Kayla Schenheit, MS4, University of Minnesota Medical School

The 7.2 million Vietnam veterans living in the United States currently comprise the largest group of veterans in the country. Research has found that veterans exposed to Agent Orange and similar herbicides have a higher prevalence of diabetes, several types of cancer, and many other chronic diseases.

Many veterans have not received healthcare for their Agent Orange related diseases, such as Type 2 Diabetes, because they are unaware that it is now covered by the VA. The Agent Orange Act, passed in 1991, allowed the treatment of many diseases caused by Agent Orange exposure to be covered by the VA. Type 2 Diabetes was not added to that list of diseases until the year 2000. Many Vietnam Veterans applied for coverage for their Type 2 Diabetes prior to the year 2000, and were denied. Many of these individuals have not been informed of the policy change that occurred in the year 2000.

Due to the recent passing of the Veteran Access to Care Act of 2014, more veterans are able to receive their healthcare at non-VA affiliated healthcare facilities. Because of this, the number of veterans seen by non-VA facilities is expected to rise. Many family physicians caring for patients who served in Vietnam may not be



fully aware of the impact of Agent Orange and its correlation to Diabetes Mellitus Type 2. There is a need for education of physicians about the effects of Agent Orange, and the fact that Vietnam veterans are eligible for benefits through the VA.

Our presentation will address the chemical known as Agent Orange. We will discuss its mechanism of action, how it causes adverse health effects in humans through the toxic compound dioxin, and the health conditions that are associated with exposure to Agent Orange.

Following that introduction to Agent Orange, our project goals and results will be presented and discussed: 1. A literature review of Agent Orange Exposure and its correlation to Type 2 Diabetes, 2. An explanation of the Veteran Access to Care Act of 2014 and the impact it has had on family physicians, 3. The results of our interviews of 15+ Vietnam Veterans affected by Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus.

AAUW Ely Holiday Party, Tuesday, November 14

AAUW
Ely (MN) Branch

HOLIDAY PARTY
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12
GRAND ELY LODGE

SOCIAL: 6:00 P.M.
DINNER: 6:30 P.M.

ENTERTAINMENT: HOLIDAY FAMILY FEUD
MEAL: TRADITIONAL TURKEY DINNER

COST: MEMBERS - \$20.00
VCC STUDENTS - COST COVERED BY
DONATIONS FROM AAUW
MEMBERS

RSVP: Barb Soderberg at 218-343-0609 or
barbsoderberg@yahoo.com by December 5th.

AAUW Mission: AAUW Advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

Value Promise: By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers to that all women have a fair chance.

Ely Branch Meeting and Program Tuesday, January 9, 6:45 pm Social, 7:00 pm Meeting VCC,CL124

"Hidden Figures" Review/Discussion (Book or Movie



The Program Committee suggests that you read the book and/or watch the movie, ***Hidden Figures***, prior to the January meeting. Perhaps members could get together for popcorn and a viewing of the movie! Of course, come to the meeting to participate in the discussion even if you haven't read the book or seen the movie. For those who have already read *Hidden Figures*, an alternative book to read is *Rocket Girl* which has similar themes.

Public Policy

AAUW on Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence in School

AAUW advocates for equitable climates free from harassment and bullying, as well as freedom from violence and fear of violence in schools.

AAUW believes that educational equity for women and girls requires fully developed campus sexual assault policies, knowledgeable administrators, and ultimately an end to sexual violence on campuses. There are currently three major pieces of legislation that assist in developing and enforcing these policies:

- Title IX requires schools to evaluate their current practices, adopt and publish a policy against sex

discrimination, and implement grievance procedures providing for prompt and equitable resolution of student and employee discrimination complaints. Sex discrimination includes sexual violence.

- Clery Act requires colleges and universities who participate in federal financial aid programs to disclose campus crime statistics and security information.
- Violence Against Women Act requires schools to report crime statistics on domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, update procedures following an incident of sexual violence, and provide prevention and bystander intervention training to all students and employees.

AAUW's research report ***Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School*** confirmed that sexual harassment is part of everyday life in middle and high schools. Forty eight percent of the students surveyed experienced some form of sexual harassment in the 2010–11 school year, and eighty seven percent said it had a negative effect on them. Girls were more likely than boys to be sexually harassed, by a significant margin. Half of students who were sexually harassed in the 2010–11 school year said they did nothing afterward in response to sexual harassment. AAUW analyzed the 2013–14 data from the Civil Rights Data Collection, focusing on public schools with students in grades 7-12. The analysis revealed that more than seventy nine percent of all public schools reported zero incidents of sexual harassment. Seventy six percent of Minnesota schools reported zero incidents — an outcome that is statistically impossible.

Harassment or bullying policies and a Title IX coordinator are both associated with a higher likelihood of students coming forward to report incidents of sexual harassment in schools. Title IX coordinators must receive the necessary funding and support to ensure schools are complying with the law and addressing sexual harassment.

Pending Legislation

Proposed legislation at the **Minnesota state level:** The next session will begin a new biennium requiring any pending legislation to be resubmitted beginning February 2018.

Proposed legislation at the **National level:** S1421: The Gender Equity in Education Act (GEEA) of 2017, introduced by Sen. Mazie

Hirono (D-HI) and Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY), takes the necessary steps to provide more resources, training, and technical assistance to support gender equity work in our schools. Please consider telling Representative Nolan, Senator Klobuchar and Senator Franken to cosponsor this bill. Through the AAUW website **Take Action** page, you can tell your members of Congress to cosponsor the GEEA and strengthen Title IX.

AAUW National Initiatives

In addition to lobbying and testifying, AAUW provides the following tools to support ending sexual harassment and sexual violence:

- Know Your Rights on Campus (<https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/legal-resources/know-your-rights-on-campus/campus-sexual-assault/>)
- Ending Campus Sexual Assault Tool Kit (<https://www.aauw.org/resource/campus-sexual-assault-tool-kit/>)
- Title IX Resources for schools (<https://www.aauw.org/resource/titleix-delivery/>)

Additional efforts supported by or in partnership with AAUW:

- Center for Changing Campus Culture (<http://changingourcampus.org>)
- It's on Us — AAUW is proud to be a part of this growing movement, which reframes sexual assault in a way that inspires everyone to see it as their responsibility to do something, big or small, to prevent it.
- NotAlone.gov – White House project that includes information for students, schools, and anyone interested in finding resources on how to respond to and prevent sexual assault.

Ely Branch Initiatives

AAUW and EMPOWER jointly sponsored a program on human trafficking at VCC. The speaker was a representative from PAVSA and the Human Trafficking Task Force in Duluth. She gave an overview of human trafficking, with an emphasis on the prevalence of human trafficking in Duluth and surrounding areas. She also talked about the MN Safe Harbor Legislation and actions we can take to address human trafficking in our

communities. The audience included AAUW and EMPOWER members along with about 30 VCC students, mostly students in the VCC Law Enforcement group.

As the Ely branch, we may want to consider one of the following ideas to support this public policy priority:

- **Apply for** and receive up to \$750 to hold an event about sexual assault on a local campus.
- **The Clothesline Project** — Have people affected by sexual violence decorate a shirt and hang it on a public clothesline as testimony to the problem of sexual violence.
- **V-Day** — Hold a performance or a film screening to raise awareness about violence against women and girls.
- **White Ribbon Campaign** — Wear a white ribbon, and make a personal pledge to “never commit, condone, or remain silent about violence against women and girls.”
- **Take Back the Night** — Take part in this after-dark march that is popular on college campuses, and make a statement that women have the right to be in public at night without the risk of sexual violence.
- **International Day against Victim-Blaming** — Use the hashtag #EndVictimBlaming on April 3, the online day of action to speak out against victim-blaming and to support survivors, and get involved through social media.
- **Denim Day in LA and USA** — Wear jeans on April 23 to protest and raise awareness of the misconceptions that surround sexual assault. Order the Denim Day Tool Kit, and raise awareness in your workplace, neighborhood, or community.

Submitted by Mary Setterholm, VP Public Policy

Membership News

- **Judy Viken** has a new email address: judyevaviken@gmail.com
- Add **Nan Snyder** to your membership list. Nan's email address is

whitshell@aol.com Nan's telephone number is 218.343.5032.

We have some very interesting programs and events upcoming that are good opportunities to invite someone to attend and consider joining AAUW. Contact Phyllis Olson at olsonpr@frontiernet.net or 218.365.5693 for a membership brochure.

Dates to Remember

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Ely Branch Meeting - Increasing Rural Family Physicians and Vietnam War Veteran's Understanding of Agent Orange Exposure and Diabetes Mellitus Type 2 – Linda Olson Bergum, M.D., Kirsten Larson, MS4 and Kayla Schenheit, MS4, University of Minnesota Medical School
VCC, Room 124

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Branch Holiday Party
Grand Ely Lodge, 6:00 p.m. Social and 6:30 Dinner

Tuesday, January 9, 2017

Ely Branch Meeting - "Hidden Figures"
review/discussion (movie or book)
VCC, Room 124

April 27-28, 2018

AAUW MN State Convention
Faribault, MN



Teresa K Sagen

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