Working for you: Continuing Education Steering Committee

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Composed of dedicated veterinarians and staff liaisons, the AAEP Continuing Education Steering Committee (CESC) serves as the guiding force behind the development and delivery of AAEP's educational programming. Formerly known as the Educational Programs Committee (EPC), the group was renamed at the end of 2025 to better reflect its expanded role overseeing all AAEP continuing education initiatives.

At the same time, the Scientific Review and Evaluation Committee was renamed the Educational Programs Committee, maintaining a focus on supporting the scientific program for the Annual Convention and related content development. The EPC operates under the oversight of the CESC, creating a streamlined structure that supports clarity, collaboration and strategic alignment across AAEP education.

This structure ensures that all educational offerings—from the Annual Convention to specialty meetings and online programs—receive thoughtful oversight, strong member input and consistent quality. The CESC reviews program evaluations, considers policy recommendations and helps ensure offerings remain practical, relevant, and responsive to the evolving needs of equine veterinarians across diverse practice types.

Mission

The mission of the CESC is threefold:

- Provide input and oversight on all AAEP continuing education initiatives.
- Review and develop policy recommendations to guide current and future programs.
- Assess member feedback from program evaluations and the triennial CE planning survey to ensure offerings align with professional needs.

Through this work, the committee ensures AAEP education reflects member priorities while keeping pace with advances in equine medicine and practice management.

Recent initiatives

Over the past year, the CESC has launched or expanded several initiatives designed to meet growing demand for hands-on, skill-based learning:

- **XP Series expansion:** AAEP's immersive, two-day XP Series continues to grow. These programs emphasize small-group, lab-based learning with immediate clinical application. In 2026, three NeuroXP and three DentistryXP programs are scheduled, along with the debut of a new PodiatryXP program. Additional XP offerings are in development for 2027.

Annual Foundational Skills programming will amplify core competency training for early career members.

- **Foundational Skills:** The committee is working toward offering Foundational Skills programming annually. A redesigned format will allow early career participants to focus on specific core competencies in a highly interactive environment.
- **How-to, Go-Do Mini-Labs:** These popular trade show sessions are directly tied to accepted "how-to" papers. Attendees can practice a technique using models and return to practice with actionable skills.
- **BURST sessions:** A Convention favorite, BURST features seven-minute presentations under the theme "learn today, use tomorrow." In addition to five scheduled presenters, three additional speakers are invited from submitted How-to papers.
- **Journal Club:** Launched in October 2025 in response to member feedback, the AAEP Journal Club provides a structured forum for critical discussion of current literature, strengthening the connection between research and clinical application.
- **Podcasts:** The committee is exploring AI-assisted methods to convert select Convention presentations into podcast format, expanding access to CE content in flexible, on-demand formats.

Listening to members

Member input remains central to the committee's work. Post-event evaluations, the triennial CE planning survey, and informal feedback all play a critical role in shaping programming. This two-way dialogue ensures offerings maintain high academic standards while remaining relevant and practical for everyday practice.

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Drs. Johnson and Page are the chair and vice chair of the CE Steering and Educational Programs committees. Dr. Bass is immediate past chair of the committees.

Working for you: Continuing Education Steering Committee, continued

A recent example of this commitment is the formation of the **Graduates of the Last Decade Task Force**, created to amplify the voices of early career veterinarians. The Task Force's first initiative was a comprehensive evaluation of the Annual Convention, focusing on programming relevance, learning formats, usability and applicability to practice. Their insights are already informing future program design.

The committee is also working to revitalize the AAEP mentoring program, particularly to support private practitioners interested in research and paper submission. Many practitioners seek guidance navigating study design, regulatory approvals and manuscript development. Strengthening these connections helps ensure continued scholarly participation across all practice settings.

Looking ahead

The future of AAEP continuing education is rooted in innovation, accessibility, and relevance. By combining traditional lectures with expanded hands-on learning, targeted skills training and new digital formats, the CESC is committed to providing inclusive, practical educational experiences that enhance confidence, competence and patient care.

Ultimately, the committee's goal is simple: to ensure AAEP members have access to high-quality continuing education that meaningfully supports their practice and advances equine health worldwide.