

GUEST COLUMN BY ROBERT GARZA, PH.D

Veterinary demands expected to increase

There is an old saying that dogs are a man's best friend, and as a pet owner, I couldn't agree more. In today's society, household pets are provided love and care as an extension of our immediate families.



Dr. Robert Garza

As the number of households with pets continues to rise, demand is expected to increase for veterinary technologists and technicians to provide support for their preventative and emergency care. In Texas alone, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects employment of veterinary technicians to

grow 25 percent, which is more than three times higher than the national average rate for all occupations.

At Palo Alto College, we are proud to have established a pipeline of outstanding veterinary technicians throughout the region through our Veterinary Technology program, which began in 1996. The program is the only public option in the region and is one of only seven programs in Texas that is fully-accredited by the Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities of the American Veterinary Medical Association. In May 2018, the program was the only one in Texas to be named to the Top 50 Veterinary Technician Programs

for 2018 by TheBestColleges.org.

Students enrolled in the program are able to pursue a veterinary assistant certificate and an Associate of Applied Science in Veterinary Technology. After completing their degree, students are eligible to take the state Licensed Veterinary Technician (LVT) exam and the Veterinary Technician National Exam to become a credentialed LVT, where they become licensed to care for animals under the supervision of a veterinarian in private clinics, animal hospitals, zoos, and other animal care facilities.

Over 93 percent of students pass the Veterinary Technician National Exam upon completion of the

program, which is among the state's highest passing rates. As a public institution, our students are also able to transfer their courses to four-year public colleges and universities in Texas to continue their educational journey toward a Bachelor's of Applied Science in Veterinary Technology.

With a remarkable 100 percent job placement rate for graduates from our Veterinary Technology program, we know that our students are not only achieving their educational goals, but securing lifelong careers to provide the best opportunities for themselves and their families.

Robert Garza, Ph.D., is president of Palo Alto College.

SAISD official joining Austin group

By Liz Teitz
STAFF WRITER

A San Antonio Independent School District deputy superintendent is leaving to join the Holdsworth Center, an Austin-based organization that works with Texas public schools to improve leadership development.

Pauline Dow, who has been SAISD's deputy superintendent for academics and school leadership since 2017, will become vice president of the Austin-based center, the organization announced last month.

"Dr. Dow brings extensive knowledge and experience working in school districts across the state," Lindsay Whorton, Holdsworth Center president, said in a news release.

Dow previously was the chief instructional officer at North East ISD, and the chief academic officer at Austin ISD.

"These experiences, combined with her vision and commitment to Texas public schools, will deepen our capacity and enhance our impact as we continue to strive to be of service to Texas educators. We are thrilled that she is joining our team," Whorton said.

The Holdsworth Center was founded in 2017 by Charles Butt, the CEO and chairman of H-E-B, and operates the Holdsworth Partnership, a five-year leadership development program for public school districts.

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