

**PATH Intl.
Regional
Conference**

**Presented
by
PATH Intl. Region 7**

January 31 – February 2, 2020

**Hosted by:
Riders Edge Ability Centered Horsemanship (REACH)
at Wood's Edge Equestrian Center
Olathe, KS**

PATH Intl. Region 7 welcomes you to an educational and fun weekend with your friends and colleagues in wonderful Olathe, Kansas. Your registration fee includes lunch each day.

CONFERENCE LOCATION

Friday Sessions

Colonial Presbyterian Church

12501 W. 137th St.
Overland Park, KS 66221

Saturday/Sunday Sessions

Riders Edge Ability Centered Horsemanship (REACH) at Wood's Edge Equestrian Center

15051 W. 191st St.
Olathe, KS 66062

Lodging Options

Holiday Inn Express & Suites – Overland Park
7580 E. 135th St., Overland Park, KS 66223
Reservations: 888-465-4329

Fairfield Inn & Suites – Overland Park
12440 Blue Valley Parkway, Overland Park, KS 66213
Reservations: 888-236-2427

TownePlace Suites – Overland Park
7020 W. 133rd St, Overland Park, KS 66223
Reservations: 888-236-2427

Residence Inn – Overland Park
12010 Blue Valley Parkway, Overland Park, KS 66213
Reservations: 888-236-2427

PATH INTL. CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Online registration will be available November 22, 2019, through January 17, 2020. After January 17, 2020, registration will need to be completed on-site.

***IF YOU ARE A PRESENTER OR CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEMBER,
DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER WITH YOUR CODE!***

Registration November 22, 2019, through January 17, 2020:

Full Conference	\$140 members	\$190 non-members
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Registration on-site after January 17, 2020:

Full Conference	\$170 members	\$220 non-members
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Refund Policy:

No refunds due to weather unless the conference is canceled.

Written cancellation request is required for refund (send an email to manderson@pathintl.org).

Deadline for Full Refund – Request received in PATH Intl. office by **January 17, 2020.**

Deadline for 50% Refund - Request received in PATH Intl. office by **February 2, 2020.**

Individuals who do not submit a written request to PATH Intl. by February 2, 2020, will not receive a refund.

Education:

This conference satisfies up to 15 hours of annual continuing education requirements.

TYPE	DESCRIPTION	CEU Conversion
DE	Disability Education	60 min = 1 DE
CR	Certification Core Requirement	60 min = 1 CR
CE	General Continuing Education	60 min = 1 CE

AGENDA

Friday, January 31, 2020

Colonial Presbyterian Church

7:30 – 8 a.m.

Registration & Welcome

8 – 9 a.m.

Region Meeting and Field Test Standards Hearing

Session A

9 – 10 a.m.

A1, How to Get Sponsors Sponsoring and Donors Donating CE

Generating sponsorships and donations is a combination of both art and science. Armed with techniques and tools to better address the needs of the organization as well as the sources of funding, attendees will leave with new skills and techniques that have led to increased dollars at some of the largest not-for-profits in the country.

Tom Tholen has been an advertising and marketing communication leader for close to 30 years. An internationally recognized creative talent, Tom has garnered awards from the Cannes Film Festival, The Emmy Awards, The Clio Awards and several other national and international organizations. As a business leader, Tom has held executive management positions with Hallmark Cards, Sprint and General Electric. For nearly a decade, Tom was president and chief marketing officer at Callahan Creek, an advertising and marketing agency. Callahan Creek was voted Best Place to Work in the Greater Kansas City market and opened offices in Los Angeles in addition to the Lawrence, Kansas, headquarters. Tom is currently a partner at Brandwell, a marketing communications company located in downtown Kansas City.

A2, The Abilities of Different-abled Kids DE

Learn about the impact of functional activities, including hippotherapy, in daily independence and quality of life for children with neurological impairments of the upper extremities, including cortical and peripheral injuries.

Andrea Melanson, OTD, OTR/L received her undergrad degree in occupational therapy in 1991 and then pursued and obtained a doctoral degree in occupational therapy in 2011 from the University of Kansas Medical Center. She has worked in the occupational therapy field for 28 years with 26 of those years at Children's Mercy. Her main area of practice and focus is in pediatric orthopedics, brachial plexus injuries and children with hemiparesis. Andrea is the education coordinator for the PTOT department and facilitates ongoing research and evidence-based practice within the department, hospital and community as well as her clinical practice.

10 – 10:15 a.m.

BREAK

Session B

10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

B1, Better Prepared than Scared CE

This presentation will provide tools to help facilities prepare an evacuation plan should an emergency arise. The course will also discuss ways to mitigate damage so that the recovery phase is less stressful for the owners and the animals.

Dr. Nancy K. Thomas, LMLP holds a PhD degree in psychology and a bachelor's degree in law enforcement administration. Her experience includes 10 years as a firefighter/paramedic, 17 years in K9 training and five years as a forensic behaviorist. Dr. Thomas teaches psychology at Kansas City Kansas Community College and is the director of Fire Science at Johnson County Community College. She teaches courses in emergency management/preparedness, fire law, strategies and tactics, fire administration and leadership. She is also a licensed mental health therapist and an equine specialist partnering with horses for psychotherapy, corporate team building and personal growth. During school breaks she and her husband can be found SCUBA diving in the Caribbean.

B2, Effective Communication with Children on the Autism Spectrum DE

The presentation will focus on understanding how children on the autism spectrum process information and simple ways to make communicating with children with autism easier.

Darren Olson is a licensed clinical psychologist in the Division of Developmental and Behavioral Health at Children's Mercy Kansas City and an assistant professor of pediatrics at UMKC School of Medicine. He received his doctorate and master's degrees at the University of Hawaii and completed a bachelor's degree at Arizona State University. He specializes in diagnosis and treatment of children with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities.

11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Lunch and PATH Intl. Update

Session C

1 – 2 p.m.

C1, Recovering From an Incomplete Spinal Cord Injury: Perspectives From a Patient and Her Therapists DE

Julie Edge (SCI patient), Natalie Dirnberger (PT) and Erin Brown (OT) will present on the topic of incomplete spinal cord injury and how therapy (including therapeutic riding) supports recovery of leg and arm function. Julie has included therapeutic riding in her therapy regimen from three months post-injury. She progressed from two sidewalkers to independent riding one year after her injury. She will provide her insights into the role that therapeutic riding played in her walking and bowel/urinary recovery. Natalie and Erin will provide their expertise as therapists and discuss how they have supported Julie's recovery.

Julie Edge, PhD, is a certified life and leadership coach. She launched Inside Edge Coaching after almost three decades as a strategy consultant and communications executive. Julie also is a certified equine-assisted coach and has enhanced her coaching practice through her partnership with horses. In September 2018, she experienced a spinal infarction (incomplete SCI affecting C6 to T1) during a surgical procedure. Julie has incorporated therapeutic horseback riding as part of her SCI recovery.

Natalie Dirnberger, PT, is a native of Kansas City, completed her undergraduate degree in health science as well as her doctorate degree in physical therapy from the University of

Missouri-Columbia. Following graduation in July 2013, Natalie joined Ability KC as a physical therapist on the adult medical rehabilitation team. She has since been working with individuals with a variety of neurological conditions including, but not limited to, spinal cord injury, stroke, and traumatic brain injury to assist in attaining their mobility goals. Since 2013, Natalie has become a certified Level 2 Ekso Bionics clinician, certified Indego specialist and certified Bioness L300 clinician. She utilizes her expertise in rehab technology, in addition to traditional physical therapy, to help her patients achieve their greatest potential.

Erin Brown, OTR, ATP has been an occupational therapist since 1995. She graduated from University of Kansas. She received her Assistive Technology Professional certification in 2001. She has worked at Ability KC since 2008 in their medical rehabilitation program and Adaptive Computer and Communication Technology Program. Erin has worked with neurological diagnoses with specialty in spinal cord injury, UE limb loss and assistive technology. She has presented at both local and national conferences on topics including low vision after CVA/TBI, low vision and aging, spinal cord injury and assistive technology.

C2, Making Social Media an Effective Part of Your Marketing Plan CE

When it's properly managed, social media might be the answer to the age-old marketing challenge of delivering on the "Fast, Cheap and Good" scale. When social media is not properly managed, nightmares of every variety can strike. Learn how major companies are making sure social media can take traditional marketing plans to a whole new level.

Tom Tholen, see bio in session A1

2 – 2:15 p.m.

BREAK

Session D

2:15 – 3:15 p.m.

D1, An Overview of Cerebral Palsy and the Benefits of EAAT – PART 1 DE

Cerebral palsy affects many participants in EAAT programs. This overview of CP will help you learn more about the background/medical description of cerebral palsy including types of tone found in CP as well as traditional methods of facilitating and inhibiting tone.

Carol Hobbs is a licensed physical therapist who can still remember how it felt to be a "newbie" WAY back when she graduated in 1985. She spent 20 years in the Army and has practiced in many different settings (in no particular order): trauma, post-operative orthopedics, sports medicine, general outpatient, acute burn care, pediatrics, skilled nursing facilities, acute rehab, and inpatient (acute care). Her presentation topics include chronic pain, prognosis in stroke, differential diagnosis, lower extremity amputations, prevention of training injuries, management of burns, neurologic evaluation, and TMJ dysfunction. She is currently serving as a PRN PT at St Luke's Hospital of Kansas City in the Inpatient Rehabilitation Department AND as an adjunct faculty member in the DPT program at Rockhurst University. When she's not enjoying treating patients and teaching college students, you can find her volunteering in the community or enjoying time with her husband and three cats.

D2, Incorporating Academics Skills and EAAT CR ALL

We sit in an amazing arena to give students a safe and fun way to learn and relearn skills! Where do we even start? How do we know what academic standards students need? Learn where to find information, how parents and teachers can help, some ideas for lessons and to have fun with it. Do activities with academics look the same when riding and on the ground?

Questions are wonderful; come with some of your own. Most of all find out how you can just have fun with your students while they pick up some academic skills!

Jessica Freund has been working in the EAAT field for about nine years, as a volunteer first and now as the education enrichment director at New Horizon Ranch. She has an elementary education degree with a minor in special education from Baker University and a certificate in autism spectrum disorders from Emporia State University. In her free time, she enjoys time with family, being outside, crocheting and reading a good book.

3:15 – 3:30 p.m.

BREAK

Session E

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

E1, An Overview of Cerebral Palsy and the Benefits of EAAT – PART 2 DE

Part 2 will follow up with the effects of horseback riding on tone, additional benefits of therapeutic riding on individuals with cerebral palsy as well as new information and considerations for the future.

Carol Hobbs, see bio in session D1

E2, Benefits of EAAT in Older Adults With Arthritis DE

Dr. White-Lewis will discuss her recent randomized controlled trial, which compared 45-year-old to 76-year-old participants with five different forms of arthritis. Significant results were found for improved pain, improved range of motion and improved quality of life. Biomarkers for cartilage and muscle were tested as were effects of the environment. Future studies include an international study based on her original work that would be fully powered and would include cortisol samples from the equine partners.

Dr. Sharon White-Lewis, RN, received her PhD degree from the University of Missouri Kansas City in 2018 with a research subject of Equine-assisted Therapy for Adults and Older Adults with Arthritis. She has a long list of accolades for her research, publications and international presentations on a wide variety of medical topics. Her current research focus is equine-assisted activities and therapies. Her interdisciplinary approach to research focuses on improvements that humans can benefit from when interacting with animals. She has 25 years of research experience that is now focusing on this new and innovative area of science.

4:30 – 4:45 p.m.

BREAK

4:45 – 5:30 p.m.

State Meetings

Saturday, February 1, 2020

REACH at Wood's Edge Equestrian Center

7:30 – 8 a.m.

Registration & Welcome

Session F

8 – 9 a.m.

F1, (Arena), Avoiding Equine Burnout CR All

Let's talk staff...equine staff. We all know the amount of work and time that goes into bringing on a new equine team member, so how can we keep them around long term? Let's dive into topics regarding our equine team including equine selection, training, weight limits, workloads,

case load demographics, handling, health maintenance, time off, conditioning, and other management practices that will help us keep our herd member around and engaged for the long haul!

Shelby Winnail grew up training, riding and showing American Quarter Horses and in a barn where adaptive riding and equine therapy services were being offered every day. Upon graduating with her bachelor's degree in animal science, she took a full-time position at Heartland Equine Therapeutic Riding Academy (HETRA) as the equine manager and hasn't looked back. She has since become a PATH Intl. CTRI, ESMHL, Mentor and is the current Nebraska State Representative. Shelby loves working hands on with participants and volunteers, but her passion lies with the horses. Shelby is driven by building and maintaining an EAAT herd that is "healthy, happy, sane and sound" and strives every day to learn from the horses and to share that knowledge with others in the EAAT industry.

F2, (Lounge), Techniques and Mechanics Matter! Are You Teaching to Set Your Students up for Success? - Part 1 CR Riding

Instructing is not an easy job. We have to give 100%. Every. Single. Class. Are you giving 100% or do you think some things don't matter because your students will never do more than walk... or trot with support... or never ride independently? How we teach, what we teach, and how we say and show it matters more than you may realize. Students can be set up for success... or set up for frustration, and it starts with YOU, the instructor! Take a deeper look at teaching techniques such as external cuing, timing of cues and task analysis, and learn practical ways you can apply them in every lesson, with every ability rider, and see noticeable changes in your students, horses, volunteers, and you!

Saebra Pipoly lives in Arizona and owns and operates Hoof Falls & Footfalls, LLC, which provides resources to adaptive riding instructors. She grew up living and breathing everything horse and has spent the past decade dedicating her life to the EAAT field. Saebra has a passion for building up other instructors to be the best they can be so they can go out and impact countless lives by teaching their students and mentoring other instructors. Her focus is to pass on 'how' to use solid teaching techniques in every lesson, have a mindfulness of our equine coworkers and an understanding of the importance of horse and human mechanics: all these pieces come together to enable instructors to provide quality, safe lessons that keep students and horses happy and healthy.

9 – 9:15 a.m.

BREAK

Session G

9:15– 10:15 a.m.

G1, (Arena), Evaluating Horses for Pain, Symmetry and Soundness CR All

Participants will learn basic equine anatomy, palpation techniques for evaluating equine musco-skeletal pain, learn to identify equine posture and compensation, hoof symmetry, gait analysis. This is a hands-on workshop demonstrating to participants a direct feel of the horse and visual guidelines for evaluation techniques.

Rhonda Martin owns and operates Equine Mechanix near Kansas City, MO. She has a Bachelor of Science degree - Anatomy-Physiology Emphasis. She provides massage-based bodywork and PEMF therapy for horses as well as saddle-fitting assessments, custom western and English pads, custom western saddles, lessons and clinics. Her focus is to help horse owners and trainers better understand the physical needs of their horses. Understanding the dynamic relationship between conformation, posture, biomechanics of movement, muscle issues, saddle fit and rider issues is what she offers her clients and students. Rhonda works with all disciplines of riding.

G2, (Lounge), Equine Activity Liability Acts – Are You Blindly Galloping Along? – Part 1 CE

Are you prepared to defend if you or your center is sued? A summary of the origin and protections of the EALA and what it means in your state will be presented. Participants will focus on the nuts and bolts of the EALA in each state in Region 7 and will be able to: follow how the EALA developed and its purpose; compare how the laws differ from state to state; locate and read the current EALA in each state in Region 7; recognize the connection between PATH Intl. Standards and defending a legal action using the EALA; and identify how to invoke the benefits conferred by the EALA.

Deborah Manasco is a lifelong equine enthusiast who has competed, coached, judged, and taught horsemanship in various settings for over 40 years. In 2007, she retired from full time law practice and now practices part time with the Alabama legislature. She taught at Storybook Farm, a PATH Intl. member center in Opelika, AL, for seven years, and currently volunteers at Montgomery Area Non-Traditional Equestrians (MANE), a PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Center near Montgomery, AL. She is a PATH Intl. member, CTRI, Mentor and Site Visitor.

10:15 – 10:30 a.m.

BREAK

Session H

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

H1, (Arena), Managing Soundness and Pain in Horses CR All

Learn the basics of identifying muscular pain and range of motion in horses and how that relates to common problems horses exhibit under saddle. Rhonda will address basic saddle fit concepts and simple exercises that will benefit horses that are being used in EAAT programs to help maintain their comfort and soundness.

Rhonda Martin, see bio session G1

H2, (Lounge), Equine Activity Liability Acts – Are You Blindly Galloping Along? – Part 2 CE

See description for session G2

Deborah Manasco, see bio in session G2

11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Lunch and Region 7 Awards

Session I

12:45 – 1:45 p.m.

I1, (Arena), Techniques and Mechanics Matter! Are You Teaching to Set Your Students up for Success? - Part 2 CR Riding

See description for session F2

Saebra Pipoly, see bio in session F2

12, (Lounge), Vets and What They REALLY Want in a Center DE

Whether you are recruiting new veterans or trying to retain veterans BraveHearts will present ideas for your centers programming that works along with why it works. Do you and your center have the tools needed to take it all on? BraveHearts will share their ideas on what vets want with horses and answer the key questions with which your center wrestles.

Mitchell Hedlund, US Army, served from 2011-2012 where he was deployed to Afghanistan. He is the 2019 PATH Intl. Veteran of the Year. It was his experience in Afghanistan that helped

Mitchell find his true passion for helping fellow veterans to rebuild their lives through counseling and recreational sports, like horseback riding. While in Afghanistan, he obtained a physical injury to his back that brought him to spend some time using a wheelchair and cane to help him move around. During this time, he was also going through a divorce, which made him realize that he needed to find a better way to control his PTSD. While on this journey, he found BraveHearts, where he learned how to become an instructor through BraveHearts training and certification program. Mitchell became an instructor in 2017 and is the Equine Training Specialist at BraveHearts. He uses the horse to help his fellow veterans to experience relief from their PTSD symptoms through EAAT sessions. In return, Mitchell has been able to heal through working with horses and training wild mustangs at BraveHearts. 2019 was Mitchell's second year participating in Trail to Zero.

Cpl. Nick Montijo, US Marine Corps, served from 2006-2010. When Nick first came to BraveHearts he began with grooming and spending time with the horse's in-hand and was eventually able to participate in riding. Nick became the first Wounded Warrior Project veteran to become a PATH certified instructor. Nick is a huge advocate for equine assisted services as he has seen first-hand how services help. Nick is currently teaching at BraveHearts as the Lead Veteran Instructor. He has been an inspiration for so many veterans to gain healing through horsemanship and to gain a vocational skill as an instructor. 2019 was Nicks 2nd year participating in Trail to Zero.

Meggan Hill-McQueeney, is a lifelong equestrian. Meggan is a PATH International Master Level Instructor, a Special Olympics (SO) coach, a trainer for Illinois SO coaches, the SO Sports Management Team, and a PATH Intl. evaluator. In 2010 Meggan stepped into the role of BraveHearts President/COO, well established as the largest nonprofit in the country serving military veterans through healing horsemanship. She is the 2015 recipient of the PATH Intl. James Brady Professional Achievement Award. Meggan's desire to provide quality programming through higher-degree horsemanship with veterans is achieved through advanced concepts including gentling wild mustangs, mentoring veterans to become PATH Intl. certified instructors, and working cattle. In 2017, Meggan successfully launched "Trail to Zero" a 20-mile horse ride to end veteran suicide. For the last three years she has taken BraveHearts veterans, many riding their gentled mustangs on 20 miles through both NYC and Washington DC, working closely with mounted police units and media, through riding into prominent areas like Central Park, Ground Zero, Times Square, and in front of the White House to create awareness of what horses can do for eliminating suicide. Meggan is a firm believer, as heard in her 2015 TED Talk, that all veterans deserve to be given limitless opportunities – and that belief is demonstrated daily through the veterans who organically begin to explore a world of possibilities because of the experiences with BraveHearts farms, horses and staff.

1:45 – 2 p.m.

BREAK

Session J

2 – 3 p.m.

J1, (Arena), Saddle Fit CE

Have you ever bought a shoe that you just LOVED only to wear it and learn it doesn't fit quite right? This is the world of saddle fit and what we all strive to perfect for our horses. Come learn what has become a very practical approach to saddle fitting for the EAAT herd at HETRA. We will talk English, Western, and even Treeless saddles. We know a healthy back is imperative for an EAAT horse, but we also know we have a limited budget and have to work with the tack we have. So how can we shim, adjust, or adapt the saddles available to our program for optimum comfort for our horses? We'll take a look as a group and get a chance to feel—

hands on—proper and poor fitting saddles and brainstorm about what might be a realistic approach for your center.

Shelby Winnail, see bio in session F1

J2, (Lounge) Creating a Strong Volunteer Team CE

Whether you are starting from scratch or you've been managing volunteers for a while, this presentation will give you strategies to keep your volunteers organized, your program running smoothly and your coordinator sane.

Brett Bauer is a PATH Intl. CTRI and ESMHL at Heartland Therapeutic Riding. She grew up riding and has been teaching adaptive riding lessons for seven years. Brett has been managing volunteers since 2010. One of her favorite parts of EAAT is seeing the riders' bond with their volunteers and watching them achieve progress with their team.

3 – 3:15 p.m.

BREAK

Session K

3:15 – 4:15 p.m.

K1, (Arena), Foundation Horsemanship in the Round Pen. How are you REALLY doing? DE

By using a hybrid method of several different round pen theories and techniques we will explain how the round pen works for participants and horses best in starting or advancing your participants, horses, staff, volunteers and centers. By demonstrating and then using volunteers we can hone in and refine techniques most applicable for veterans. Horses always tell us how we are in the moment if we stop and listen and continue to learn the true partnership needed to help in any situation.

Mitchell Hedlund, Cpl. Nick Montijo, and Meggan Hill-McQueeney, see bios in session I2

K2, (Lounge), Naughty Horses – Part 1 CR All

Have you ever had a horse be 'naughty' in a class? Have you seen bad behaviors like nipping, ear pinning, or even kicking? Are your lesson horses just 'not right' or unsound? You are not alone! This two-part presentation will delve into the common problems instructors and programs face on a daily basis and help participants troubleshoot what they are seeing to find the root cause of what they are seeing in their horses. Our horses are the backbone of our lessons and we can't do what we do without them. So how do we keep our horses happy, healthy, and working years to come?

Saebra Pipoly, see bio in session F2

4:15 – 4:30 p.m.

BREAK

Session L

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

L1, (Arena), Naughty Horses – Part 2 CR All

See description for session K2

Saebra Pipoly, see bio in session F2

L2, (Lounge), Warm up With Intent CR Riding

Make the most of your lessons by getting your riders connected and focused with targeted exercises and games. Learn what activities can help to promote better balance and engagement.

Kaytee Beaver is an occupational therapist specializing in pediatric populations. She obtained her Master of Occupational Therapy degree from the University of Kansas in 2007. She is Sensory Processing Disorder Proficiency Certified. She enjoys helping people with physical disabilities develop strategies to live their best life.

Brett Bauer, see bio in session J2

Sunday, February 2, 2020

REACH at Wood's Edge Equestrian Center

8:30 – 9 a.m. Arrival

Session M

9 – 10 a.m.

M1, (Arena) H.O.P.E.- Horses Offering People Experiences for LIFE: Equine Group Therapy – Part 1 DE

An innovative equine-facilitated psychotherapy program will be discovered from a group therapy approach...ALL from the ground up. Program steps will be presented from both a didactic and experiential format. Participants will take a look at the research within the field of domestic violence of women, rationale for group therapy, and rationale for the equine therapy approach. Assessment tools will be discussed, regarding pre- and post-screening tools, as well as H.O.P.E. evaluations at each session. Marketing strategies will be uncovered. Finally, the H.O.P.E. equine-facilitated group therapy format for the eight-week series will be described in detail, both didactically and experientially over our two hours together in the barn with horses and friends in the field.

Michele McColm brings nearly 41 years of experience to Horses of Hope – KS & MO, and serves as a co-founder and director of the organizations. In the therapeutic riding industry, and more specifically in the experiential learning world of therapeutic riding, she is sought as a presenter and speaker on a regional and national level. Not only is she a PATH Intl. Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor, she holds Level 1 certification from the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association and has earned certification through PATH Intl. as an Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning. McColm holds a Master's of Science degree in Human Development and Family Studies, with an Early Childhood Education specialization and certification and is currently pursuing a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling to aid in expanding the EFP program at Horses of Hope - KS & MO. McColm is educationally prepared to fully understand, develop, implement and evaluate the needs of all types of clients, their families, volunteers, staff, and the many community members and agencies involved in Horses of Hope's expansive efforts. Specifically, she provides leadership with all the new initiatives and expanded school-based programming, volunteer and staff certification, therapeutic riding, equine educational and mental health initiatives for all entities involved in the program's design.

Vallerie Sweeton has committed her life to exploring the connections between human and horse. She is a co-founder of Horses of Hope Riding Center Inc. She has been a PATH Intl. Registered Instructor since 1997 and a PATH Intl. Certified Driving Instructor since 2002. In the therapeutic riding industry, and more specifically in the experiential learning world of therapeutic riding, she is sought as a presenter and speaker on a regional and national level. She has obtained the Level 1 Certification with the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association and is also certified through PATH Intl. as an Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning. She holds an associate degree as a physical therapist assistant and currently holds a permanent license. Anytime there is an individual being served, Sweeton is the first person to

match the client's individual therapeutic and educational goals (education, physical therapy etc.) with the correct equine partner. Her expertise in this area is critical in developing this all-important relationship.

Jessica Mullin co-designed and implemented the H.O.P.E program, but was unable to present due to the due date of her baby. She is a PATH Intl. Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor and holds a master's degree in clinical social work, and a certificate in animal-assisted social work from the University of Denver. She is a licensed mental health professional and has several years of experience providing adapted treatment and animal-assisted interventions to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She has been a lifelong horsewoman since the age of 5, and has a wealth of knowledge that enables her to see the unique bond between horse and human and apply that skillset to therapeutic riding, as well as equine-facilitated psychotherapy.

M2, (Lounge) Setting Achievable Goals and Objectives for Your Students CR All

Understanding how to incorporate goals and objectives into your lesson plan is vital to student success. Learn how to utilize the student's profile and information as well as communication available with parents, guardians, teachers, supervisors to ascertain what the student's goals are and then break down those goals into specific measurable actions that can become a focus point in your lesson plan. We will review the concept of S.M.A.R.T goals – specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound. My hope is to take some frustration out of the planning and make the goals attainable and fun yet challenging.

Judi Nelson has been a PATH Intl. Registered Therapeutic Riding Instructor since 2010. She and her husband own Hoofprint Hill Farm, Cedar Falls, Iowa, and she teaches riding instruction with Western and English disciplines as well as therapeutic horsemanship. A graduate of Elmhurst College with a B.A. degree in Education, English and Music, Judi substitute teaches in various school districts near her, primarily in special education or for troubled youth although she has been known to substitute for pre-school up to 12th grade in any subject. Judi founded the Select Charity Horse Association to raise money for other charities as well as instilling good sportsmanship, philanthropy and responsibility in exhibitors at an annual two-day horse show. THE SCHA has expanded to two horse shows a year starting in 2020 and also hosts two model horse shows per year to raise money for the charities selected by its board of directors. Hoofprint Hill Impressions is also a business owned by Judi, which does machine embroidery work for various sports associations.

10 – 10:15 a.m.

BREAK

Session N

10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

N1, (Arena) H.O.P.E.- Horses Offering People Experiences for LIFE: Equine Group Therapy – Part 2 DE

See description for session M1

Shelly McCollom, Vall Sweeton, Jessica Mullen see bios in session M1

N2, (Lounge) Demystifying the ESMHL Certification – More Than Just a Skills Test! – Part 1 CR ESMHL

Focusing on the Skills Test and its role in determining ES certification or not, participants often come into the ESMHL workshop anticipating learning about horse-handling and teaching skills. Few are prepared for the actual content that ultimately invites self and other awareness as well as paradigm shifts and an awakened philosophy on working with horses alongside clients, students and mental health/educational professionals. This short introductory workshop is designed to introduce and help clarify the role of the equine specialist, and its influence on an enhanced partnership with their equine cohorts in EFP and EAL.

Leslie McCullough, PhD, LCSW, has carved her career in counseling, teaching, mentoring and creating and implementing innovative psychotherapy practices for at-risk youth and survivors of trauma for over 35 years. In 1988 she began her role as equine therapy practitioner. This auspicious beginning led to Leslie co-creating the practice of equine-facilitated psychotherapy (EFP) and the subsequent certification training for the Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning, which she has taught since 2005 for PATH Intl. Between 1988-2012 Leslie had one of the first and most successful EFP facilities in Texas. From 2012-2018 Leslie taught social work at Washburn University in Topeka, KS, while also working as consultant, trainer and therapist at The Hope and Healing Academy, an EFP facility in Topeka. Today she has a private EFP practice that in addition to psychotherapy, includes lecturing, consultation, researching and writing on EFP and the Human-Nonhuman Animal Connection.

11:15 – 11:30 a.m.

BREAK

Session O

11:30 – 12:30 p.m.

O1, (Arena) Demystifying the ESMHL Certification – More Than Just a Skills Test! – Part 2 CR ESMHL

Following up on Part 1, this presentation will move to the arena to include participants playing the role of ESMHL to help increase the understanding of “the horse as a partner, not a tool.” Learn where and with whom you can market yourself and finish up with an opportunity to ask questions related to the ESMHL certification.

Leslie McCollough, see bio in session N2

O2, (Lounge) Developing Community Partnerships CE

Do you want to develop longstanding partnerships within your community, but you just aren't sure where to begin? Have you tried the cold call approach and failed? If you are looking for tips on developing partnerships with local corporations, businesses, schools, agencies and others come learn from our mistakes and successes. Join us as we share what has worked and what hasn't in our 13 years of developing relationships within our community. Come hear about ways to offer reciprocity to your partners, become an asset to your community and diversify your support base, revenue stream and community awareness.

Brian and Joy Miller started as volunteers at Heartland Therapeutic Riding before founding their own center, New Horizon Ranch in Rantoul, KS, in 2006. **Brian** has a special gift for connecting with and loving people and uses these skills as the executive director to cultivate community relationships. He especially enjoys instructing the beginning riders, facilitating equine-assisted learning at NHR and connecting with community members. **Joy** is the program director and enjoys the challenge and creativity of program development, exploring new community and agency partners, grant writing, volunteer management as well as facilitating EAL, summer camps and teaching the intermediate riders.

12:30 – 2 p.m.

Lunch and Networking

We look forward to seeing you soon in Olathe, Kansas!