Brod receives Vice Chancellor’s Award in Excellence

Annually, the Vice Chancellor’s Award in Excellence program recognizes outstanding achievements by personnel of Texas A&M AgriLife, which includes the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL). This year, Jordan Brod was honored with the award in the special services category. Brod is the agency operations manager facilitating operations at all four diagnostic laboratories that make up the agency.

Brod graduated Texas A&M University in 2000 with a bachelor of science in animal science. He joined TVMDL upon graduation; he transitioned from a student worker at the lab to a full time position working as a technician in the Histopathology Section. He moved from Histopathology to quality assurance and safety manager to his current position within 10 years.

As agency operations manager, Brod plans, directs and monitors the activities and facility operations of all TVMDL locations. In 2013, he joined the team to plan the new 90,000-square-foot, $53 million diagnostic laboratory to be built in College Station. The building broke ground in 2014, and Brod has been the point man on the building project, monitoring construction while also performing his duties for all current laboratory buildings. He ensures the project stays on time and on budget, despite the interesting weather seen in College Station in 2015.

“Jordan’s career trajectory at TVMDL, and the impact of the job he performs everyday, is nothing short of outstanding,” said Bruce L. Akey, DVM, MS, TVMDL director. “Maintenance of TVMDL’s facilities is arguably one of the most important jobs at TVMDL. Without properly maintained laboratory space, TVMDL could not serve its clients with accuracy and timeliness that is the hallmark of our agency.”

The four agency labs are located around Texas, and Brod regularly travels between them to examine the facilities. In 2015, he traveled to Amarillo to perform a facility assessment, returning with a list of $1.5 million of maintenance efforts needed. Tasked with prioritizing the improvements, Brod set about contacting vendors and managing renovations while working within a $500,000 budget. Brod’s experience working in a laboratory section allows him first hand knowledge of what is needed versus wanted in a functioning diagnostic lab.

The maintenance of each facility is only one way Brod works to ensure a positive work environment at TVMDL. He co-founded an Employee Advisory Council to address employee needs and sits on the Quality Assurance, Environmental Health and Safety committees, and is a member of the Management Team and Executive
Committee. In addition, he is a graduate of the AgriLife Advanced Leaders Program and serves as an instructor for the TVMDL Supervisor Training Program.

“Jordan understands the mission of the agency and the purpose of the facilities,” said Amy K. Swinford, MS, DVM, TVMDL associate director. “Jordan is known as the go-to person for so many issues at TVMDL. No day is the same for him, and the category of this award – ‘special services’ – perfectly describes what he does each day. He provides facility tours to all sorts of groups, speaks to and trains visiting scientists and dignitaries, and handles each maintenance problem in a calm, confident and measured manner.”

Brod’s ability to handle any situation that arises, whether it facility maintenance or equipment malfunction or a surprise dignitary in need of a tour, is what makes his role vital to the agency. It is with pleasure that TVMDL congratulates Jordan Brod on receiving the 2015 Vice Chancellor’s Award in Excellence for the special services category.

TVMDL employs more than 150 professionals that work diligently to uphold the agency’s mission to protect animal and human health through diagnostics. For more information on the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, visit tvmdl.tamu.edu.

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