

One additional individual is planning to attend

Two or more additional individuals are planning to attend

9. Please describe the nature of your work at the PATH Intl. center or describe your career plan after completing your EAAT coursework.

I have been a volunteer for a PATH Intl. center for over 9 years, since I was an undergraduate student. Prior to beginning my Masters program, I certified as an instructor and I have remained a registered-level instructor for 6 years, as of this summer. I am currently working as an instructor part-time at an accredited center in Slippery Rock, PA. At the moment I am also a finalist for a faculty position teaching a course on EAA. This position is a quarter-time faculty position, with the potential to expand should funding improve. Additionally, I allow shadowing of my lessons to support those interested in becoming PATH instructors, and support current students on campus by responding to interview requests for specific Therapeutic Recreation assignments. Although only part-time, this work is the position that I look forward to in my week and the joy that I find in my lessons is unquantifiable. I am excited about the opportunity to share my love of EAA with undergraduate college students in the fall, and am looking to expand my own knowledge base to better meet both rider and student needs.

I also work part-time at a local community college teaching non-credit coursework in areas related to my own background and EAAT experiences. Such classes include an introductory American Sign Language course, an overview of Autism Spectrum Disorders, and behavioral monitoring and graphing. Although not directly connected to my work at the PATH Intl. center, these courses also provide me with opportunities to expose the community to the work completed at the center, as well as to build exposure to PATH professionals.

10. What are your goals in the field of equine assisted activities and therapies?

Professionally, my primary goal is to continue to promote interest and involvement in the field of EAA by supporting undergraduate students through academic content. Additionally, I feel it is crucial to develop professional responsibility and involvement within this student population to encourage continued research and furtherance of the field as a whole.

On a personal level, my goals include gaining experience through sharing academic content in the area of EAAT and encouraging those interested to pursue instructor certification and future work within the field. I also hope to benefit from expanding my own instructor experience through

gaining knowledge in additional areas (EFMH, vaulting, driving) to better support my riders and develop my own skills. I hope to be able to ultimately support myself by working more fully in the field of EAAT, although full-time positions are often challenging to locate. By diversifying my own knowledge base, and sharing that knowledge with others- academically or through non-credit opportunities- I hope to be able to benefit the field of EAAT while also supporting myself financially.

11. How do you think attending the PATH Intl. National Conference and Annual Meeting will help you in your work and goals in the field of equine assisted activities and therapies?

As I have been unable to attend the PATH Intl. conference for several years, attendance this year would allow me to gain new information, as well as revisit past interests and topics that may have more research in the past few years. Additionally, networking with other centers may support my own access to teaching positions or instructor openings across the world. Financially, the conference is not feasible for me without generous support. This conference would allow me to encounter other professionals in the field, complete continuing education units for my next recertification and reconsider some of my earlier goals: advanced instructor certification and/or expansion of certification to include vaulting. Attending this conference would also allow me the opportunity to incorporate valuable resources and information into the EAA course I am in consideration to teach beginning in the fall. Finally, I hope to submit a proposal for next year's conference and my participation this year would greatly help me to be prepared to participate more fully next year in the PATH Intl. conference experience.

Thank you for your consideration.