Cass receives 2015 TVMDL Director’s Excellence Award

Annually, the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) honors staff that has gone above and beyond their duty to ensure that one of the nation’s busiest laboratories runs smoothly. This year, Administrative Assistant Mary Cass receives a 2015 TVMDL Director’s Excellence Award for the Administrative category.

Cass coordinates daily events within the lab, schedules travel for four members of Director’s Office and lends a hand when needed. In addition, Cass manages the agency’s vital import and export permits, liaising with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the agency’s testing sections to have proper documentation that allows the movement of samples into the U.S. Nominator Stacy Morris spoke highly of Cass’s dedication to TVMDL’s mission.

“Regardless of the task set before her, Mary can be found working with patience and grace to ensure her duties are performed without flaw,” Morris says. “She works in the background, anticipating needs and providing solutions that enable the success of others.”

Where other agency directors may have a dedicated assistant, Cass juggles duties for four administrators: the director, associate director, assistant director and chief of staff. In addition, she works across laboratory sections and locations, whether it is handling details for a VIP visit, coordinating an employee recognition event or organizing lectures and training sessions. It is her attention to detail and compassion for fellow co-workers that makes her an ideal recipient of this award.

TVMDL Assistant Agency Director Terry S. Hensley, DVM, MS, recalls that Cass’s was the first face he saw when entering the lab for his initial hiring interview. Since then, she has continued to be there when Dr. Hensley needs assistance.

“Mary’s dedication to our agency shines every day as she gives her time before and after work to ensure we are all on schedule and have the materials needed,” he said. “Nothing slips by her and it all runs smoothly. She is truly our right arm running this agency.”

Whether answering a late-night phone call to assist with travel delays or mitigating a medical emergency on-site, Cass is quick to respond and handle each situation. Cass’ compassion for others, attention to detail and investment in TVMDL made it hard to find a better candidate for the 2015 TVMDL Director’s Excellence Award.

TVMDL employs more than 150 professionals that work diligently to uphold the agency’s mission to protect animal and human health through diagnostics. We congratulate all of the 2015 Director’s Excellence Award winners.

For more information on the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, visit tvmdl.tamu.edu.