

June 21, 2021



AAVMC Statement on Homophobic Hate Speech Incident

The AAVMC has recently become aware of an incident involving homophobic hate speech at one of our member institutions. The AAVMC rejects and condemns the language and the sentiment expressed in a publicly circulating email.

We stand in solidarity with our colleagues throughout academic veterinary medicine who are working hard to establish and sustain diverse, equitable and inclusive working and learning environments. A commitment to inclusive and appropriate speech is a prerequisite for creating just, inclusive and productive environments within our academic communities. There is no room for hate speech of any kind.

As our [Principles of Inclusion](#) state:

We affirm the value of human diversity for the enrichment of the community and believe diversity fosters a climate conducive to success for all members of the veterinary medical education community.

We confront and reject all forms of prejudice and discrimination, including those based on race, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious beliefs, political beliefs, geographic, socioeconomic, and educational background or any other differences that have led to misunderstanding, hostility and injustice.

We affirm our support for all students and members of the academic community, including those who identify as LGBTQIA+. We recognize the fundamental virtue and strength of diversity in every dimension, and we affirm the dignity and equity of all people.

The fact that this unfortunate incident occurred during National Pride month, a time to reflect upon the liberty, dignity and value of all members of our society, is a reminder of how much work remains to be done in order to create a society that truly values, fosters and protects Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The AAVMC remains deeply committed to advancing that goal.