



Region 2 Virtual Conference

June 8-9, 2024

PATH INTL. REGION 2 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Online registration will be available April 8, 2024 through May 31, 2024. There is no single day registration.

Registration April 8, 2024 through May 31, 2024:

Full Conference \$125 members \$100 PATH Intl. Higher Ed members \$185 non-members

Refund Policy:

Deadline for Full Refund – written request received in PATH Intl. office by May 31, 2024. Written cancellation request is required for refund. Email manderson@pathintl.org. **No refunds after May 31, 2024!**

Education:

This conference satisfies up to 10 hours of continuing education requirements.

AGENDA

All times are Eastern

Saturday, June 8, 2024 Recordings will available for Saturday only.

8:30 – 9:30 a.m. **Welcome and PATH Intl. Region 2 Update**

9:40 – 11:10 a.m. **PATH Intl. Update, Field Test Standards Update and Region 2 Awards Ceremony**

Session A

11:20 – 12:20 p.m.

Neurodiversity Affirming Practices for Professionals at PATH Intl. Centers DE

In this presentation attendees will learn about neurodiversity and neurodiversity affirming (NDA) practices. While the term has been around since the 1990's, there is a gap in knowledge between researchers who study the concept and those who work with neurodiverse participants in putting the concept into practice, whether it be in a therapy session, a riding lesson, or in groundwork activities. Throughout this presentation, attendees will practice setting strength-based goals for their participants, learn how to presume competence in different programs and settings, increase understanding of the spectrum of brain existence, and understand the importance of respecting a neurodiverse lived experience through participant self-advocacy and self-identity. Attendees will have the opportunity to share how their center and programs currently utilize neurodiversity affirming practices and brainstorm new ways to incorporate the information learned during the presentation for the benefit of those who identify as neurodivergent.

Melanie Dominko-Richards, MS, CCC-SLP, HPCS is a New Jersey licensed speech-language pathologist who holds her clinical competency from the American Speech-Language Hearing Association. She received a bachelor's in education and a master's in speech-language pathology from Seton Hall University. She has

training in PROMPT, DIR/Floortime, and is a board-certified Hippotherapy Clinical Specialist. Melanie works as a speech-language pathologist for an organization that provides services to adults with developmental disabilities as well as working part-time at an outpatient pediatric therapy clinic that incorporates equine movement as a treatment tool. Melanie is currently the president of the American Hippotherapy Association, Inc. board of directors. She is also a PATH Intl. Registered Therapist, CTRI and ESMHL.

12:20 – 12:40 p.m.

BREAK

Session B

12:40 – 1:40 p.m.

Resilient Transition - Bridging the Gap Between EAS and Suicide Prevention CE

Anyone who has the pleasure of meeting CSM Sa'eed Mustata recognizes he is a force of nature. Everywhere he goes he wears his positivity and message of resilience like a cloak of honor. Along his life's journey, he has become captivated by the equine-assisted services industry, its benefits for participants and the passion, caregiving and stamina of the professionals doing the work. Having visited and ridden at several centers, he is bringing his message of hope and optimism to the PATH Intl. Region 2 Conference. CSM Mustafa's book, "Resilient Transition," published on Amazon September 11th, 2021, is about effectively managing feelings of stress and anxiety.

Command Sergeant Major Sa'eed Mustafa is a combat veteran and two-time Bronze Star recipient. He served in the Persian Gulf War, Somalia and two tours in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He entered the Army in May 1984 in Albany, New York and served over 30 years in the military. He retired from active duty on October 8th, 2014, in front of family and friends at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York. Since his retirement he has been elected as the first African American councilman in the history of the Town of Highlands, New York. He has worked tirelessly as an advocate for veterans, first responders and their families. He planned, organized, resourced and hosted seven annual Veterans Resiliency Awards Galas in the Hudson Valley, New York region and two consecutive Galas in Houston, Texas. He was selected as a 2020 New York State Veteran Hall of Fame Inductee by New York State Senator James Skoufis. CSM Mustafa is currently in his second semester as a graduate student in the master of social work program at Columbia School of Social Work in New York City.

Session C

1:50 – 2:50 p.m.

Empathetic Horse Sense CR All

Participants will learn how the behavior and performance potential of horses is subject to the behavior of their human handlers and trainers. Chris reveals how to evolve our techniques to truly simulate equine body language and be able to communicate, bond and establish a genuine leadership connection. Learn about the three energies of push, block and draw, buttons on the horse, boundaries, telltale signs and other fundamentals of horse and human body language. Attendees will learn groundwork and leading skills that will provide a communication base that is understandable to BOTH horse and human.

Chris Irwin is an internationally renowned horseman, behaviorist, the best-selling author of *Horses Don't Lie* and *Dancing with Your Dark Horse*, and leader in the evolution of horse training, equine psychology, and *Horse Sense for Human Potential*. From transforming wild mustangs in America to 18 National Championships in riding and driving competitions, to feature presentations at major international horse shows, expos and conferences, to coaching Grand Prix trainers, coaches and judges in Europe, designing courses and lecturing at universities, to facilitating stress management programs for law enforcement officers and leadership workshops for executives, Chris Irwin is boldly going where equestrian and personal development has never gone before. As he says: "Horsemanship, ideally, is a self-discipline exercise in compassionate leadership. And a leader is someone who first and foremost manages his or herself to be able to better influence and be of service to others."

Session D

3 – 4 p.m.

HEAL-TH (Holistic Equine-Assisted Learning-Therapeutic Horsemanship) CE

The future of therapeutic horsemanship is growing! Be a part of the innovative unmounted programs that have more than doubled our mission-centered services. Learn about our experiential learning model utilizing a holistic approach. This program addresses the physical, cognitive and social-emotional needs of participants.

Jeffrey Rumpf is an executive director with award-winning experience in organizational growth and strategic planning. He has a MSED in experiential learning and counseling and was founder and executive director of

YMCA Camp Combe experiential learning center. He is a founder and past executive director for Catholic Charities Little Heroes Camps for 9/11 children who lost a family member, including developing an equine experiential learning and counseling program there. His tenure as executive director of Pegasus resulted in more than doubled services in four years.

Liz Fortes has been a professional in the horse industry for over 40 years as an instructor and trainer, with the last 18 years in therapeutic riding. She is a PATH Intl. Advanced Instructor, CTR®, ESMHL, EAP-PTSD, lead evaluator, video assessor and mentor. She is also a Special Olympics Coach, ARIA certified level 3 Hunt Seat, ARIA certified level 2 Dressage, a facilitator for The Equus Effect, and program director at an EAS center.

4 – 4:15 p.m. **Wrap-Up and Instructions for Sunday**

Sunday, June 9, 2024 Sessions will not be recorded! Schedule may be subject to adjustments.

Session E

Exploring (Dis)Abilities 8.0 – Universal Design in Learning **DE (6)**



SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY

- 8:30-8:45 Organization for the day
- 8:45-10:30 Introduction and Sensory Processing
- 10:30-10:45 Break
- 10:45- 12:00 Introduction to UDL
Concept/learning terminology
- 12:00- 12:30 LUNCH
- 12:30-1:45 Understanding UDL in practice
- 1:45- 2:00 Break
- 2:00- 3:30 UDL in Action

This course discusses universal design for learning (UDL) and an understanding of sensory processing. In any learning environment, the goal of teaching is to reach each student in a consequential manner to provide genuine learning opportunities for all, while considering the diversity of learners. Adaptive riding instructors need to adapt their teaching methodologies to meet the unique learning styles of every rider, whether due to challenges in motor skills, differences in learning styles or communication, sensory processing differences, or emotional states.

Susie Rehr, PT, MS, HPCS is the executive director of Special Strides, a PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Center, the interim manager of volunteer engagement, and has been a physical therapist for 37 years. She has provided physical therapy services to the pediatric population integrating hippotherapy treatment principles for the past 25 years. Quality care, clinical education, educational presentations, published writing and national involvement are hallmarks of her career. She co-developed the Exploring Series for Disability Education eight years ago and has created eight different six-hour courses and numerous webinars. The development of management tools for in-house purposes and industry-wide thought provocation is an important part of her toolbox. Susie has presented multiple topics at PATH Intl. Conferences, both regional and national.

C. Jane Burrows, PT, DPT, HPCS, PATH Intl. ESMHL is the manager of operations at Special Strides and an accomplished physical therapist with over 50 years of experience in all fields of physical therapy. She is a lifelong learner who is an integral member of the equine team at Special Strides. She and Susie developed the Exploring Series for Disability Education eight years ago and have created eight different six-hour courses together. She is also a PATH Intl. ESMHL, CTRI candidate, and a student of equine development. Jane has presented at numerous PATH Intl. conferences, both regional and national.

We look forward to seeing you online in June!