

[About the College](#)

[Departments](#)

[Teaching & Research](#)

[Giving to Vet Med](#)

[Teaching Hospital](#)

[Veterinary Medical
 Diagnostic
 Laboratory \(VMDL\)](#)

[CVM Employment](#)

[Zalk Veterinary
 Medical Library](#)

[CVM Course Materials](#)

[MyZou](#)

[Home](#)

NEWS & EVENTS

CVM's Ron Cott Honored for Leadership Program Contributions

Ron Cott, MU DVM '73, associate dean of Student and Alumni Affairs and director of Advancement at the MU College of Veterinary Medicine, has been named a Veterinary Leadership Experience (VLE) Hall of Fame member for his contributions to the program.

The Veterinary Leadership Institute sponsors the national leadership training retreat to encourage participants to "think outside the box" for personal and professional growth. During the week-long program, veterinary students and faculty, industry representatives, private practitioners, technicians and other veterinary professionals explore the concepts of emotional intelligence, teamwork, effective communication and servant-leadership in a facilitated small-group learning environment.

Cott served as a VLE facilitator for seven years and as a member of the institute's board of directors for three years.

Cott said the VLE offers an important opportunity for participants, especially veterinary students, to learn invaluable skills for career success, such as effective leadership, communication and self-awareness. He said many of those skills can be difficult to teach in an academic setting because the veterinary curriculum is scientifically driven.

After participating in the VLE, Cott founded the MU Veterinary Enrichment and Teambuilding (VET) orientation program in 2005. During the intensive three-day event, incoming first-year veterinary students learn about communication styles and develop teambuilding, servant-leadership and self-awareness skills. They also get to know their fellow classmates as well as faculty and staff at the college.

Cott received his DVM from the University of Missouri in 1973 and spent three years in the Army. He then worked in a private companion animal practice in the Kansas City area for 25 years. In 2001 he was appointed associate dean for the College of Veterinary Medicine, followed by an additional appointment as director of Advancement in 2008. He is the course director for the college's Fundamentals of Veterinary Business Management class.



[Return to News and Events home](#)

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