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# News Release

For Immediate Release – 3/21/2016  
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## **Ridgewater's Dr. Balay Recognized as a US Top 40 Veterinary Technology Professor**

WILLMAR and HUTCHINSON – Ridgewater College is proud to announce that Veterinary Technology instructor Dr. Allen Balay has been recognized as one of the top 40 veterinary technology instructors in the country, according to [www.VetTechColleges.com](http://www.VetTechColleges.com).

The VetTechColleges.com blog shares that job growth in the field is expected to grow by about 19 percent by 2024, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In light of the growing need, VetTechColleges.com staff compiled a list of the 40 top veterinary technology professors nationwide, based on their current teaching assignment, service outside the school, professional affiliation, and publication.

Ridgewater College President Dr. Douglas Allen commended Balay for the honor. “Knowing Dr. Balay, I can hear him modestly dismissing this as ‘no big deal’, but since he also earned the recognition for teaching excellence by the Minnesota Board of Trustees several years ago, it’s obvious this recognition for teaching and service excellence is also well-deserved. Dr. Balay’s commitment to teaching and learning and to students is recognized by students and all who have the privilege of working with him!”

VetTech.com posted the following about Ridgewater’s honoree: “Allen R. Balay holds his doctorate in veterinary medicine, and is currently a faculty member within the veterinary technology program at Ridgewater College in Minnesota. He has authored an online list of veterinary technology study tips that is available to public, and has acted as a significant campaign donor for the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Foundation.”

Balay began teaching veterinary technicians in 1980, with 21 of his 35-plus years of teaching at Ridgewater College as faculty and program director. The first 16 years were part time while he ran a full-time practice. Then he reversed his priorities and taught full time while practicing part time. Since 2015, Balay has limited his non-teaching time to a narrow focus on horse care.

Balay said he is a big believer in giving back. “I love my job because of the opportunity to work with young people,” he said. “I’ve spent most of my life helping young people learn about careers in veterinary medicine either as the veterinarian or the veterinary technician.”

“I chose Ridgewater College because it has a great Veterinary Technology program,” said student Anastasia Radzwil. Dr. Balay has certainly helped build that reputation.

To learn more about the Ridgewater Veterinary Technology program, go to [www.ridgewater.edu/vettech](http://www.ridgewater.edu/vettech). To learn more about the recognition, go to <http://www.vettechcolleges.com/blog/40-top-veterinary-technology-profs>.

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