Lecture

Preparing students for a lifelong profession. Using microcredentials and educational tracks.

Jennifer Serling

MVEd, BVSc, CVT, RVT, VTES, FVTE

Ann Wortinger

BIS, LVT, VTS (ECC)-R(SAIM)(Nutrition), Elite FFCP, FVTE

In today’s rapidly evolving veterinary field, the skills our students graduate with are just the beginning of their professional journey. To truly prepare them for a lifelong career, we must equip them with the tools to continually adapt, grow, and specialize. This session will explore how microcredentials and clearly defined educational tracks can create a flexible, personalized pathway for students—allowing them to build targeted expertise, demonstrate mastery in emerging areas, and remain competitive in a changing job market. Together, we’ll examine how these approaches not only enhance initial education, but also foster a culture of lifelong learning that supports our graduates throughout their careers.

Bio

Jennifer Serling

MVEd, BVSc, CVT, RVT, VTES, FVTE

A person wearing a green jacket

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Jennifer Serling has been a credentialed veterinary technician since 1992. Her specialty is in large animal nursing however her vast experience encompasses all facets of veterinary medicine. She has been a veterinary technician educator since 2007. Jennifer has a bachelor’s in veterinary science from the University of Arizona and an associate of science from Penn Foster College’s Veterinary Technician Program. She holds a Master in Veterinary Education from Lincoln Memorial University. She was the program director for a veterinary technician school in Tucson Arizona for 11 years prior to joining the Appalachian State University Veterinary Technology program as it’s Assistant Director and was promoted to Director in 2024. Jennifer has written two veterinary technician textbooks for Bluedoor Publishing on pharmacology and large animal medicine and nursing and contributed to several others. In addition to teaching and writing, she is a firm believer in giving back to the community and serves on the board of directors for three animal welfare and rescue groups as well as donating her time to several veterinary charity events and veterinary committees throughout the year. Her passion is large animals and she absolutely loves sharing that excitement with her students. Jennifer is a nationally known speaker delivering engaging talks on large animal medicine as well as veterinary technology education. Jennifer is the immediate Past President for the Association of Veterinary Technician Educators (AVTE). She is president-elect for the Arizona Veterinary Technician Association. She is also a founding member of the Academy of Veterinary Technician Specialists in Education (AVTSE) and holds the advanced certification of VTES (Veterinary Technician Education Specialist) as well as a Fellows designation from AVTE. Jennifer currently resides in Tucson Arizona.

Bio

Ann Wortinger

BIS, LVT, VTS (ECC)-R(SAIM)(Nutrition), Elite FFCP, FVTE

A person smiling at camera

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Ann is a 1983 graduate of Michigan State University and got her specialty certification in Emergency/Critical Care in 2000, in Small Animal Internal Medicine in 2008, and in Nutrition in 2013.

She has worked in general, emergency, specialty practice, and education. Ann is active in her state, national, and specialty organizations, serving as a mentor and on a variety of committees and positions. She is currently employed at Appalachian State University in the Veterinary Technology Program

She has over 60 published articles in various professional magazines, as well as book chapters and a Nutrition book for veterinary technicians in its third edition.