





Orr Award goes to Belanger

VETERINARY STUDENT APPRECIATES SCHOLARSHIPS, FACULTY AND COLLEAGUES

KAITLYN BELANGER, Class of 2018 at Oklahoma State University's Center for Veterinary Health Sciences, was filled with gratitude for the **DEAN HARRY W. ORR MEMORIAL AWARD**.

"I am so thankful for the donors," Belanger says of the award, presented at an annual awards reception in April. "Having [Dean Orr's] name on this award means a lot, as well as being rewarded for all the hard work I have put in the last three years."

The Dean Orr Award, honoring the center's second dean, goes to the top third-year veterinary student.

Once upon a time, Belanger was a little girl who dreamed of becoming a veterinarian.

"I was a little girl who said I wanted to be a vet, and I never grew out of it," she says. "In high school, I started working at a vet clinic, and I have known ever since that's what I want to do."

While Belanger applied to several vet schools, she had her sights set on attending OSU's Center for Veterinary Health Sciences.

"Growing up in Oklahoma, you hear about how great the vet school is and after doing my own research, OSU was my top choice," she says. "I told myself that even if I got into those other places and not OSU, I would reapply the next year."

Belanger has loved everything about her time at the CVHS, but the relationships she has formed have been the best part.

"My favorite part is for sure the people," she says. "The people I have gotten to know through clubs and in my class, they're going to be my friends forever."

In addition to the lifelong friendships, Belanger also noted the importance of the supportive and caring faculty to her success.

"The clinicians, faculty and staff here just make this place the best," she says. "If I ever need something, I know I could ask any of the clinicians for help."

In her final year, Belanger will trade the classroom for the clinical setting.

"I like having a little bit more responsibility, while still knowing that there's someone there to give me their opinion," she says. "I look forward to working on animals that I may not ever work on again, like cows or pigs."

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— KAITLYN BELANGER

Belanger expects to graduate feeling confident and excited about her future.

"I can't wait to practice what I've been taught," she says.

Belanger also was selected as one of 36 DVM students across the country to receive the Dr. Jack Walther Leadership Award. This annual honor is given to students who portray leadership through active involvement and promote lifelong service to the profession. **CVHS**

KAYLIE WEHR

Kaitlyn Belanger also won the **Dr. Jack Walther Leadership Award**, a national honor.