



P.O. Box 33150  
 Denver, CO 80233  
[www.narha.org](http://www.narha.org)

For more information, contact:  
 Cher Smith, Communications Coordinator  
 800-369-RIDE (7433)  
[csmith@narha.org](mailto:csmith@narha.org)

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## **NARHA Launches New Membership for Higher Education**

**Denver**—Recently NARHA, formerly the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association, launched an exciting new membership for educational institutions that affiliate with NARHA centers to offer the resources needed to complete the NARHA instructor certification at the registered and advanced level.

The NARHA Higher Education membership offers three levels of membership to meet the needs of a variety of universities and colleges. Level one is for institutions that provide curriculum related to the equine-assisted activities and therapies (EAAT) field or that wish to recruit students to equine or other programs that reference EAAT, such as psychology, physical or occupational therapy departments, but do not offer NARHA certifications. Level two institutions provide curriculum that meet criteria to prepare students for NARHA certification, with the certification itself being completed at a NARHA center. Level three membership is for institutions that provide curriculum that meet criteria to prepare students for NARHA certification including the certification itself.

If you are an institution of higher education, consider becoming a NARHA Higher Education member. Depending on an institution's student needs and profile, there are a variety of ways to take advantage of this excellent opportunity. Participating universities or colleges have the benefits of national recognition and a story for student recruitment, national networking and advertising opportunities, and most importantly the ability to increase a graduate's employment opportunities.

Benefits of membership depend on the level of membership but can include a listing on NARHA's website, multiple *Strides* subscriptions, national conference registration underwritten for a faculty member and/or student, and numerous NARHA instructor training materials, including texts, CD's, online courses, and the *NARHA Standards for Certification and Accreditation*.

If you are a student looking for education opportunities in the equine industry, check out the NARHA membership institutions at [www.narha.org/resources-education/education/higher-education](http://www.narha.org/resources-education/education/higher-education). Students have access to not only exceptional educational resources but also a solid base for networking and success in the EAAT field.

NARHA is constantly seeking to expand and improve its programs and membership, which it has done with astonishing success over the last 40 years, with more than 800 member centers and over 6,300 individual members in countries all over the world that serve more than 42,000 children and adults with special needs each year. For information on the new higher education membership, visit [www.narha.org/resources-education/education/higher-education](http://www.narha.org/resources-education/education/higher-education) or contact Sandy Artichoker, Higher Education Membership Coordinator, at [sartichoker@narha.org](mailto:sartichoker@narha.org).



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About NARHA:

*NARHA, formerly North American Riding for the Handicapped Association, was formed in 1969 to promote equine assisted activities and therapies for individuals with special needs. At over 800 member centers, a total of 42,000 children and adults find a sense of independence through involvement with horses. These member centers range from small, one-person programs to large operations with several certified instructors and licensed therapists. In addition to therapeutic equitation, a center may offer any number of equine-assisted activities including hippotherapy, equine facilitated mental health, driving, interactive vaulting, trail riding, competition, ground work, or stable management. Through a wide variety of educational resources, the association helps individuals start and maintain successful equine-assisted activities and therapies for individuals with special needs. There are more than 24,000 volunteers, 2000 instructors, 5,700 therapy horses and thousands of contributors from all over the world helping people at NARHA centers.*