



A joint leadership experience for 12 final-year students and early-career veterinary technicians.



New veterinary technicians enter the profession with clinical skill, but many have never been taught how to lead.

They may not yet know how to influence without authority, create psychological safety, ask open-ended questions, regulate emotion, or communicate with leadership presence. Without that foundation, talented technicians can become disconnected from the organizations and committees that need their voice most.

ELEVATE changes that. Over six months, a small, selective cohort builds the leadership foundation, industry relationships, and professional confidence needed to lead in clinics, classrooms, communities, and the associations that shape veterinary medicine.

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

- 12 selected participants
- Two-day January kickoff at VLC
- Monthly 1-hour virtual leadership labs
- Meetings with industry leaders
- Two-day July AVMA capstone
- Capstone project and 90-day next-step plan

BUILT ON THE LEADERSHIP BASICS THAT MATTER

Leadership presence	Emotional intelligence	Psychological safety	Open-ended questions
Influence without authority	Feedback & accountability	Change leadership	Professional advocacy

WHY FOUNDING PARTNERS MATTER

This is not a sponsorship of a meeting. It is an investment in the next bench of veterinary technician leaders..

Access

Removes cost and travel barriers so potential – not zip code, employer size, or program budget – determines who gets to lead.

Pipeline

Connects early-career technicians to AVTE, NAVTA, and leadership pathways before they drift away from organized veterinary medicine.

Profession

Develops credible, connected leaders who can communicate, advocate, serve, and contribute across the veterinary system.

A COMMITMENT BIGGER THAN ANY ONE ORGANIZATION

ELEVATE is guided by a steering committee representing AVTE, NAVTA, and other organizations across technician education and advocacy. The goal is profession-wide: find promising emerging leaders, give them a practical leadership foundation, connect them with the people and pathways that need their voices, and help them stay engaged in the long run.

Ask us about becoming a Founding Partner | Trish Gorham, CVT, FVTE | Chair, ELEVATE Engagement Committee | gorham.tricia@spcollege.edu