

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

The program that I am associated with, Over the Rainbow, Inc., is not an affiliated center with PATH Intl., although I am a registered instructor. Over the Rainbow is a mobile program and relies on donated arenas in different rural towns. The main reason for being a mobile program is the geographic distances participants would be required to travel if lessons were available at only one facility. We take the horses to the riders.

I have been a volunteer for 19 years with Over the Rainbow. In 1993, I started by assisting with horse care and serving as a horse handler or side walker as needed. I became the Program Director three years later in 1996. As Program Director I am responsible for interviewing prospective riders, fund raising, and designing lesson plans for each specific rider. In order to provide a higher quality and professional experience for the riders, I attended classes and became a NARHA (now PATH Intl.) registered instructor in 2005. Over the Rainbow's horses are stabled at my farm and I am responsible for their care and feeding. Twice a week I transport the horses and equipment to two donated private arena's for lessons. This allows the program to be available to riders throughout our rural county. I teach 14 individual lessons per week. On days that are not occupied with riders, I train the volunteers and horses.

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

Over the Rainbow, Inc. is located in Curry County, Oregon. A rural area with many low income families and few activities for special needs youth or adults. My goal is to provide the following:

1. An opportunity to share horses with the special needs community
2. A safe and enjoyable activity with therapeutic benefits
3. The opportunity to participate with a group in an activity (being around a large animal) that is directed at the participants ability level
4. A program for the special needs community at no fees
5. Increased service life for well-disciplined horses that are well matched to this program

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 attended several Region 9 conferences. The sessions offered were quite informative and provided new ideas as well as time to share with other instructors. Attending the National Conference will enable me to update my skills, explore new products, and again interact with other instructors.