It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2020 Thomas L. Hill Iowa State Conference on Race and Ethnicity (ISCORE). The College of Veterinary Medicine is excited to serve as one of this year's ISCORE champions.

Iowa State's College of Veterinary Medicine is proud of our graduates. In particular I would like highlight one individual who made a significant impact on the world.

Dr. Frederick Douglass Patterson graduated in 1924 and is one of the first African-Americans to graduate from Iowa State's College of Veterinary Medicine. You may not know of Dr. Patterson but you are no doubt aware of his accomplishments. A president of Tuskegee Institute for 20 years, Dr. Patterson was the founder of the United Negro College Fund. He was also the driving force behind the formation of the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II.

As Brian Bridges, vice president of research and member engagement of the United Negro College Fund says, “Dr. Patterson is one of those unsung heroes of the 20th Century who should be celebrated because his contributions literally changed two fields for the better – the postsecondary education landscape and America’s World War II efforts."

The College of Veterinary Medicine is striving to live up to Dr. Patterson's legacy as we continue to create an inclusive community that is welcoming to all.

Dr. Dan Grooms
Dr. Stephen G. Juelsgaard Dean of Veterinary Medicine

Established in 2016, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee in the College of Veterinary Medicine has been working hard to make ISU CVM a welcoming and inclusive place to learn and work.

A highlight of the past three years has been the college’s annual MLK Day of Service. College of Veterinary Medicine faculty, staff and students have volunteered at local organizations and agencies including the Story County Boys and Girls Club, the Boone County Animal Shelter, Food at First, the Story County Community Action Poverty Simulation, and Green Hills Retirement Community.

The college’s outreach has also extended to Iowa elementary and secondary schools where college representatives have highlighted veterinary clinical skills at such events as the ISU4U Promise Nights in Des Moines’ King and Moulton Elementary Schools.

Each summer, the college offers an opportunity for underrepresented Iowa State undergraduate students to care for food animals and job shadow veterinarians, a background that’s needed for vet school admission. This signature program is helping these students become more competitive in their application to veterinary school and closer to realizing their dream of becoming a veterinarian.

College of Veterinary Medicine faculty, staff, and students have participated in the Purdue Online Certificate for Diversity and Inclusion in Veterinary Medicine. This program is designed for individuals who want to foster inclusive learning environments at Iowa State and develop skills to succeed as veterinary professionals.

In an effort to continuously improve, this past year the College of Veterinary Medicine underwent an extensive review of its diversity and inclusion activities. Dr. Hilda Mejia Abreu, associate dean of admissions, student life, and inclusivity at Michigan State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine conducted the review of practices and resources, while suggesting ways to move diversity and inclusion programming forward in the college. This review is being used to advance the college goal of creating a community that is welcoming to all.