

**9. Please describe the nature of your EFL/P practice or describe your career plan after completing your EFL/P coursework.**

My dream is to work with "at risk" kids through Equine Assisted Mental Health. I am currently a volunteer and am doing an instructor in training program with Healing Reins to become certified as a Therapeutic Riding Instructor through PATH. I will take the instructor workshop & certification in June.

I have just been invited to enroll at Oregon State University for their Masters in Counseling Program. It was a competitive process where only 40% of the applicants were invited enroll in the program. There are very few licensed counselors with extensive horse experience for the equine assisted mental health programs here in Central Oregon. The counseling degree from OSU would provide me with ability to be a licensed counselor and ultimately the ability to direct a program of equine facilitated therapy and learning. I am excited to work with "at risk" kids and women in transition. My plan is to eventually work full time doing equine facilitated healing, learning and therapy here in Central Oregon.

**10. What are your goals as a professional in the field of equine facilitated learning and/or equine facilitated psychotherapy ?**

The past 2 years I have worked with children and adults at an equine therapy center. I started as a volunteer and was so inspired by the healing that went on there, that I decided to make it my life's work. I have spent the last 30 years working in management in the legal, financial, non profit and construction fields. The past experiences and my developed skills have inspired me to work with people in a more meaningful way through counseling.

My desire to become an equine facilitating counselor began 2 years ago, when I began my volunteer work with Healing Reins – an equine therapy program in Central Oregon. Many of the kids that come to this program have a behavioral or physical disability which was a new area of service to me. But I have a lifetime of horse experience and wanted to share it with the kids in the therapy process. What I found was that the simple act of being with a horse put a huge smile on the kid's faces. They would laugh and giggle and it was the highlight of their week. Some of the kids only spoke while riding. What an inspiration to me and I was humbled about what an interaction with a horse could do for a kid.

My path to counseling work was also affected by meeting a number of influential people who desire my skills as a good listener and a consistent supporter, and my personal traits of warmth, empathy and joy about life.

I have also been inspired by studying and training in workshops I have taken on Natural Horsemanship - - Love, Language and Leadership program. I needed to work on my own boundaries, leadership, communication and trust. This program taught me these things through my horse. I met some great teachers and would like to continue their work by applying my experience with horses, work experience and my drive to help others reach their potential. As an example, I have worked hard to develop a strong relationship with my horse and frequently ride and compete on my horse without using a bridle---a true partnership based on leadership skills, trust and communication.

Currently, I am completing training with Healing Reins to become certified as a Therapeutic Riding Instructor and Equine Facilitated Learning Instructor. There is a great need for licensed counselors with extensive horse experience in these equine facilitated programs. The counseling degree from Oregon State University will provide me with the counseling background and ultimately the ability to direct a program of equine facilitated therapy and learning. I am excited to work with "at risk" kids and women in transition. My plan is to eventually design, build and open my own equine facilitated healing, learning and therapy center here in Central Oregon. So I have much to give back to the community – my integrated experience, my academic skills in writing and speaking, and my passion for helping and healing.

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

This will be my first exposure to the professional group. I am excited to meet other professionals and attend the trainings. I look forward to networking and talking about the success of other programs and innovative centers. I want to take back to my center new ideas to try and establish a network of contacts that we can share experiences with going forward.

I look forward to being inspired !! I am looking forward to all the classes and lectures. I believe that this conference will also boost my enthusiasm for these programs and give me information to take back to Oregon State University. They are very interested in doing research and supporting these equine facilitated programs.

I hope to gain contacts and experiences that will give me ideas and / or set me up for fieldwork and an internship for my College degree. I look forward to being immersed in all the facets of therapeutic Riding. Thanks so much for the opportunity !!