

July 24, 2026

VET TECH FRIDAYS

Knowledge, News, and Updates



Faculty Spotlight

Kevin Williams, A.S., B.S., B.A.

From chemistry formulas to financial planning, Kevin Williams has a knack for making challenging subjects approachable. Mr. Williams went to college at North Carolina State University and earned a B.S. in Science Education and a B.A. in Chemistry. He then went to Harrison College from 2006-2008 and earned an A.S. In Veterinary Technology. Mr. Williams has been teaching math, chemistry, and personal finance part-time at our campus for the past seven years, and students often say they wish he'd teach more. His response? "You'd like me better part-time!" And it's clear he's found his sweet spot; he loves the balance that part-time teaching brings to his life.



Before joining us, Mr. Williams taught high school chemistry for 13 years, including six years at Cathedral High School. But his journey started in the mountains of western North Carolina, where he grew up before moving to Indiana. For the past 19 years, he's called Broad Ripple home, and he enjoys being just a block off the Monon Trail. "I love being able to walk everywhere," he says.

Outside the classroom, Mr. Williams is a busy dad to two kids, a 12-year-old and a 7-year-old, and spends much of his time taking them to their many sports activities. He and his wife Becky have been married nearly 26 years. Fun fact: they had their first date at a baseball game in the rain, and the romance hasn't stopped since. In an unexpected twist of fate, Kevin and Becky became cousins by marriage when his uncle and her mother-in-law met at their wedding and have now been married for 21 years themselves!

Mr. Williams also enjoys gardening and being out in nature whenever he can. He's often accompanied by his dog Jade, who's become a bit of a celebrity on campus. "She loves coming to college, and everyone loves her," Mr. Williams says with a smile.

Student of the Week

Audrey Tafoya



Congratulations to 03DV26 student Audrey Tafoya, our Student of the Week!

Audrey has made a wonderful impression on her instructors through her dedication, positive attitude, and genuine enthusiasm for learning. She consistently arrives to class prepared, stays engaged in lessons, and asks thoughtful questions that demonstrate her curiosity and commitment to understanding the material.

Her instructors describe her as kind, personable, intelligent, and always willing to lend a helping hand. She brings a positive energy to the classroom, treats others with respect, and has earned a reputation for excelling academically, she's even become known for frequently taking the top spot in Kahoot! competitions!

Audrey's strong work ethic, friendly personality, and eagerness to learn make her a great example of what it means to be a Vet Tech Institute student. We are proud to recognize her for the positive impact she has on her classmates and instructors each day. Congratulations, Audrey! Keep up the outstanding work!

VTI Buddy Program

Starting college is exciting, but it can also feel overwhelming. That's why Vet Tech Institute's Buddy Program pairs incoming students with upper-term mentors who can help them navigate campus life, answer questions, and make meaningful connections.

Throughout the term, buddies participate in fun events designed to encourage conversation, build friendships, and strengthen our campus community. Whether they're sharing experiences, learning from one another, or simply enjoying time together, the goal is to ensure every student feels welcomed and supported.

Our first Buddy Program event of the term was a Pizza Party, where mentors and mentees met one another and began forming new friendships. Buddies first spent time getting to know each other through conversation before introducing their partner to the rest of the group. They then teamed up to design their dream veterinary clinic, complete with a clinic name and logo, celebrity spokesperson, unique waiting room feature, and a fun employee perk. The creativity, teamwork, and laughter made for a fantastic start to the term, and we look forward to more Buddy Program events throughout the term!

Some of our Big Buddies excited to meet their Little Buddies!



Buddy Program Highlights

- 🤝 Pairs new students with upper-term mentors
- 🎉 Bi-monthly social events
- 💬 A friendly face to answer questions
- 📚 Encourages academic and personal success
- 🐾 Helps students build lasting friendships

Our First Buddy Event Included:

- 🍕 Pizza
- 🗣️ Story Swap introductions
- 🏥 Design Your Dream Veterinary Clinic challenge
- 😂 Lots of laughs
- 📷 New friendships

Next Buddy Event: **Cookies & Conversation**

Students can look forward to another afternoon of treats, conversation, and Minute-to-Win-It style games designed to help buddies continue getting to know one another.

VTI Buddy Program

Our First Buddy Event!

New friendships, great conversations, pizza, and lots of creativity!

Here's a look at some of the fun from our Buddy Program Pizza Party as mentors and mentees kicked off the semester together.



Photos Around Campus

Hands-on learning starts with knowing your tools. Mrs. Kleiman and Mrs. Schuster are preparing students to identify and understand the purpose of the many instruments used in large animal veterinary medicine.



A little inspiration between classes! Our 07DV26 students explored the alumni board to see where past VTI graduates are now working. Someday, their photos will be up there too!

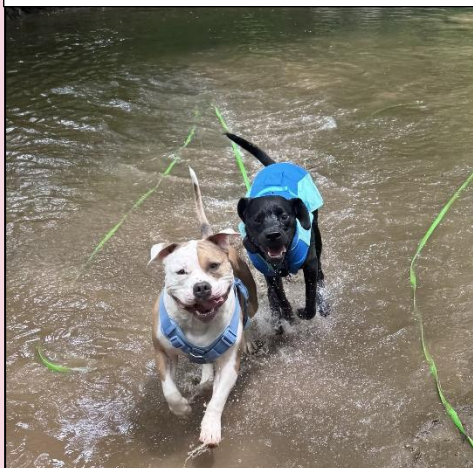


Whether it's before class or during a break, every study session counts! 07DV26 student Miranda Reyes spends some time reviewing course material in the student

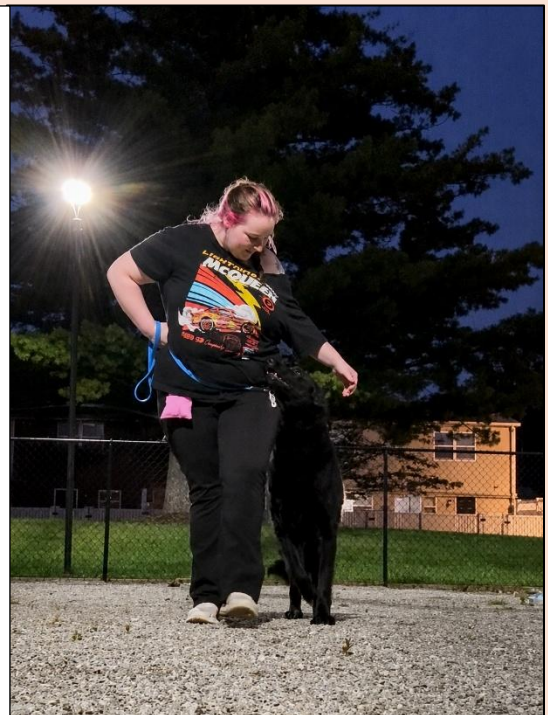


The hallway is full of 07DV26 students ready for Math with Mr. Williams... but Jade the dog is certain this crowd gathered just to admire her.

07DV25 students Ava Scheerer and Sophia Stephens spent some time at Eagle Creek Park with their adorable puppies, Bentley and Ollie.



Every great working dog starts with a strong foundation. 11DV25 student Riley Packard is working with Salem, her 2-year-old German Shepherd, on maintaining a focused heel position. This training strengthens communication, attention, and control as the pair continues progressing toward bite work.



Photos Around Campus



The Recharge Room isn't just for relaxing; it's also the perfect place to get some studying done! 11DV25 student James Mangan, and 07DV25 students DeAsia Gibson-Thomas and Hailey Brower make the most of the quiet space as they prepare for class.

Taking advantage of every learning opportunity! 07DV25 students Hailey Brower and Ava Scheerer visit with Dr. Ritz outside the surgery suite.

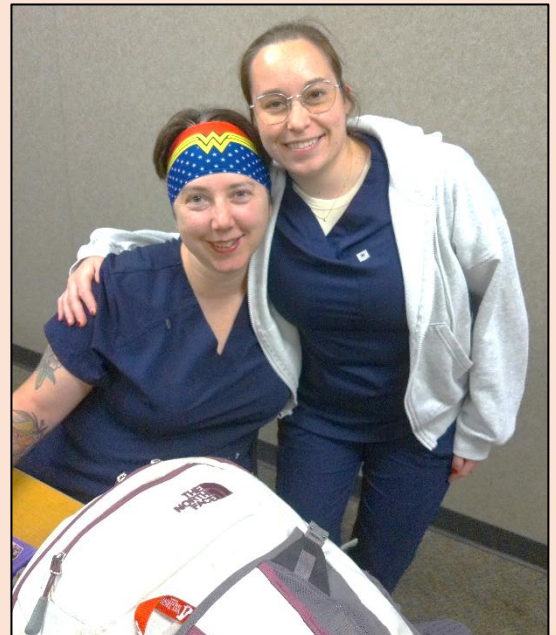
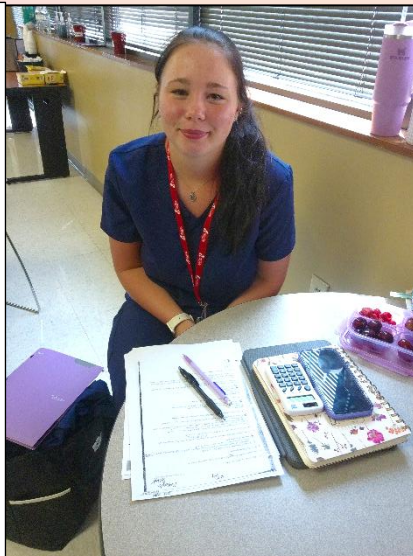


Ready to learn something new! 07DV25 students Amira Jones, Emalee Goss, and Jaquelyn Sallee await the start of large animal class.



07DV25 student Sophia Stevens chose to present her final speech on her Holland Lop rabbit, named Maple. We love a good snuggle bunny! Photo credit: Ava Scheerer (07DV25)

The student lounge is a great place to catch up on coursework between classes. 07DV26 student Makayla Reidy makes the most of the quiet time by studying.



One of the best parts of college is the friendships you make along the way. 11DV25 students Cat Cardwell and Kristina Boyle share a fun moment together between classes.

Photos from the Farm



Our 07DV25 students recently got the chance to put their skills into practice during physical exams on the pigs and goats at Oinking Acres. They performed venipuncture, administered subcutaneous injections, and gave liquid oral medications, all while gaining valuable large animal experience. Great work, future vet techs!



Bandage Art Contest

WINNERS

Congratulations to all our winners!



1st Prize

MADDYX OSBORNE
CAITLIN YARUSSO



2nd Prize:

BRYNLEE GILBERT
CADANCE WILDER



3rd Prize:

CLAIRE SCHOFIELD
TANNAH TILLISON

Thank you for participating!

Off to Externship!

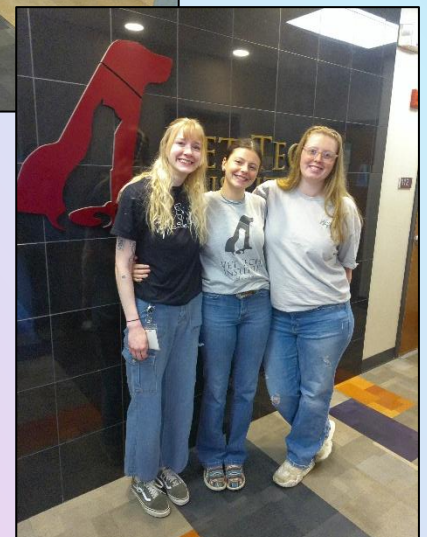
Our 03DV25 students said goodbye to campus as they headed off to begin their externships. Before leaving, many paused to take one last photo in front of the Vet Tech Institute sign, a fitting way to commemorate the place where they spent the past year learning, growing, and preparing for their careers.

For many, this was the last time walking these halls, studying in these classrooms, and practicing their skills in our labs. The next two months will be spent at veterinary clinics, gaining invaluable hands-on experience and working alongside veterinary professionals as they transition from students to future veterinary technicians.

It's amazing to look back at how much this class has grown since their very first day on campus. They've supported one another through challenging classes, celebrated successes together, and developed the knowledge, confidence, and compassion that will serve them throughout their careers.

We're incredibly proud of each and every one of you. Best of luck during externship, we can't wait to hear about the patients you meet, the skills you master, and the experiences that shape your journey.

You'll always be a part of the VTI family, and we know you'll represent VTI well wherever your careers take you.



Where in the World is 03DV25?

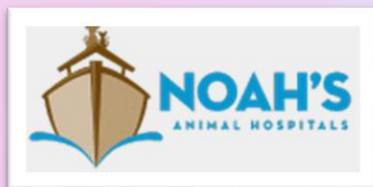
Our 03DV25 students are officially out on externship, and they'll be gaining hands-on experience at veterinary hospitals, specialty practices, emergency clinics, shelters, and universities across the region!

Below are just some of the incredible clinics and organizations that have partnered with VTI to help prepare the next generation of veterinary technicians. Over the next two months, our students will work alongside experienced veterinary professionals, build their clinical skills, and experience the day-to-day realities of the profession they've been working so hard to join.

As you look through the logos below, you'll notice the wide variety of practices our students have been placed with. From emergency and specialty hospitals to general practice, shelter medicine, and academic institutions, each externship offers unique learning opportunities. No matter where they are, every student will gain valuable experience, build professional relationships, and take another important step toward becoming a credentialed veterinary technician.

A heartfelt thank you to each of our externship partners for investing your time, knowledge, and mentorship in our students. Your guidance plays an invaluable role in shaping their future careers, and we are truly grateful for your continued support of Vet Tech Institute of Indiana.

Good luck, 03DV25, we're cheering you on from campus!



Adoption Spotlight
Sally Mae (Now Maeve!)



Congratulations to Mrs. Schuster on welcoming her newest family member, Maeve (formerly Sally Mae), into her home!

Maeve is a 4-year-old Border Collie mix with a heart as sweet as can be. She quickly became Mrs. Schuster's shadow, following her everywhere she goes. She loves treats, belly rubs, long naps, and has already started obedience classes, where she's proving just how smart she is. She's also quite social and enjoys visiting with the family's barn cats in the backyard, although the cats don't always share her enthusiasm!

Although she arrived a little nervous, Maeve is settling in beautifully. Each day she's becoming more confident as she learns that she's safe and loved. Even with three brand-new fluffy dog beds to choose from, she prefers stretching out on the cool floor. Rather than chasing toys, she'd much rather soak up the sunshine on the patio, take a leisurely stroll through the yard, or earn treats while practicing her new obedience skills. Tennis balls? She'll happily watch them bounce, but don't expect her to chase one!

One of Mrs. Schuster's favorite moments happened when Maeve experienced the "zoomies" for the very first time. She suddenly took off across the yard at full speed



before flopping down at Mrs. Schuster's feet, rolling onto her back, and smiling up at her. It was a joyful moment that showed just how comfortable and happy she was beginning to feel in her new home.



When asked what made her choose Maeve, Mrs. Schuster's answer was simple: *"I spent some time with her, and she melted my heart. I just had a gut feeling that she needed to be a Schuster."*

The name "Maeve" was a natural fit, keeping part of her original name while adding a fun family connection, Mrs. Schuster's husband is named Dave, so "Maeve" seemed like the perfect choice!

Mrs. Schuster also shared an important reminder for anyone considering adoption: *"Adoption is such a rewarding experience, for you and your new pet! My advice is to follow the 3-3-3 guideline. Some animals will take more time, some take less. Let your new pet set their own pace and watch what their behavior is telling you."*



Congratulations to the Schuster family and Maeve!

We wish you many years of belly rubs, sunny naps, zoomies, and unforgettable memories together.

Underrated Animals

Barreleye Fish: The Deep-Sea Fish with a Transparent Head and Rotating Eyes

If you think you've seen every strange animal on Earth, think again. Meet the barreleye fish, one of the ocean's most fascinating creatures and, in our opinion, one of the most underrated animals on the planet.

Living nearly half a mile below the ocean's surface, the barreleye fish has adapted to one of the harshest environments on Earth. Its most incredible feature is its transparent head, a fluid-filled dome that allows scientists to see the fish's eyes and other internal structures. While the dark spots on the front of its face look like eyes, they're actually its nostrils! Its real eyes are bright green, tube-shaped, and can rotate from looking straight up to facing forward, helping it spot and track prey in the dim light of the deep sea.



The barreleye uses its remarkable vision to hunt tiny crustaceans and other small animals drifting through the darkness. Rather than chasing its prey, it slowly drifts through the water, conserving energy while scanning above for the faint silhouettes or bioluminescent glow of potential meals. It has even been observed carefully stealing food from the tentacles of siphonophores, long, jelly-like relatives of jellyfish, without getting stung. Scientists believe the transparent shield over its head helps protect its delicate eyes while feeding among the stinging tentacles. Despite all of these incredible adaptations, the fish itself is surprisingly small, growing to only about six inches long.

Scientists still know remarkably little about the barreleye's life because it lives so deep beneath the ocean's surface. It is believed to reproduce by broadcast spawning, with males and females releasing eggs and sperm into the open water, where fertilization occurs externally. The fertilized eggs and tiny larvae likely drift in shallower waters before gradually moving into the deep ocean as they mature. Like many deep-sea fish, barreleyes are not thought to provide any parental care, leaving their offspring to survive on their own from the moment they hatch.



Researchers have almost always observed barreleyes alone, suggesting they lead mostly solitary lives. In fact, many aspects of their behavior remain a mystery. Scientists didn't even realize their eyes could rotate until live footage was captured by deep-sea submersibles in 2009. Before then, researchers believed the fish could only look upward. That discovery completely changed our understanding of how the barreleye hunts and interacts with its environment.

The next time someone tells you all the coolest animals have already been discovered, tell them about the barreleye fish. It may not be as famous as dolphins or sharks, but with a see-through head, rotating eyes, incredible adaptations, and a life that scientists are still working to understand, this deep-sea marvel proves that



some of nature's greatest wonders are hiding where few people ever get to see them.

In a world where so much has already been explored, the barreleye is a reminder that the ocean still holds countless mysteries waiting to be uncovered.



5 Songs On My Playlist Right Now



We
Mac Miller



Cinderella
Mac Miller



Let It All Work Out
Lil Wayne



Wonderwall
Oasis



Weekend
Mac Miller

Click a song



to listen!



Shared by:

Cheyenne Black
(11DV25)

SHARE YOUR TOP 5 SONGS OF THE MOMENT!

It's a fun way to show off your music taste while helping classmates discover new songs, artists, and playlists they might end up loving too.

Whether your playlist is country, rock, pop, rap, throwbacks, study music, or a little bit of everything, we'd love to feature it in an upcoming newsletter.

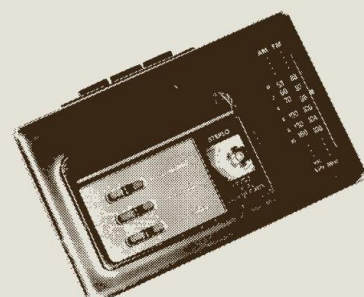
Your feature will include:

- Your name and cohort
- Your top 5 songs
- Clickable links so others can listen too!

To participate, please send Ashley:

- Your 5 songs + artists
- **Email Ashley OR Click here to share your playlist through our Google Form**

We can't wait to see what everyone is listening to lately!



Show Your School Spirit

**The webstore will be open through Monday, August 3 at noon,
and orders will be delivered to the school office by Friday, August 28.**





Suggestion Box



Please help us by
sharing your idea on
how to improve our
classroom community!



NEWSLETTER PHOTO SUBMISSION

We are looking to include more student life photos in our weekly newsletter, and we would love your help.

How to Participate:

➔ Please make sure you receive permission from all students in the photo before submitting it.

➔ Please include the names of the students in the picture if you can, but if not, I can figure them out.

➔ You can email photos to me at any time at amiller@vettechinstitute.edu



Important reminder:

Photos must NOT include any Vet Tech Institute animals. This is very important for our animal partnership policies.

Good photo ideas:

- Studying with classmates
- Hanging out in the student lounge
- Working on homework together
- Housing/apartment life
- Campus events
- Group selfies with classmates
- Fun moments between classes