



American Royal Association

Giving Over \$1 Million Annually to Support Youth & Education

For Immediate Release

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AMERICAN ROYAL AWARDS RECORD-BREAKING AMOUNT FOR VET SCHOLARSHIPS TO K-STATE, MIZZOU STUDENTS

The American Royal Veterinary Scholars program awarded \$20,000 in scholarships to students at the Kansas State University and University of Missouri Colleges of Veterinary Medicine. This was the highest amount the American Royal had ever donated to the veterinary colleges.

“We had an outstanding group of students this year, and we’re proud we are able to recognize them with more scholarship dollars than ever before in our history,” said Kristie Larson, director of Education for the American Royal.

Larson presented over-sized checks to Dr. Tammy Beckham, dean of the Kansas State College of Veterinary Medicine, and Dr. Angela Tennison, associate dean of Mizzou’s College of Veterinary Medicine at the “Boots and Business” After Hours event in September.

The Veterinary Scholars program is a prime example of the organization’s mission: to support youth and education, and to prepare young leaders for careers in agriculture.

Nine vet students were chosen to spend time on-site at the American Royal, working with experienced veterinarians to provide care for some of the nation’s highest-quality animals from 34 different states that were in competition.

The students helped veterinarians care for cattle, hogs, sheep, goats and several horse breeds, such as Saddlebred and quarter horses. They evaluated thousands of show animals for injuries and infectious or communicable diseases. They also benefited from the mentoring and networking they received from their future peers.

Veterinary students Heath Hermes, Candace Kendrick, Emily Fournier, Colleen Geertsema and Nicole Haarmann represented Kansas State. From Mizzou, Melodie McCalister, Jeremiah Nichols, Courtney Reckrodt and Nicole Walljasper were selected for the program.

“Every year, I’m so impressed with the students who come in to work with the animals at the American Royal,” Larson said. “Our hope is they have a great experience here in Kansas City, and are inspired to continue their careers working somewhere within the Animal Health corridor.”

The American Royal Association is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation that has been a Kansas City tradition since 1899. Each year, more than 270,000 people attend events at the American Royal Complex. In 2015, the Royal gave more than \$1 million in scholarship and educational awards. In addition to its educational mission, the American Royal generates \$60 million in economic impact, \$4.4 million in local tax revenue and supports 450 jobs. For further information, see www.americanroyal.com.

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