

Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International

Recipient of the 2013 Equine Industry Vision Award, sponsored by Zoetis, presented by American Horse Publications

For more information, contact:

Cher Smith, Communications Coordinator (800) 369-7433, ext. 123 csmith@pathintl.org

July 2016

PATH Intl. Conference: Opportunities in a Revolutionary Industry

Denver – It is fitting that this year's PATH Intl. Conference and Annual Meeting is in the birthplace of America only days before the 2016 presidential election. The PATH Intl. Conference and Annual Meeting, sponsored by Purina, November 2-5, in Williamsburg, VA, offers an occasion to explore the revolutionary times of America's beginnings while exploring the educational and networking opportunities in our own quite revolutionary industry.

Although PATH Intl. began in 1969, the association has seen explosive growth in centers offering equine-assisted activities and therapies (EAAT), as well as people desiring certification to instruct children and adults, including veterans, to overcome physical, cognitive, emotional and social challenges.

The sessions at the PATH Intl. Conference, grouped into five tracks, appeal to a wide range of interests and experience. The Administration Track is perfect for those wanting information on the center side of EAAT. If you are thinking of starting a center, these sessions are a must! Sessions include capacity building through marketing, volunteers, new employees, and risk management. The Instructor and the Program Tracks feature sessions for those interested in teaching and offer opportunities to earn CEUs. Sessions include information on summer programs, lungeing, hippotherapy, sensory processing deficits, and a look at how retired polo ponies work well in EAAT. The Veterans Track offers a wide range of sessions for working with this ever-growing and unique population, including sessions on PTSD, extreme trail obstacles and a veterans panel with keynote speaker Col. Greg Gadson. The Equine Track focuses on our equine partners with sessions on hoof health, equine workload and avoiding equine disease outbreaks. The PATH Intl. Horse Expo will continue the equine focus on Saturday, November 5, with hands-on sessions, barn tours and a live riding demonstration with Michael Richardson.

Networking is always a priority, whether you are interested in learning more about the industry, a new instructor or center administrator, or have been around awhile. The PATH Intl. Exhibitor Colonia Soiree on Wednesday night, November 2, officially kicks off the conference. The PATH Intl. Awards Banquet on Friday night gives everyone the opportunity to see what we are all about as we celebrate the accomplishments of certified professionals, equines, volunteers and veterinarians, and as we listen to the incredible stories of our equestrian winners who overcame challenges through the unique bond developed between horse and human at PATH Intl. Member Centers.

Early registration is currently offered online on the <u>conference page at www.pathintl.org</u>, as well as more information about conference sessions (click on the registration book), the Williamsburg Lodge and things to do in the Revolutionary City. The early registration discount ends September

16, so register now and discover for yourself why everyone is talking about the revolutionary power of the horse to change lives.

-30-

About PATH Intl.:

The Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International® (PATH Intl.®) was formed in 1969 to promote safety and optimal outcomes in equine-assisted activities and therapies (EAAT) for individuals with special needs. At 877 member centers, more than 62,000 children and adults—including 5,500 veterans—may find improved health, wellness, fun and a sense of pride and independence through involvement with horses. Therapeutic horsemanship at member centers may include hippotherapy, equine-facilitated mental health, driving, interactive vaulting, trail riding, competition, groundwork and stable management. Through a wide variety of educational resources, the association helps individuals start and maintain successful EAAT programs. There are more than 55,000 volunteers, 4,846 instructors, 7,546 equines and thousands of contributors from all over the world helping people at PATH Intl. Member Centers.