

## **SEMVMA Student Loan Debt Reduction Awards**

The SEMVMA is concerned about the cost of a veterinary education and the accumulated student debt. The AVMA has estimated the average debt load is now \$183,000. We realize student debt only adds to the stress of new graduates and we would like to take action to reduce the debt load.

SEMVMA is proud to announce that we will be awarding two \$5000 awards to recent graduates during the January Membership Celebration Dinner to reduce their student debt. This grant will be awarded to two members who meet specific requirements. We intend to choose 2 awards per year and who meet the following requirements:

- Have graduated in the last 3 years (2022, 2023, 2024)
- Are members of SEMVMA
- Work in one of the 9 counties that our membership derives from (Wayne, Oakland, Washtenaw, Macomb, Monroe, Livingston, Lapeer, Genesee, St. Clair).
- Have active student loan debt that can be verified from a lending institution. Each award shall be granted to a recognized student loan provider or debtor organization.
- Have not received the award in the past

An application may be obtained via the SEMVMA office and submitted by October 11, 2024. The award will be chosen at random in the presence of a quorum of the SEMVMA Board of Directors during the November/ December BOD meeting and the awardees notified and invited specifically to the January dinner. The award will be submitted directly to the loan originator or institution.

Please spread the word and encourage your new graduates to apply. We hope this effort will make a difference in the lives of the awarded individuals and make you proud to be a member of the SEMVMA.