



Building on Progress: How NAVTA Is Turning Strategic Momentum Into Action



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As we move through 2026, NAVTA's work is centered on execution—turning prior strategic groundwork into active programs, partnerships, and policy direction that support credentialed veterinary technicians in practice, education, and leadership roles. Our efforts this year are guided by NAVTA's 5 strategic goals: advocacy, collaboration, membership, investing in members, and securing our future. Each priority is shaping current initiatives and actions across the association.

Advocacy: Advancing Technician Representation and Career Pathways

Advocacy continues to be a central priority. NAVTA is working with the AAVSB and state leaders following the passage of Resolution 2025-4, which encourages the inclusion of credentialed veterinary technicians as voting members on state veterinary boards. Current efforts focus on supporting state-level discussions and providing practical advocacy resources that promote veterinary nurse/technician representation, appropriate utilization, and clearer role definition for credentialed technicians.

Earlier this year, NAVTA released the findings from its midlevel practitioner and veterinary professional associate task force research, along with a formal association statement outlining NAVTA's position on these emerging roles. The review emphasized the importance of building advanced clinical pathways on the foundation of accredited veterinary technology education and credentialed technician development. To continue this work, NAVTA formed a new task force charged with developing practical recommendations for veterinary nurse/technician-centered career pathways and educational progression models.

Collaboration: Coordinating Industry Partners Around Team Excellence

Collaboration has moved firmly into the action stage. In January, NAVTA convened the Coalition for Veterinary Team Excellence (CVTE), bringing together leaders from the AVMA, AAHA, AAVSB, Association of Veterinary Technician Educators (AVTE), Veterinary Hospital Managers Association, North American Association of Veterinary Receptionists, and other groups. The coalition is focused on practical, cross-organizational solutions related to veterinary nurse/technician utilization, role clarity, mentorship, workflow efficiency, and sustainable team-based models of care. Ongoing efforts are centered on developing shared guidance and usable frameworks that practices and educators can apply in real settings.

NAVTA has also expanded its collaboration with the AVTE, with renewed joint efforts supporting student chapters, advisor tools, and workforce pipeline development for future credentialed technicians. Partnership work with the AVMA has progressed as well through a more integrated approach to advocacy, education, and technician utilization and advancement initiatives.

Membership: Strengthening Engagement and Feedback Channels

Research conducted with members and the broader workforce continues to shape NAVTA's direction. Survey findings highlighted consistent themes around utilization, compensation, role clarity, and workplace wellbeing.

Current initiatives include expanded leadership and governance training for board members, committee chairs, and district representatives; stronger mentorship pathways; and additional professional development programming aimed at long-term veterinary nurse/technician career sustainability.

NAVTA has also expanded communication channels and member input opportunities to ensure that frontline perspectives help guide association priorities and advocacy efforts. Student and early-career engagement remains a key focus, supported through strengthened student chapter collaboration, advisor support development, VTNE review offerings, and mentorship connections between established and emerging chapters.

Investing in Members: Education, Leadership, and Professional Growth

Education, leadership development, and professional growth remain core investment areas. NAVTA continues to expand veterinary nurse/technician-focused continuing education programming at major national conferences and is growing its national speaker database to broaden topic coverage and presenter participation from across the credentialed technician community.

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Scholarship and mentorship programs also continue to make an impact, including the Tuition for Techs scholarship program and MentorVet Tech participation. These initiatives are designed to support students and credentialed technicians at important career stages and help strengthen retention and advancement across the field.

Structured onboarding and governance training are also being rolled out for board members, committee chairs, and district representatives to promote leadership readiness and consistency across volunteer roles.

Securing Our Future: Systems, Governance, and Operational Strength

Behind the scenes, NAVTA is strengthening the operational systems that support member services and program delivery. Current projects include a full database cleanup, transition planning for a new association management system, standardized committee policies and documentation, and structured volunteer onboarding and training. While this work is less visible, it directly improves reporting accuracy, communication efficiency, and organizational stability as NAVTA continues to grow.

Summary

Taken together, NAVTA's 2026 agenda is practical and forward-looking: strengthening veterinary nurse/technician representation, clarifying advancement pathways, deepening cross-industry collaboration, investing in professional growth, and building durable organizational systems.

Guided by these 5 strategic goals, NAVTA's focus remains steady—delivering measurable, profession-centered impact and supporting a stronger, more sustainable future for the veterinary nurse/technician workforce. **TVN**