



**Lincoln Memorial University
College of Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Medical Technology Program**

Position Statement on the Registered Veterinary Nurse Credential

The Lincoln Memorial University College of Veterinary Medicine (LMU-CVM) and Veterinary Medical Technology Program (LMU VMTP) supports the Veterinary Nurse Initiative (VNI) and the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA) in the pursuit of the establishment of a national credential of Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN).

Efficient use of veterinary technicians enhances the entire veterinary medical profession. As a long-standing leader in the education of veterinary technician students and a continued supporter of its graduates, the LMU-CVM and VMTP seek to elevate the veterinary technician profession by demonstrating the importance of veterinary technicians in the veterinary health care team.

The positive impact credentialed technicians have on veterinary practices has been proven, yet efforts to educate the public regarding the skills and knowledge that credential veterinary technicians possess have not been successful. Furthermore, the variation of the credential among states further confounds public understanding of the profession. In Tennessee, for instance, the credential is Licensed Veterinary Medical Technician, completely isolating technicians in the state from their peers in other states.

As the veterinary profession faces increasing professional and economic challenges, it is essential that the entire profession work together to create a unified public image. The national credential of Registered Veterinary Nurse will align public perceptions of the role of the veterinary nurse and bring clarity to the veterinary profession. This unified position is an important first step to assure the continued high quality of care provided to animals and their owners.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason W. Johnson".

Jason W. Johnson, DVM, MS, DACT
VP and Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine
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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Burchette Thompson".

Elizabeth Burchette Thompson, DVM
Dean, School of Allied Health Sciences
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