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## **Students at Colby Community College Become CHA Certified at LCCC for the First Time as Part of Their Horse Production and Management Program**

(July 2016) – Educational materials produced by the Certified Horsemanship Association are often added to equine-related curriculums at various colleges and universities across the United States and Canada. Such is the case for Colby Community College in Colby, Kansas, and the college doesn't stop at just using CHA materials in their curriculum. Colby Community College also offered the chance for students in their Horse Production and Management Program to achieve a CHA Certification for the first time at a certification clinic hosted by Laramie County Community College, April 29-May 1.

Kirsten Bandy, Jackilyn Zenger, Kelsey Simpson, Allyson Dorrell, and MacKenzie Hansen can now benefit from CHA Certification. To see all of the benefits of CHA certification, visit <http://cha-ahse.org/store/pages/32/Benefits.html>.

“This is such an awesome opportunity for our students to complete their education with another certification behind their name,” said Shanda Mattix, who is the Horse Program Director, Collegiate Farm Bureau Advisor, and Equestrian Team Coach at Colby Community College. “I'm a master instructor through CHA and would have loved to have had this opportunity as a college student.”

The Horse Production and Management Program at Colby Community College typically has 12-15 students. In addition, the school has 20-25 riders on their Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) equestrian team. Once students reach the Equine Management Technology 4 course, they learn from CHA's manuals, such as the *CHA Standards for Equestrian Programs*, *CHA Composite Horsemanship Manual*, and the *CHA Riding Instructor and Trail Guide Manual*. Upon completion of the course, students travelled to Cheyenne, Wyoming, for the CHA Certification Clinic. In addition to the clinic, Colby students also completed exit interviews with the Horse Program Advisory Board prior to graduation.

According to Mattix, there was an atmosphere of camaraderie and friendship between students at Colby Community College and Laramie County Community College. “This was

an especially fun environment as the students were able to develop friendships with the LCCC students,” said Mattix. “We also compete with LCCC in IHSA.”

“As a host site for CHA, this was a benefit to LCCC and CCC students to collaborate together,” says Lanae McDonald Instructor of Equine Studies at LCCC. “This opportunity gave all the participants a chance to teach their peers and not just their classmates.”

Mattix is excited to continue the program, and the hope is that both colleges will continue to work together to allow their students to achieve a certification from CHA. A discussion is under way about possibly rotating locations for the clinic in the future.

Mattix said that the students provided feedback so that she can continue to improve the process for future students. “They raved about their experience,” said Mattix. “It will certainly be something we continue to use in our curriculum.”

Many universities and colleges are becoming more involved with CHA by hosting CHA clinics/conferences, using CHA manuals in courses, and/or having their students certified as riding instructors and/or equine facility managers. Some of those include: Middle Tennessee State University, St. Andrews University in North Carolina, Ohio Southern University, West Texas A&M, University of Arkansas, West Virginia University, University of Nebraska, Murry State, Michigan State University, Penn State, Texas A&M, Colby Community College, Houghton College in NY, Central Wyoming College and many more. Anyone wanting to learn more about the various certifications offered by CHA and how to become certified should visit <http://cha-ahse.org/store/pages/30/Certifications.html>. For questions, please contact CHA’s headquarters in Lexington, KY, at 859-259-3399 or [info@CHA-ahse.org](mailto:info@CHA-ahse.org).

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