

South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe to Celebrate Grand Opening of Veterinary Clinic

The Veterinary Clinic became a reality through the generosity of organizations and individual donors who invested in the school's vision.

MCCORMICK, SC, UNITED STATES, August 13, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe will celebrate the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting of its campus [Veterinary Clinic](#) on Thursday, August 27, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., marking an important milestone in the school's commitment to preparing the next generation of agricultural leaders through hands-on learning. The event is free and open to the public.



Students gain firsthand experience in the clinic

The Veterinary Clinic transforms an existing campus building into a hands-on learning environment where students will develop practical veterinary skills while helping expand access to spay, neuter, and vaccine services for pet owners throughout the region. The clinic reflects the school's continued investment in experiential learning, preparing students for postsecondary education and careers in agriculture, animal science, and veterinary medicine.

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*Dr. Timothy Keown, Ph.D.,
President of SCGSA*

The ceremony will include remarks from school leadership, recognition of the donors and partners who made the clinic possible, an official ribbon cutting, and an opportunity for guests to tour the Veterinary Clinic. Light

refreshments will be served following the ceremony.

The Veterinary Clinic became a reality through the generosity of organizations and individual donors who invested in the school's vision for expanding veterinary education. The school is especially grateful to CoBank, the Banfield Foundation, and the many individual donors whose generosity transformed this vision into reality.

The clinic will be led by Dr. Julia Larson, DVM, who now serves the school by leading the Veterinary Clinic and mentoring students through hands-on clinical experiences. Drawing on decades of professional experience, Dr. Larson guides students through real-world veterinary scenarios, helping them develop practical skills while exploring careers in veterinary medicine and animal science.

"Hands-on learning is central to who we are as the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture," said Dr. Timothy Keown, Ph.D., President. "The Veterinary Clinic gives students the opportunity to apply what they're learning in the classroom while exploring careers in veterinary medicine, animal science, and agriculture. This is another important step in preparing the next generation of agricultural leaders."

Stacie Smith, Executive Director of the [John de la Howe School Foundation](#), said the project demonstrates the lasting impact of philanthropy and thoughtful stewardship.

"This clinic is a testament to what can happen when people believe in our students," Smith said.



Volunteerism is paramount



A student helping with Trap-Neuter-Return, which is a foundation of the clinic

"Through the generosity of CoBank, the Banfield Foundation, and many individual donors, an existing campus building has been transformed into a place where students will gain experiences that simply weren't possible before. Every gift helped turn a vision into reality."

Dr. Larson said she hopes the clinic inspires students to discover the possibilities within veterinary medicine while building confidence through practical experience.

"Veterinary medicine is learned through experience as much as it is through textbooks," Larson said. "My goal is to help students develop confidence by working through real clinical situations, asking questions, and caring for animals with skill and compassion. If even one student discovers a passion for veterinary medicine because of these experiences, we'll have accomplished something truly meaningful."

For students interested in veterinary medicine, animal science, and agriculture, the Veterinary Clinic represents far more than a new learning space. It is an opportunity to apply classroom knowledge in a real clinical setting, work alongside an experienced veterinarian, and gain practical experience that will prepare them for college, careers, and a lifetime of serving others.

Community members are invited to attend the celebration, tour the clinic, and learn more about how the school is equipping students with the knowledge, skills, and real-world experience needed to become the next generation of agricultural leaders.

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