



Regional Conference

June 3-5, 2022

Presented by: PATH Intl. Region 2

Hosted by:

Centenary University & HRH New Jersey

Thank you to Centenary University, Platinum Event Sponsor, for generously donating the use of campus and equestrian facilities!

PATH Intl. Region 2 welcomes you to an educational and fun weekend with your friends and colleagues in New Jersey. Your registration fee includes light refreshments Friday evening, breakfast and lunch on Saturday and breakfast and lunch on Sunday.

CONFERENCE LOCATION

Friday & Saturday

Centenary University
400 Jefferson Street
Hackettstown, NJ 07840

Sunday

Centenary University Equestrian Center
40 Califon Road
Long Valley, NJ 07853

Lodging Options

**Centenary University
On-campus Housing**
400 Jefferson Street
Hackettstown, NJ 07840
\$125 Friday and Saturday night stay.
Dormitory suites (4 single rooms, 2 shared baths, kitchenette). BYO Linens and towels
<https://www.centenaryuniversityevents.com/event-details/path-conference-lodging>

Must reserve by May 20, 2022!

Recommended Hotels within 25 miles:

Days Inn by Wyndham, Budd Lake, NJ
Residence Inn by Marriott, Mt. Olive, NJ
Neighbor House Bed & Breakfast, Long Valley, NJ
Courtyard by Marriott, Lebanon, NJ
Hampton Inn, Clinton, NJ

PATH INTL. REGION 2 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Online registration will be available March 25, 2022, through May 20, 2022. After May 20, 2022, 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 March 25, 2022 through May 20, 2022:

Full Conference \$170 members \$220 nonmembers
\$145 PATH Intl. Higher Ed member \$160 Higher Ed Student/Faculty

Registration on-site after May 20, 2022:

Full Conference \$200 members \$250 nonmembers
\$175 PATH Intl. Higher Ed member \$190 Higher Ed Student/Faculty

Refund Policy:

No refunds due to weather unless the conference is canceled.

Written cancellation request is required for refund. Email manderson@pathintl.org

Deadline for Full Refund – Request received in PATH Intl. office by **May 20, 2022.**

Deadline for 50% Refund - Request received in PATH Intl. office by **June 5, 2022.**

Individuals who do not submit a written request to PATH Intl. by June 5, 2022, will not receive a refund.

Education:

This conference satisfies up to 9 hours of continuing education requirements.

AGENDA

Friday, June 3, 2022

2 p.m. **Registration Opens & Check-in for On-campus Housing**
Refreshments available in Game Room 3 – 5 p.m.

5 – 6 p.m. **Welcome Reception & Silent Auction Opens**

6 – 7:30 p.m. **Facilitated Networking Sessions**

Saturday, June 4, 2022

7 – 8:30 a.m. **Breakfast & the PATH Intl. Update**

Session A

8:45 – 9:45 a.m.

A1, Grief Support and Equine End of Life Planning **CR All**

Research shows that the bond between horses and people is unique and truly complex and seeing their health and/or quality of life (QOL) deteriorate can be devastating. I work to answer questions and provide valuable resources to individuals who may soon be facing a difficult decision and an important discussion with their veterinarian and colleagues. Every horse is different, and daily monitoring for overall QOL can help provide comfort and enhanced guidance for decision making. Caring for horses in both life and death is critical, and we have a responsibility to maximize the horse's comfort and well-being every day. Educating and guiding individuals through these issues and understanding and planning for the end of a horse's life can help people better cope with the loss of a beloved equine partner, regardless of whether that loss is sudden or by euthanasia.

Lynn Taylor holds a BS degree in animal science from the University of Connecticut, and MS and PhD degrees from Virginia Tech, both in animal science where her area of research was equine nutrition and exercise physiology. She taught at Otterbein University for nine years where she was also the consulting equine nutritionist for the Veterinary School at The Ohio State University. She has been a faculty member at Centenary University since 2004, and she currently teaches a variety of courses in equine science, animal nutrition and the role of animals in society. She received her Pet Loss Grief Recovery Specialist Certification (PGRS-C) in 2019 from the American Academy of Grief Counseling, and her Animal Hospice and Palliative Care Certification in 2021 from the American Animal Hospital Association, and she is currently evaluating and testing quality of life (QOL) scales for horses. In addition to her academic career, she has a consulting business for equine nutrition, wellness and grief support in New Jersey (Horse Support, LLC).

A2, Eyesight vs. Insight: Successful Lessons for Participants Who Are Blind DE

Those involved in directly planning or executing sessions with participants who are blind will acquire tools to create successful lessons for this population and reduce frustration for everyone. Many instructors, volunteers and therapists, while well-intentioned, are unaware of the impact blindness has on participants and sessions, which can cause sessions to be more difficult for these participants. Attendees will learn about these factors and how to control them, increasing session success rates.

Kimberly Taylor has been blind from birth. She has 15+ years riding experience at two PATH Intl. centers and a BA in Psychology. This participant loves educating others about daily life with blindness. She taught independence skills to adults who are blind for nearly 10 years during her day job and has taught several blindness lectures at the current PATH Intl. center, including a PATH Intl. State Education Day and a PATH Intl. National Conference. Other blindness presentations include guide dogs, adaptive aids for seniors, summer camps and school presentations.

A3, Innovations to Optimize Herd and Volunteer Performance in a Post-COVID Climate CE

Attendees will learn how to implement the Volunteer Barn Lead and Pony Partner Half-Lease programs, originally born from financial necessity and presently part of our center's foundational operations. Presenters will provide innovative methods to optimize herd and volunteer performance in a post-COVID climate.

Nicole Hauseman is the equine and facilities manager at Maryland Therapeutic Riding (MTR). She is a PATH Intl. Advanced Instructor, CTRI and Level 3 British Horse Society instructor.

Jessica Mitchell is the volunteer manager at MTR and is a PATH Intl. CTRI and EAGALA Certified Equine Specialist.

Linsey Erar is program manager at MTR and is a PATH Intl. Advanced Instructor and CTRI.

9:45 – 10 a.m.

BREAK

Session B

10 – 11 a.m.

B1, Guided Herd Observation: How Well Do We Know the Horses We Work With? CR All

Guided herd observation provides us with answers to the following questions: What are the individual horse's personalities when they are allowed to move within a group of friends in relative freedom? Who are they as a group and as individuals? How do they express themselves, negotiate space and boundaries? The goal of this presentation is to give instructors, volunteers, participants and administrators the tools 1) to get to know their herd better, 2) present ways to include herd observation in programming and 3) contribute to the global efforts of focusing on equine welfare, physical and emotional, in the EAS field.

Anja Cain is the program director at Charleston Area Therapeutic Riding (CATR), a PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Center in Charleston, SC. Anja is a PATH Intl. CTRI, Advanced Level Instructor and Interactive Vaulting Instructor. She is currently exploring and learning about different ways of expanding programs in a way that benefits both participants and horses involved in activities.

B2, Therapy First When Partnering with a PATH Intl. Facility CE

This presentation will help administrators, program directors and therapists determine the benefits and challenges of therapy first partnerships. Positive working relationships may include on-site therapy services, referral networks and supporting participants in all equine-assisted services.

Melanie Dominko-Richards, MS, CCC-SLP, HPCS, is a New Jersey licensed speech-language pathologist. She received a Bachelor of Science in Education and a master's degree in speech-language pathology from Seton Hall University. She has training in PROMPT, DIR/Floortime and is a board certified Hippotherapy Clinical Specialist. Melanie is currently the director of therapy services for an outpatient pediatric therapy practice as well as the senior speech-language pathologist for an organization that provides services to adults with developmental disabilities. Melanie is currently on the American Hippotherapy Association, Inc. Board of Directors. She is also a PATH Intl. Certified Registered Instructor, a PATH Intl. Registered Therapist, a PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning, a PATH Intl. Mentor as well as an EAGALA Certified Professional.

Gina Taylor, MS, OTR/L, HPCS, is a New Jersey licensed occupational therapist. She received her master's degree in occupational therapy from Philadelphia University and a Bachelor of Science in Equine Studies from Averett University. She is certified in sensory integration, DIR/Floortime, infant massage, and is a board certified Hippotherapy Clinical Specialist (HPCS). Gina has a private practice providing occupational therapy services as well as workshops and consultation. She is adjunct faculty in OT and OTA programs teaching pediatric OT skills and group process and mental health. Gina continues her involvement with the American Hippotherapy Association, Inc. as faculty member, past board member and previous education committee chairperson. Gina is also a PATH Intl. Certified Advanced Instructor, Driving Instructor, Interactive Vaulting Instructor, Registered Therapist and ESMHL.

B3, Visually Impaired and Blind Riders: TR to Para Sport and Everything in Between DE

When working toward independent riding with visually impaired and blind riders the back of a horse may not always be the best learning platform. Developing a system of adaptive techniques and strategies, discussing activities before the lesson and debriefing afterward and providing opportunities for a strong background in horsemanship all lead to independence and a strong partnership among coach, rider and horse. Learn from a panel of visually impaired and blind riders of all abilities what worked for them on their journey from TR to adaptive to independence and para sport riding and everything in between.

Ana O'Brien is a PATH Intl. CTRI, USEF Para Dressage Coach, USPC Professional. Ana's focal point is para dressage, an equestrian sport for athletes with an eligible, permanent, physical impairment. Raising awareness and empowering physically disabled riders in achieving their goals beyond a therapeutic setting is her mission. In collaboration with United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) and United States Para Equestrian Association (USPEA), Ana has had the opportunity to work with several emerging and elite para equestrians. Her certification through USEF as a para dressage coach has enabled her to focus on driving recognition to the pre-emerging sector of para dressage sport through continuing education. As a United States Pony Club professional, Ana is a strong believer that true horsemanship starts on the ground. She has been able to provide our special needs equestrians with an unmounted program to further develop their knowledge on horse management with the USPC Horse Management Achievement Badge Program.

11 – 11:15 a.m.

BREAK

Session C

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

C1, Electronic Classrooms for Volunteer Training CE

Many aspects of education have changed in our new COVID world and one of them is the use of electronic classrooms. Volunteer training, tracking and program management is a challenge for many organizations in terms of time and resources. In a search for efficiency, we developed educational materials for our volunteer training program: general orientation, sidewalker training and horseleader training.

Susie Rehr, PT, HPCS, is the executive director at Special Strides, a PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Center and has provided physical therapy services to the pediatric population integrating hippotherapy treatment principles for the past 23 years. Quality care, clinical education, educational presentations, published writing and national involvement are hallmarks of her career. Susie has recently developed two lines of educational courses: one developed for therapists preparing for a clinical specialist examination and one developed for adaptive riding instructors to enable them to explore the world of (dis)abilities.

C2, Synchronization of Heart Rate Variability between Horse and Human and How It Relates to Emotional Bonding CR All

This session will present synchronization of heart rate variability between horse and human during three EAL interactions and explain how it relates to emotional bonding. Attendees will experience the meaning of Heart Rate Variability (HRV) and understand from scientific data of how HRV may synchronize between horses and humans and may reflect emotional bonding.

***Ann Linda Baldwin, PhD**, is a recently retired professor of physiology at the University of Arizona and director of mind-body-science. She is a Reiki Master and her degrees are BSc in physics, University of Bristol UK, MSc in radiation physics and PhD in physiology, University of London, UK. Ann focuses on ways to control the stress response and enhance performance with the help of biofeedback, Reiki and horses. She has published over 120 articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals, has received 28 years of funding from federal institutions and served on review panels for NIH. With her Reiki training and scientific background, Ann bridges the gap between energy healing and quantitative scientific enquiry. In her spare time Ann rides her horse and is a horse handler for Therapeutic Riding of Tucson.*

C3, Head Injuries in Equestrian Athletes DE

Equestrian activities are considered a non-contact sport by most major athletic associations around the world. But the number of mild traumatic brain injuries (MTBI) sustained yearly are higher than in any other organized sport, including those such as football, hockey and men's lacrosse...all of which are considered collision sports. This lecture will help therapeutic horsemanship professionals identify a potential head injury and provide tools for referral and immediate management. Learners will also gain a basic understanding of lesson programming to help those suffering from chronic post-concussion syndrome.

***Christina Coxe** is a PATH Intl. CTRI and the program director at Equilibrium, Inc., in Nazareth, PA. She is a certified athletic trainer, corrective exercise specialist and an ImPACT Trained Athletic Trainer. She was formerly the head athletic trainer at Nazareth High School from 2000-2020 with Coordinated Health/LVHN. Christina utilizes her athletic training skills and sports medicine experience in her therapeutic riding sessions and is implementing equine-assisted therapeutic yoga for Equine Assisted Movement participants. Christina earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in athletic training from East Stroudsburg University and holds multiple certifications and licensures within the fields of sports medicine and animal-assisted therapies.*

12:30 – 1:45 p.m.

Lunch & Chris Irwin Keynote “Horse Sense Redefined” CR All

Prepare to be inspired, educated and entertained as Chris Irwin shares a lifetime of revolutionary insights on his groundbreaking work. This is a comprehensive body, mind and spirit overview, defining how different handling techniques effect, for better or worse, the behavior, performance potential and well-being of not only the horses but also ourselves and the people we aspire to serve.

***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

2 – 3 p.m.

D1, Exploring CP and ASD: The Games People Play Part 1 DE

Explore the abilities and disabilities of individuals with cerebral palsy and autism spectrum disorder through the realm of motor, sensory, communication and emotional systems at a deeper level and gain an understanding of their connection to lesson planning and the performance of horsemanship skills. The incorporation of games and play will be the focus of the lesson planning experience.

Susie Rehr, PT, HPCS, see bio in session C1.

Jane Burrows, DPT, HPCS, is the facility manager and assistant director at Special Strides in Monroe, New Jersey, a PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Center. As a physical therapist she has worked in numerous settings including the pediatric population integrating hippotherapy treatment principles for the past 20 years. Working with Susie Rehr, Jane has helped develop and deliver instructional courses to meet continuing education requirements for riding instructors and advanced clinical specialty education for therapists. Enhancing her understanding of the horses she works with, she is also certified as a PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning and awaiting her certification as a CTRI.

D2, The What, How and Why of the CTRI CE

For many, becoming a PATH Intl. Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor (CTRI) is both a professional ambition and the fulfillment of an important personal goal. Recognizing this, the presenters will aim to clarify the current CTRI certification process for instructor candidates and mentors alike. This presentation will clarify the ins and outs of procuring a qualified mentor, obtaining the necessary education, meeting the CTRI application requirements (all five sections!), preparing the application itself and finally successfully testing as a CTRI. This presentation provides accurate, applicable information and practical tips that will guide candidates and mentors to a more streamlined and enriching certification process!

Karen Brittle, M.A., has mentored eight instructors-in-training through the successful submission of their CTRI applications (and counting!). Currently an assistant professor of equine studies and director of Therapeutic Riding At Centenary (TRAC), Karen holds multiple PATH Intl. certifications and the distinction of mentor and faculty/evaluator. She also serves on the PATH Intl. Riding Certification Subcommittee.

Casey Dudley has been a certified therapeutic recreation specialist (CTRS) for five years, and recently earned her PATH Intl. CTRI certification through Centenary University's instructor training program. She has loved horses all her life and always wanted to combine her two greatest passions of serving those with disabilities and working with horses. She has worked with a variety of individuals with disabilities but spent most of her professional experience serving elderly adults, including those with dementia. She is currently working full time at Pony Power Therapies, a wonderful therapeutic riding center in northern New Jersey.

Kayla Thau has a degree in equine studies from Centenary University and completed her PATH Intl. CTRI certification in 2021. Since graduating, Kayla has begun working at two PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Centers. She is an adaptive riding instructor at Mane Stream in Oldwick, NJ, and an on-site volunteer coordinator for Therapeutic Riding At Centenary (TRAC).

D3, Bringing Drill Team Into Your Therapeutic Riding Program CR Riding

Looking for something new to bring to your program that's both fun and exciting? Drill team is a great way for students to practice their social interaction and team building skills while also advancing their horsemanship. From getting horses ready, designing costumes and music, there's plenty for everyone to be involved in! Hear more about bringing a drill team into your program and the benefits it can give to those looking for a fun and exciting way to challenge their students and bring a sense of team and community to your barn.

Valerie Parody is a PATH Intl. Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor at Green Chimneys, a residential treatment facility for children with disabilities and youth at-risk located in Brewster, NY. She is also now serving as state representative for PATH Intl. in New York. Since 2018, she has taught riding and horsemanship during the after school/evening hours for the residents in the program. Valerie graduated from the University of Maine with a bachelor's degree in animal veterinary science. During her time there, she rode with the university's standardbred drill team and after experiencing the sense of teamwork and positivity it can provide, has brought her experiences into her evening programs, assembling multiple drill teams and performances over the past few years.

3 – 3:15 p.m.

BREAK

Session E

3:15 – 4:15 p.m.

E1, Exploring CP and ASD: The Games People Play Part 2 DE

Continuation of session D1.

E2, Yes! It's My Ride CE

Learn the importance of gaining your participants' input about lessons. Does their input match your plan? If not, here are some ideas that may help you safely achieve what you all want. Have a great lesson and then watch how this simple act can also make life better away from the barn.

Tracy Cole has been a participant in a therapeutic riding program since 1972. She was named the NARHA Independent Adult Rider of the Year in 2005. She became a PATH Intl. Registered Instructor in 2011 and is now a CTRI. She also completed mentor training in 2019.

E3, Employing Groundwork Techniques to Progress Toward Independent Riding CR Riding

During this presentation we will introduce a variety of groundwork methods and techniques. These methods and techniques will be utilized to assist the instructor to enable a rider to progress toward more independence during a lesson. The groundwork techniques that solidify the partnership between instructor and horse will enhance the instructor's ability to continue to have a connection to and a basic control over the horse without the rider needing to be continuously on lead.

Kara Stark McGrew began riding at the age of nine and has remained professionally involved with horses since graduating from Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, where she earned a BS degree in equestrian science and a BA degree in business administration. As owner of KSM Equestrian Enterprises, Kara manages, instructs and trains clients and their horses. Kara enjoys hosting clinicians and attending clinics and learning from many experts in a variety of disciplines. Since 2008 Kara has been training with dressage and horsemanship trainer Matt McLaughlin. Kara is the founder, director and instructor of the Helping Horseshoe Therapeutic Riding Club, a registered 501.c.3 nonprofit organization, established in 2000. As a member of PATH Intl., Kara earned her certification as an advanced instructor and mentor. She is a certified equestrian coach for Special Olympics and an active member of the HRH of NJ.

4:30 – 6 p.m. **PATH Intl. Region 2 Meeting, Field Test Standards Hearing &
PATH Intl. Region 2 Awards Ceremony**
Coffee and snacks available.

Sunday, June 5, 2022

Centenary University Equestrian Center

8 – 9:30 a.m. **Breakfast & PATH Intl. Region 2 State Meetings**

Session F

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Empathetic Horse Sense With Chris Irwin 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 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. In addition, Chris will provide specific insight into appropriate groundwork and leading to enhance work in a therapeutic/adaptive riding or driving setting (nuances specific to the therapeutic/adaptive team). This will be a profound demonstration of empathy with horses so we can help them learn how to learn. The session will conclude with a demonstration of equine-assisted coaching. "As we lead our horses, we lead ourselves."

Chris Irwin see Saturday Keynote.

12:30 p.m. **Picnic Lunch and Conference Close**

We look forward to seeing you soon in New Jersey!