

BLAZING THE TRAIL FOR



YEARS
2009 NARHA NATIONAL CONFERENCE
& ANNUAL MEETING
FORT WORTH, TX • NOVEMBER 18-21

2009 NARHA Instructor of the Year Recognition Award Nomination Information

Instructors invest time and energy in training and continuously developing their skills as professionals in the Equine Assisted Activities and Therapies industry. They spend hours in the sun and cold weather, in dusty barns and arenas coaxing participants, horses, leaders and sidewalkers to appreciate with them the power of the horse. It doesn't happen without these 3,000+ individuals who have dedicated their energy, their careers and their passion to proving that each of us have exceptional abilities.

NARHA wants to recognize these tireless individuals. The jackets, vests and other gifts NARHA has awarded the regional and national instructors of the year in the past are simply mementos. It is the recognition of the NARHA membership at large demonstrated on the evening of the Awards Banquet at the NARHA National Conference and Annual meeting that is most meaningful. Help identify who it is that will be the regional 2009 Instructor of the Year from your region and will then be eligible for the 2009 National Instructor of the Year.

Help us recognize the 2008 National Instructor of the Year!



To tell you about Laura Jensen, NARHA's 2008 Instructor of the Year, I'd like to read from a letter of recommendation written by Sandy Rafferty, Program Director of Therapeutic Horsemanship in Wentzville, MO.

"Laura Jensen epitomizes the necessary qualities of a NARHA instructor: compassion for people and equines, an exceptional ability to find and create teaching tools and techniques to encourage her students [and] take them to their maximum ability level... and a willingness to support her students' whole family and flexibility in the ever changing world of EAAT ...[She is] an excellent mentor for new instructors, [and] a collaborative team member."

Laura, who serves as the head instructor at Exceptional Equestrians of the Missouri Valley, has taught riders with disabilities for 20 years and mentored instructors in training for 18 of those years.

Laura is known for her energy, her enthusiasm and her gift for finding just the right way to communicate with each individual she instructs, whether he or she is an instructor in training, a person with a physical challenge or a rider with cognitive challenges—whether she is instructing people who speak English or people who don't, as was the case in her work with Pat Mullins in South Africa.

People want to do their best for Laura, and she clearly expects their best, beaming with pleasure when people progress. From teaching riding and interactive vaulting to organizing horse shows for people with disabilities, Laura Jensen is universally admired and respected. Thank you, Laura, for all the ways in which you have contributed to and improved the EAAT industry. Congratulations on the ribbons won by your riders this year in the first Special Olympics Horse Show in Missouri this year! Thanks for all you've done for Region Seven and NARHA. Congratulations Laura Jensen on being named the 2008 NARHA Instructor of the Year.

Instructor Award Criteria:

- Please be sure your nominee is current with their NARHA membership and instructor certification.
- The nominating center must have current NARHA center membership.
- Instructor nominees must have two (2) years of experience as a NARHA certified instructor.
- Please submit at least two (2) letters of recommendation, but not more than four (4). At least one letter of recommendation should be submitted by a program participant (rider, parent/caregiver of a rider) and at least one (1) from a NARHA certified instructor familiar with the nominee's work.

- Letters of recommendation and nomination information submitted should provide examples of some or all of the following:
 - Excellent teaching skills
 - Creative teaching ideas
 - Demonstrated progression of rider skills
 - Clear guidance given to volunteers
 - Creating an effective team environment
 - Ability to teach a variety of student levels, beginner to independent
 - Ability to teach a variety of students (i.e. those with cognitive, physical and/or emotional challenges)
 - Demonstrated compassion and respect for students
 - Exceptional leadership qualities
 - Willingness and ability to provide mentoring for instructors in training
 - Demonstrated spirit of collaboration with peers
 - Industry involvement, e.g. written articles, given presentations, lectured on EAAT
 - Has show a record of service to NARHA at the local, state or regional level
 - Demonstrated safe, ethical and humane partnering with equines.
 - Demonstrated proficiency in horsemanship knowledge and riding skills
- Include names, addresses and phone numbers of the nominee's local newspaper, equine magazine and other appropriate publications. Press releases will be sent for all award recipients.
- Nominations must be received no later than June 15, 2009.
- Please do not send any photographs at this time. The NARHA office will contact you if photos are needed.