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The Bridge Club Announces 2024 ICON Honoree

Kara Burns becomes the first Veterinary Technician to receive the honor.

PALATINE, IL —October 16, 2023 –The Bridge Club, a critical conversation company tackling the most pressing issues in veterinary medicine, announced today Kara M. Burns, MS, MEd, LVT, CVT, VTS (Nutrition), VTS Hon (Internal Medicine, Dentistry) is to be honored as the 2024 Bridge Club Industry ICON. Burns is the ninth ICON and the first veterinary technician/nurse to receive the honor. Burns will be formally honored during The Bridge Club ICON event on January 13 in Orlando, Florida.

The Bridge Club Industry ICON Award is given to a veterinary professional who consistently demonstrates leadership, innovation, and a commitment to elevating and advancing veterinary care.

“Kara is so deserving of this honor,” says Dr. Alex Miller, Manager of Veterinary Services, Blue Buffalo. “She has been instrumental in advancing the role of veterinary technicians and increasing the knowledge of all practitioners in the area of nutrition.”

Throughout her career Kara has taken on several important leadership roles including serving as the Editor-in-Chief of Today’s Veterinary Nurse; the current president of the Pet Nutrition Alliance, and as a past executive board member of PrideVMC. She has committed herself to maximizing the role of veterinary technicians/nurses by serving as the past president of the Kansas Veterinary Technicians Association and past president of the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA). Her dedication to nutrition is unparalleled. She founded the Academy for Veterinary Nutrition Technicians and has co-written two textbooks, authored multiple textbook chapters, and over 100 professional articles. She is a constant fixture for continuing education and currently serves as the Director of Veterinary Nurse Development at WellHaven Pet Health.

Burns was unanimously selected after a rigorous process. After receiving more than 48 nominations, The Bridge Club sought the counsel of previous ICONs for their feedback and from the event sponsors North America Veterinary Community, Blue Buffalo, and IDEXX. Burns joins an illustrious group of ICONs. Since 2018, the most brilliant veterinary minds have been recognized including Zoetis’s CEO Kristin Peck; former CEO of American Pet Products Association Bob Vetere; former AAHA CEO Dr. Michael Cavanaugh; founder of Avviare, Julia Stephanus; Executive Chairman at Chou2 Pharma, John Payne; former Dean of Texas A&M, Dr. Eleanor Green; former CEO of IDEXX, Jon Ayers and 2023 ICON winner Dr. Ruby Perry, the dean of Tuskegee Veterinary College.



This Bridge Club's ICON live event will take place in Orlando, FL on Saturday, January 13. In keeping with The Bridge Club's mantra that we are people first, professionals second, attendees will have the opportunity to get to know Kara via a moderated conversation that includes the person who knows her best, her wife, Dr. Ellen I. Lowery.

See Kara Burns's journey through veterinary medicine here [\(INSERT VIDEO LINK\)](#).

To learn more about The Bridge Club, visit www.thebridgeclub.com

ABOUT THE BRIDGE CLUB CONVERSATIONS, INC.

The Bridge Club is dedicated to bringing vital conversations forward to elevate veterinary medicine. Our conversations give every member of this profession a voice in advancing the profession. To date, The Bridge Club has hosted over 300 conversations dedicated to veterinary medicine. To see what we will be talking about next, visit www.thebridgeclub.com.

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