Martinez 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, Gregorio Martinez receives a 2015 TVMDL Director’s Excellence Award for the Student category.

TVMDL gained a valuable employee when Gregorio began working in the Receiving Section at the College Station lab in February of 2013. Tasked with receiving, opening, sorting and accessioning a daily average of 300 to 500 boxes that arrive at the lab, Receiving is one of the busiest sections at TVMDL. Gregorio has built a reputation as an efficient, dependable worker that is courteous, respectful and helpful to clients and coworkers.

TVMDL Associate Director Amy K. Swinford, MS, DVM, has spent many Saturday mornings working with Gregorio in Receiving. Dr. Swinford notes that she has not seen a more efficient student worker in her 11 years at the agency.

“I was working with Gregorio on Saturday, October 17, which happened to be the day of the Aggie’s home football game with Alabama. As we worked through the samples delivered by the U.S. Mail, Gregorio mentioned he had tickets to the 2:30 game,” said Dr. Swinford. “TVMDL’s Saturday business hours close at noon. Our couriers, FedEx, LSO and UPS, had not delivered by then, so I let the other student workers go at 12:30 p.m. When Gregorio and I left at 1, the FedEx truck pulled up. Without a word of hesitation, Gregorio turned around, signed for the delivery and went back to the lab and got to work opening boxes and accessioning samples. He missed tailgating completely, but managed to get to the game. I was very impressed with the maturity with which he handled these events, and if he was disappointed or annoyed, his cheerful demeanor said otherwise.”

A professional in his every day work, Gregorio comes to work with a smile on his face and cheerful attitude. Assistant Director Terry Hensley, MS, DVM, oversees the Receiving Section and appreciates the value that students bring to the section.

“When we find a student as outstanding as Gregorio, it’s difficult to overstate how important he becomes to the success of our operation,” said Dr. Hensley. “Gregorio keeps Receiving running smoothly and knows how to perform all the vital tasks, such as receiving courier deliveries, printing bar code labels, organizing specimens and making deliveries to each testing section. He is 100-percent reliable, you never hear him complain and he pitches in and helps out wherever is needed.”
When not assisting Receiving, Gregorio can be found aiding the Front Office Section with paperwork. His ability to move around the lab offering assistance emphasizes his knowledge of all TVMDL’s testing disciplines and administrative needs. 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.