



College of Agriculture
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Arizona's FY15 budget and lack of veterinary medical education funding.

As you know by now the FY15 Arizona budget signed by Governor Brewer did not include funding requested by the UA for our veterinary medical and surgical program to train DVMs for Arizona. This was despite the best efforts of UA's President Hart and Provost Comrie and others at UA, the support from the Arizona Board of Regents and a few of our senior legislative leaders and the overwhelming support of our stakeholders and alumni.

For almost a decade and a half, I have been listening to many in academic leadership positions within our profession wring their hands about the non-sustainable way we educate veterinarians—costing our economy and almost all of our citizens too much money, competing with private industry and not providing the skills needed in graduates—and then continuing with the status quo.

I have been constantly reminded of Harry S. Truman's quote:

"In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better."

Under the new and exciting leadership of President Hart, we have been reminded that the UA is about solving big challenges with bold solutions. She has encouraged us to never settle for the status quo and to be innovative, entrepreneurial and to play our part to foster positive change in our society. Our novel plan, which will change the paradigms of public veterinary education in the USA, does exactly this.

Our commitment to lead the changes that are so overdue in our professional education has not diminished. We are steadfastly committed to do our job, as Arizona's land-grant university, to be a central component of Arizona's economic vitality.

I have returned to our plan to establish DVM training at the UA and am working with UA Provost Comrie to make it a reality on the same timeline. The legislature has certainly made this much harder on us and on Arizona's hardworking families and business owners, but we will provide a world class DVM education, that is less expensive, faster and works with our state's veterinary practitioners not against them.

We will do this through foundational philanthropic contributions and a new revenue business plan that works without state funding in the context of the university's budget process.

We said that we were serious and we are.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shane C. Burgess'.