Region 8 Fall Newsletter

It was so great to see everyone who attended our PATH Intl. Region 8 Conference in El Reno, Oklahoma this August! We had 130 attendees and offered 24 hours of Continuing Education.

Huge **THANK YOUS** to:
- our Conference Coordinators, Cathryn Christensen and Andi Holland
- our host center, Savannah Station
- and our producer, LSTEN (Lone Star Equestrian Network)

Also **Congratulations** to our Region Award Winners: Region 8 Equine of the Year **Miss Piggy** from ROCK Ride On Center, Region 8 Veterinarian of the Year **Dr. Bill Mitchell** from Right Path Riding Academy, Region 8 Volunteer of the Year **Laurie Cox** from Right Path Riding Academy and Region 8 Credentialed Professional of the Year **Joy Ferguson** from Compadres Therapy, Inc.

![Award Winners](image)

From our region conference attendees:

**What do you like best about what you do?**
- The people! And seeing the passion and hearing the stories of lives being changed, not only the riders, but horses, volunteers, staff and the families.
- The participants, their families, my coworkers, volunteers and the horses!
- The people! And some people are horses.
- The people, the horses, the making an impact!
- Providing a PATH to FREEDOM and GROWTH
- Spirit Power. Knowing and seeing the spirit of horses develop the spirit of humans
- I love getting to share the power of horses with others!

**What is the greatest advice you have received about EAAT?**
- Teach to what you see
- Listen!! To others who are in the field, volunteers, horses an especially those we serve! Honor and Respect all we work with!
- Enjoy it!
- Be sure to refill your own vessel
- Teach what is in front of you
- Work with love and understanding in every situation
- Love what you’re doing. You don’t have to be perfect! It’s about the riders!
What advice would you give someone just starting out in an EAAT career?

- Find someone who can help guide you.
- Hang on! Get help! Make yourself smile and the rest follows.
- We all make mistakes, just learn from them.
- Find a mentor.
- Never stop learning.
- Keep the passion—get a degree or profession to support you—then work the passion.
- Remember why you are in this field and keep a photo of those you serve on your desk!
- Take a deep breath! We are here for you! There is no wrong question!
- Ask for help! Don’t reinvent the wheel, but you can improve it! Take breaks for you!
- Go to these conferences! Keep your riding skills up! Pray a lot! Keep learning! Know you have lots of support from others in this area of service!

CONGRATULATIONS to the following Region 8 members who recently achieved Registered Instructor status:

Paige Finke, Navasota, TX
Sheri Holmes, Santa Fe, TX
Kayla Forsythe, San Antonio, TX
Jessica Rawlings, Miami, OK
Jessica Giles, Lakeway, TX
Katherine Scott, Jarrell, TX
Megan Stapley, Centerton, AR

CONGRATULATIONS to the following Region 8 members who are now Equine Specialists in Mental Health and Learning:

Meagan Anderson, Cedar Creek, TX
Vanessa Viiberg, Denton, TX

CONGRATULATIONS to Hoofbeats Academy in Manor, TX and Wings of Hope Equitherapy in Cleburne, TX for receiving PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Center status!

For those going to the PATH Intl. Conference and Annual Meeting in Orlando, please mark your calendars for a Region 8 Networking dinner and social hour Thursday evening at 7:45 pm at Adobe Gila’s at the Pointe Orlando (just a short trolley ride from the Rosen Centre) and for Friday’s Networking Breakfast 7:00 am–8:15 am at the Rosen Centre.

Please feel free to contact me, Shannon Middleton, at region8rep@pathintl.org or call me at (512) 633-3151 with any questions, news or concerns.