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Certified Horsemanship Association Honors Dr. Bob Coleman of the University of Kentucky with the 2018 CHA Volunteer of the Year Award

(October 2018) – The Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA) was honored to present the 2018 CHA Volunteer of the Year Award to Bob Coleman, PhD, PAS, Associate Professor and Equine Extension Specialist at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. This award has been given since 1996 to honor a volunteer who has worked hard to help enhance the association. Dr. Coleman has dedicated himself to CHA’s mission of promoting excellence in safety and education for the benefit of the horse industry.

Dr. Coleman said he was very grateful and humbled to receive such a special award. “As a member of the association, you just help as best you can,” he added. “I have learned something from each and every CHA activity I have attended. The CHA folks are the cornerstone of the industry. They make dealing with horses safe, effective, and fun.”

As CHA’s current President-Elect, Dr. Coleman serves as the chair of the Personnel Committee, oversees the contributions of the AdHoc and Standing Committees, attends various board meetings each year, and performs a variety of other duties. He also serves as CHA’s Parliamentarian. He will take over the reins as president at the CHA International Conference in the fall of 2020. He has been on the CHA Board of Directors since 2011 and is also a CHA Lead Site Visitor/Trainer.

Last year, Dr. Coleman served as the first Vice President of New Initiatives for CHA. In that role, he created the questions and analyzed the results for CHA’s most recent membership survey, and he has already committed to helping with the next one. As the chair of CHA’s Nominating Committee, his hard work to put together a great slate of officers and board members to lead CHA into the future truly shows. His commitment to CHA shows with every email he sends since Dr. Coleman has “CHA Proud!” added to his email signature.

“He has worked so very hard and has been extremely engaged and immersed into the organization,” said Anne Brzezicki, who has served on the CHA Board with Dr. Coleman. “With everything he does and everyone he meets, he always has CHA on the foremost of his mind and how he can help the organization that he has an extremely deep passion for.”

His passion for improving the horse industry that he so obviously loves has reached from young children to college students to adults as Dr. Coleman has served in various capacities within the horse industry in the United States and Canada.

Dr. Coleman has been with the University of Kentucky since 1998 as the Equine Extension Specialist. This native of western Canada graduated from the University of Manitoba with a bachelor's in Agriculture with a major in Animal Sciences before he went on to earn his Master of Science degree. His career began in the Canadian feed industry as a nutritionist for two major feed companies before he became the Extension Horse Specialist for Alberta Agriculture in 1980. He then earned his PhD with a focus in Equine Nutrition from the University of Alberta. After serving in that role for 18 years, Dr. Coleman then made the move to the University of Kentucky, where he teaches in the Equine Science and Management program, advises undergraduate students, and served as the program's director of undergraduate studies until May 2017.

Dr. Coleman's work has been widely published in peer-reviewed journals, equine magazines, and other publications. He has also served in leadership roles on the boards of the Kentucky Quarter Horse Association and the Kentucky Horse Council and on the Kentucky Farm Bureau Equine Advisory Committee and the American Quarter Horse Foundation Research Committee. Dr. Coleman is also the current Executive Secretary of the Equine Science Society and a member of the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists. He is also a Diplomat in the American College of Animal Science and the American Society of Animal Scientists.

The award was presented to Dr. Coleman at the CHA Awards Banquet during the 2018 CHA International Conference September 30, 2018, in Fort Collins, Colorado. "This is a great association, and the board is a group of truly amazing people," said Dr. Coleman. "We work well together and truly appreciate the skills each person brings to the table. That is the 'CHA Way.' Everyone has value, and while we may not agree, we can discuss our differences and arrive at a consensus position to move forward."

For a complete list of past award winners, visit www.cha.horse/store/pages/50/Award_Winners.html. For more information about the next CHA International Conference, please visit www.CHAINstructors.com/conference.

CHA Instructors Change Lives Through Safe Experiences with Horses. The purpose of CHA is to promote excellence in safety and education for the benefit of the horse industry. CHA certifies instructors and trail guides, accredits equestrian facilities, publishes educational manuals, produces educational horsemanship DVDs and YouTube Safety shorts, and hosts

regional and international conferences. For more information on the largest certifying body of riding instructors and barn managers in North America, Certified Horsemanship Association, please visit www.CHA.horse or call 859-259-3399. To find a certified horseback riding instructor or accredited equine facility near you, visit www.CHAINstructors.com

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