December 6, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

We are thrilled to announce that Julie Funk is joining the proposed UA College of Veterinary Medicine as dean beginning March 18. She is already consulting with us in preparation for our next American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education site visit in May.

Julie’s background in private practice, teaching and administration positions her well to lead the University of Arizona as we take the next step toward opening Arizona’s first public veterinary school. Julie will join us from a similar tier one research university, where she has consistently demonstrated the ability to bring together diverse groups – from students and faculty to researchers and funding agencies – to achieve wide-ranging goals. She has elevated herself as an emerging leader in the field of veterinary medical education.

We have a demonstrable need for a veterinary medicine program in Arizona and Julie will be responsible first and foremost for working with the AVMA to earn accreditation.

The proposed College of Veterinary Medicine is designed as a competency-based, year-round curriculum that will graduate students in three years, allowing them to enter the workforce a year earlier than traditional programs. UA students are expected to learn from a wide range of
clinical experiences with all species in diverse settings, including the university, private practice, industry, biomedical research and public health.

Julie joins the UA from the Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine, where she was a professor in the department of large animal clinical sciences department and associate dean for academic programs and student success. She led the strategic reinvention of curriculum to strengthen the profession, initiated a clinical skills laboratory and established the first career services advisor position in the college's history. Key initiatives included implementation of holistic admissions processes for the CVM and innovative student wellness and engagement efforts.

Julie taught veterinary preventive medicine for six years at The Ohio State University before joining MSU faculty. While at MSU she served as director of the online graduate program for food safety, setting the national model, and conducted research in pre-harvest food safety prior to assuming the associate dean role.

Julie earned a doctoral degree from the Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1991 and started her career in private practice before continuing her education with a master's degree in veterinary clinical sciences and a doctorate in comparative biomedical sciences.

At the UA, she will lead the education, research and training programs within the proposed College of Veterinary Medicine. Her duties will include directing the structure and implementation of curriculum and training programs; developing research and outreach missions that incorporate emerging trends and needs in veterinary education, research and practice; providing fiscal leadership and heading fundraising and development efforts; and participating in faculty and administrative recruitment.

Recruiting Julie is a critical next step in founding an accredited College of Veterinary Medicine. I want to thank Dave Besselsen and the entire College of Veterinary Medicine Committee, including Sharon Dial, Jim Maciulla, Peder Cuneo, Michael Matz, Michael Conaway, and Walt Klimecki, for everything they have done to get us to this point. We look forward to introducing Julie to campus.

Sincerely,

Jeff Goldberg
Interim Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost