



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Nicole Green, Animalearn

Phone: 1-800-729-2287

Email: [ngreen@animalearn.org](mailto:ngreen@animalearn.org)

### Iowan Science Teacher Recognized as Humane Educator of the Year



*Wendy Martin in VictoryXR's virtual frog dissection*

**Jenkintown, PA (December 2019)**— Wendy Martin, a science teacher from Assumption High School in Davenport, Iowa, has been selected as Animalearn's 2019 Humane Educator of the Year. Martin is being recognized for her contribution to humane science education as the holographic science teacher featured in VictoryXR's frog, cat, and fetal pig virtual dissection (VR) software. Martin guides students through their dissections as she would in a live classroom.

"Every year I have students who want an alternative to traditional dissection. It's been a passion of mine to help create a hands-on alternative that is the future of learning, and with virtual reality, it's finally possible," Martin explains. "As a teacher, it is exciting to be able to come up with practical and educational tools to help others like myself. I am proud of the innovative ideas that have been built upon while working with VictoryXR. And I am so honored that Animalearn has recognized the value of our VR dissections."

Martin has been teaching high school and college level classes for over 20 years and is also a local 2006 Jaycee Outstanding Young Educator Awardee. Her master's degrees from Clemson University in Biology and from Ashford University in Education and Technology give her the background needed to integrate AR (augmented reality) and VR into STEM curriculums.

Martin acts as a consultant to various STEM education projects with VictoryXR, an AR/VR development company. In this role, Wendy writes scripts, acts as the teacher guide in many videos, and aligns the projects to Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

Martin asserts “In many ways—if not most—virtual reality dissection is superior to the real thing because it's repeatable and each student can have an individualized experience. As a teacher I appreciate the uniqueness of this experience. Students appreciate the use of technology in their learning. It is just one more method of delivery that can be used to reach multiple learning styles.”

Animalearn works with science educators who want to incorporate humane science methods into their classrooms by providing guidance and access to innovative non-animal resources, which may replace specimen dissections.

"Wendy is a standout science teacher, and it is a true honor to highlight her as our Humane Educator of the Year. She recognizes that technology is a method of learning that students are tuned in to. Traditional dissection labs are a thing of the past and Wendy is demonstrating that AR/VR can provide an optimum learning experiences for science students in today's world," said Animalearn Director, Nicole Green.

As a part of her award, Animalearn will donate \$1,000 towards humane science education resources to use in her classroom.

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Animalearn, a division of the American Anti -Vivisection Society, works with educators, students, policy makers and others to achieve quality humane science education without the harmful use of animals. Animalearn's free loan program, The Science Bank, is the largest lending program in the U.S. and offers humane science products that enable educators to teach and students to learn anatomy, physiology, and psychology lessons without harming animals. For more information visit [Animalearn.org](http://Animalearn.org).