Vet Tech New Faculty Academy

Fall 2026 Cohort · Course Syllabus

Eight weeks online · Tuesdays at 7:00 pm Eastern · October to December 2026

New veterinary technology faculty arrive with deep clinical expertise. What most were never taught is *how to teach*. This academy is a practical, cohort-based foundation in teaching and professional skills, built for faculty coming from clinical backgrounds without graduate-level education training. You learn alongside colleagues and mentors who have done the work. This is **One Community** in practice.

Program at a Glance

Meets	**Tuesdays, 7:00 to 8:15 pm Eastern** (6:00 pm Central, 5:00 pm Mountain, 4:00 pm Pacific), weekly from October 13 through December 8.
Format	Fully online cohort. Eight 75-minute live sessions.
Term	October 13 through December 8, 2026, with a break for Thanksgiving week. Every session is recorded and posted within 24 hours.
Structure	Seven topic modules plus one flex and catch-up week. Each module includes a 30 to 45 minute prep activity, the 75-minute live session, and a 20-minute follow-up.
Audience	New vet tech faculty, coordinators and instructors, coming from clinical backgrounds without graduate-level education training.
Community	Small mentor groups of three to five, connected through the term, plus per-module Resource Exchange discussion rooms open October through AVTE 2027.
Certificate	Certificate of completion for finishing six of the seven topic modules. The flex week lets you make one up.
Registration	Registration for the Fall 2026 cohort is closed.

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of the academy, participants will be able to:

- **Apply** evidence-based adult-learning and pedagogical principles to plan and deliver instruction in the veterinary technology classroom.
- **Create** learning activities and assessments aligned to program competencies, student learning outcomes, and VTNE and CVTEA expectations.
- **Apply** inclusive, learner-centered strategies (universal design, classroom management, and student-wellness awareness) that reach diverse learners.
- **Evaluate** the appropriate, ethical use of AI tools in teaching and assessment.
- **Build** a sustaining network of peers and mentors within the AVTE community to support ongoing growth as an educator.

How Each Week Works

Prep (30 to 45 min): a short activity that surfaces the real classroom problem the module solves. **Live session (Tuesdays, 7:00 to 8:15 pm ET):** a guest subject-matter expert, hosted by the Co-Directors, built around discussion rather than lecture. **Follow-up (20 min):** apply it to your own course. **Discussion room:** a companion Resource Exchange space opens when the module goes live and stays open through AVTE 2027.

Mentorship and Community

Each participant joins a small mentor group of three to five, led by an experienced educator who stays connected through the term. Your mentor group gives you a peer cohort and a go-to resource. The per-module **Resource Exchange** rooms keep the conversation going long after each session, open from October through the 2027 AVTE Annual Conference.

Module Schedule and Session Objectives

Wk	Tuesday	Module and Focus	Session Objectives (Bloom's)	Facilitator
1	**Oct 13**	**Pedagogy** *How adults learn*	**Understand** Explain core adult-learning and pedagogical principles relevant to the vet tech classroom. **Apply** Apply an evidence-based teaching strategy to an upcoming class session.	Tammy Schneider
2	**Oct 20**	**The New Student Experience** *Know your learner, including wellness*	**Analyze** Examine who today's vet tech students are (backgrounds, motivations, stressors) and how those shape learning. **Apply** Incorporate belonging- and wellness-supporting practices into course interactions and policies.	Rebecca Newman and Laura Neely, with Todd Von Deak *(AVTE and Stockton University School of Business)*
3	**Oct 27**	**Universal Design for Learning** *Design for every learner*	**Understand** Describe the three UDL principles: engagement, representation, and action and expression. **Create** Redesign a course element to reduce barriers and offer flexible pathways.	Trisha Shanteau
4	**Nov 3**	**Classroom Management** *Run the room*	**Apply** Apply strategies to structure, pace, and manage learning across lecture, lab, and clinical settings. **Evaluate** Evaluate responses to common classroom challenges and choose ones that preserve a productive climate.	Lori Renda-Francis
5	**Nov 10**	**Assessment** *Measure what matters*	**Understand** Differentiate formative and summative assessment and align assessment to outcomes (backward design). **Create** Develop a valid assessment item or rubric for a course you teach.	Karina Taylor
6	**Nov 17**	**VTNE and CVTEA Standards** *How it ladders up to outcomes*	**Understand** Explain how the VTNE and CVTEA accreditation standards shape program expectations. **Analyze** Connect your course outcomes and assessments to program competencies and VTNE preparation.	Laura Black
	Nov 24	*No session. Thanksgiving week.*		
7	**Dec 1**	**AI and Teaching** *Augment your practice*	**Evaluate** Evaluate the benefits, risks, and ethics of generative AI in teaching and assessment. **Create** Design an AI-informed teaching approach and a clear course AI-use expectation for your context.	Stephanie Self
8	**Dec 8**	**Flex and Catch-Up Week** *Make up a module and synthesize*	**Evaluate** Revisit a missed module and integrate academy learning into a personal teaching action plan.	Co-Directors

Faculty

The academy is hosted throughout by the Co-Directors, with a guest subject-matter expert featured in each topic module. Guest faculty are practitioners recognized for their work in that area, identified with help from the AVTE community and CVTEA.

Co-Directors: Rebecca Newman (Appalachian State University) · Laura Neely (Owensboro Community and Technical College)

Program Administration

Attendance and Recording	Live attendance is encouraged. Every session is recorded and posted within 24 hours. Completion is tracked across the seven topic modules.
Questions	nfa@avte.net · 888-859-8832