

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

I am the Horsemanship Program Coordinator at Youth Villages' Inner Harbour Campus in Douglasville, Ga. My responsibilities include managing and overseeing the therapeutic riding facility, as well as the well being of the horses and conducting all the therapeutic riding activities. Inner Harbour is a residential treatment facility for seriously emotionally disturbed children and youth. The Horsemanship program plays a key role in Inner Harbour's unique and creative approach to experiential therapy. The Horsemanship program focuses on developing a meaningful and positive relationship with a child and horse may it be on the ground or in the saddle. Some of the goals of the therapeutic riding program include helping the youth increase psychosocial development, coping skills as well as self esteem. The program also provides youth the opportunity to put problem solving abilities into practice in real life experiences and learn the true meaning of trust and responsibility.

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

My goal in the field of equine assisted activities and therapies is to explore the magical relationship/bond formed between a human and a horse. The horse is such a powerful and unique teaching tool may it be educational, emotional, or spiritual. I have been witness to many extraordinary moments and bonds formed between humans and horses. I am interested in exploring this relationship further and developing the knowledge/experience to better assist my youth. I would also like to develop activities and lesson plans to create a resource tool for my fellow PATH Intl. instructors. I work with a unique population and it is hard at times finding creative ideas for new activities for my youth. I embrace any opportunity to increase my knowledge and experience so that I can create unique and meaningful experiences for the youth and horse.

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?

I have been instructing equine assisted activities and therapies for over 5 years now and this is my first year in charge of the horsemanship program at my facility since my boss has retired. The excitement of being the coordinator of the program also comes with its challenges since I am the only one there to care for the stable as well as provide equine assisted sessions to the all youth

of Inner Harbour. Therefore, I feel that attending the national conference will help me build valuable connections in the industry as well as develop the tools to run a successful program. I had the chance to attend the Fort Worth, TX conference a few years ago but unfortunately have not had the opportunity to return to another conference since then. I truly enjoyed my time at the conference meeting wonderful individuals and soaking up a wealth of knowledge to use at my program. I feel that attending the Fort Worth conference was just the tip of the iceberg for me and my endeavors in equine assisted activities and therapies. I am eager to attend this year's conference in Bellevue, WA and explore my passion for the human and horse relationship.