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## **NARHA National Conference a Premier Event in EAAT**

**Denver**—The NARHA National Conference is a premier event in the equine-assisted activities and therapies (EAAT) industry. The 2010 conference, November 3-6 in Denver, Colorado, features an impressive array of educational sessions presented by industry experts. The Horse Expo on Saturday and the Friday keynote luncheon have been perennial highlights. This year, Julie Goodnight will present the opening session at the Horse Expo on avoiding and correcting burnout in your horses. Julie is the star of the award-winning TV show "Horse Master." Friday's luncheon speaker is Bubba Gilliam, who played the memorable Lyle in Mel Brooks' comedy *Blazing Saddles*.

Attendees to the conference will also enjoy the many opportunities to catch up with old friends at social receptions, such as the "ski lodge" themed exhibit hall, or the Getting to Know You reception, which boasts a Native American theme. The conference concludes with the NARHA Awards Banquet, where we celebrate and honor the equestrians, equines, instructors and volunteers who make a world of difference in EAAT.

The workshops, demonstrations and sessions will give you many "take-home" tips as you learn the benefits of therapeutic riding on the social skills of children with autism spectrum or leveraging the latest technology for EAAT. Learn how to design a themed obstacle course or how to create a camp program. An exciting session will be presented by Theresa Chase, a clinical nurse specialist at Craig Hospital in Denver, who will talk about the development of an in-patient EAAT pilot project for spinal cord injury patients.



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Early bird registration for the conference ends September 6, so register early and save money to finish up some Christmas shopping at the silent auction or the NARHA merchandise booth. To register for the conference, visit [www.narha.org](http://www.narha.org) and click on conference.

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About NARHA:

*NARHA, formerly the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association, was formed in 1969 to promote equine-assisted activities and therapies for individuals with special needs. At over 700 member centers, a total of 42,000 children and adults find a sense of independence through involvement with horses. These member centers range from small, one-person programs to large operations with several certified instructors and licensed therapists. In addition to therapeutic equitation, a center may offer any number of equine-assisted activities including hippotherapy, equine-facilitated mental health, driving, interactive vaulting, trail riding, competition, ground work or stable management. Through a wide variety of educational resources, the association helps individuals start and maintain successful equine assisted activities and therapies for individuals with special needs. There are more than 24,000 volunteers, 2000 instructors, 5,700 therapy horses and thousands of contributors from all over the world helping people at NARHA centers.*