

WesternU

College of Veterinary Medicine



Meet Allison

2022 Recipient of the
WesternU Board of Trustees Scholarship



Dear WesternU Board of Trustees!

I grew up in my pretty big hometown of Clifton, NJ. With a population of 85,000 you'd imagine I'd find some fellow Cliftonites who share the same passion for animals like I do, but I never did surprisingly. I recently graduated from Rutgers University, located in New Brunswick, NJ. My major was Animal Science with a concentration in Pre-Veterinary Medicine and Research.

My current interests and way to spend some down time before starting WesternU is baking, cooking, dancing, listening to music, and hiking, just to name a few. I'm also involved with my local animal shelter for the time being.

I chose WesternU for many reasons, but the biggest has to be because of the reverence for life policy. The fact that animals are not euthanized just so we can study them, or sacrificed through experiments for students to learn is what truly captured my heart. I hope to specialize in either wildlife or zoological medicine after WesternU, and try to help out in underserved and underrepresented communities when given the chance.

This scholarship will make a tremendous impact on my career. Money is never far from the mind when struggling with finances. Instead of constantly thinking, worrying and stressing about how to afford it, this scholarship relieves a large portion of the stress. I am ever so grateful that I was chosen.

Allison Belaunde
DVM Class of 2026

Learn More About
Allison Belaunde, DVM 2026
Trustee Scholarship Recipient



Hometown:	Clifton, NJ
Undergrad:	Rutgers University
Degrees:	BS, Animal Science
Hobbies/Interests:	Baking, Cooking, Dancing, Listening to music, Hiking
Previous Career/Job:	Vet Tech, Vet Asst, Vet Receptionist, Cashier, Waitress

What is your proudest accomplishment? My proudest accomplishment was being able to handle working full time with two jobs, while also handling school full time and getting on the deans list. Balancing both was extremely difficult at first and it showed in my grades being almost all P/F during a semester, so being able to keep up with the workload made me feel like I could take on the world.

What inspired you to pursue your health sciences career path? My mom said I would rather play with stuffed animals than dolls when I was little, but the defining moment that inspired me was going to Peru. It helped me realize that since animals don't have a voice, they don't get the care they deserve. I'd like to be the driving force behind a recovery, putting together the pieces of a puzzle trying to find out what's happening since they can't speak for themselves.

Why did you choose to attend WesternU? WesternU embodies everything I want in a learning environment for veterinary medicine. Besides the learn by doing, for example being able to do neuters from start to finish as early as freshman year, I was extremely proud of the College's reverence for life policy. The fact that animals are not euthanized just so we can study them, or sacrificed through experiments for students to learn is what truly captured my heart.

What are your future career plans/goals? My future plan is to specialize in either wildlife or zoological medicine. I know I still have years before to act on my thoughts, and that my interests can change within those years, but I currently can't imagine myself not having the end goal of one of those fields.

How will the Trustee Scholarship impact you? This scholarship will make a huge impact as it will allow me to not worry as much for the overwhelming amount of debt. It will literally halve my anticipated debt. I can breathe and relax a little knowing that I can dedicate and devote more of my time into studying and preparing myself academically, instead of trying to get multiple jobs to try and offset the costs.

What impact are you hoping to make on the community you serve? I am hoping during my time at WesternU, and maybe afterwards (if I'm not able to specialize and/or able to help while at WesternU), is to be able to work in a primarily Latinx and/or low income community with whatever animals they need help with. My goal to change the veterinary field for the better is to be able to offer services to clients who can't afford them for whatever reason. I want to break down unorthodox barriers to allow animals in underserved communities to get the pet care needed.