

**College/Program:**

College of Veterinary Medicine, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

**Hometown:**

Commodore Pennsylvania

**Undergraduate Institution:**

The Pennsylvania State University

**Undergraduate Degree(s):**

Psychology

**Hobbies/Interests:**

Volunteering at Los Angeles Zoo and photography

**Previous Career:**

Therapist

## PROFILE

**What inspired you to pursue your health sciences career path?**

I discovered an old microscope tucked away in my closet at ten years old. That moment sparked a lasting curiosity and ignited my passion for science. I became fascinated by asking questions, conducting experiments, and exploring how things work. Over time, I realized I wanted a career that combined

scientific inquiry with my deep love for animals. Veterinary medicine offers the perfect path, allowing me to continue engaging in science while making a meaningful difference in the lives of animals.

**Describe the biggest challenge you overcame on your path to WesternU.**

The biggest challenge I overcame was raising two children in poverty while working full-time and completing my undergraduate degree. I would work long hours, come home and care for the children, and then take online college courses while they slept late at night. While exhausting, it taught me time management, persistence, and resilience. I didn't realize it then, but I look back on those years with pride; they shaped me into someone who never gives up.

**Why did you choose to attend WesternU?**

I chose to attend WesternU because of my strong hometown pride and the university's commitment to serving the local community. The camaraderie between faculty and students creates a welcoming, supportive learning environment. I was also drawn to the problem-

**Bethany  
Orgel**



# Bethany Orgel

## PROFILE CONTINUED

based learning model, which encourages critical thinking and real-world application. Additionally, the strong emphasis on research aligns with my passion for advancing veterinary medicine through evidence-based practice. It felt like WesternU is the ideal place to grow personally and professionally.

### **What is your proudest accomplishment?**

My proudest academic accomplishment has been gaining acceptance into veterinary school. The journey to this point was long and filled with trials and tribulations, but each challenge only strengthened my determination to succeed. Every prerequisite course became a milestone, pushing me to work harder and strive for excellence in the next. Overcoming adversity along the way has deepened my commitment to building a better future and pursuing my dream of becoming a veterinarian.

### **Thank you letter to the Board of Trustees:**

It is difficult to express how much it means to be awarded the esteemed Board of Trustees Scholarship—“thank you” hardly seems sufficient. I am profoundly honored and genuinely humbled to have been selected for this generous award. As someone committed to academic excellence and passionate about animal health and welfare, I am proud to meet the qualifications for this scholarship and deeply grateful for the opportunity it provides. I will use this support to continue my journey toward becoming a veterinarian.

This scholarship significantly eases the financial burden of my education, allowing me to focus more fully on my coursework, clinical experiences, and long-term goals. It also serves as a powerful reminder that others believe in my potential, inspiring me to strive for excellence.

My ultimate goal is to become a licensed veterinarian and work in both clinical and community settings, providing care to animals and educating pet owners about preventive health. As a single mother who has experienced poverty firsthand, I am especially passionate about expanding access to veterinary care in underserved areas.

With this degree, I hope to make a lasting impact in the communities I serve, improving the lives of animals and strengthening the human-animal bond that is so vital to families and individuals. I also plan to volunteer with local shelters and animal outreach programs to give back and share the knowledge and skills I gain through my education.

Once again, thank you for your generosity and for investing in my future.

Warm regards,  
Bethany Orgel, DVM '29