

## ***FIX THE DEBT – Our Future, Our Responsibility***

Dear Summit Participant:

The enthusiasm and “roll up the sleeves” attitude that everyone displayed at the summit was tremendous. Thank you for your participation. One of the five strategic goals of the North American Veterinary Medical Educational Consortium (NAVMEC) is to promote an economically viable education system for colleges of veterinary medicine (CVMs) and veterinary students. To that end the summit goals were to:

1. *Raise awareness among all stakeholders about the severity of the debt problem*
2. *Gain a shared understanding of all the issues contributing to the student debt problem*
3. *Provide recommendations to the CVMs, students, and employers that address the student debt to income ratio*

Now is the time for all of us to become actively involved in implementing the recommendations from the summit. The summit planning committee has identified ten recommendations of highest priority. They are (in no particular prioritized order):

- Scholarships (local & national efforts)
- Professional skills & competencies integrated throughout the professional curriculum
- Reduced (5-6 year) educational program, including pre-vet and professional curricula
- Workplace on-boarding for new graduates
- Focus on preventive medicine for those going into clinical practice
- Veterinary career awareness for students
- Student financial literacy
- Entrepreneurship, including practice ownership
- Advocacy to governmental entities
- Minimize the cost of borrowing money for student debt

**We invite you to continue to be engaged in moving these priority recommendations forward.** Please contact Dr. Ken Andrews, our summit facilitator, at [k.j.andrews@rogers.com](mailto:k.j.andrews@rogers.com) (copied on this message) if you want to play an active role in any of the recommendation groups as described in the attached spreadsheet. The planning committee will identify national and state/local action champions for each of the ten recommendations. In addition, a reporter for each group will be identified to monitor progress and provide progress reports over the next year at national meetings, conferences, and conventions.

You should have received an email from Ken Andrews right after the summit with a link to a Google Drive which included all of the files pertaining to the summit (breakout reports, presentations and videos). If you have not already done so, please download these files since they will not be stored in this Google Drive indefinitely:

<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B0D5hgAlpwwBS0ZORzhZQy1QMWM&usp=sharing#list>

Finally, please do not hesitate to contact either of us if you have any questions or feedback about any of the above-mentioned activities.

Sincerely,

Andy Maccabe  
Executive Director, AAVMC

Ron DeHaven  
Chief Executive Officer, AMVA