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Announces Winners at 2006 Awards Banquet**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**For More Information and Photos**

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## **Certified Horsemanship Association Announces Winners at 2006 Awards Banquet**

The Certified Horsemanship Association honored top members and organizations at the annual awards banquet held at the CHA International Conference at the Fort Collins Marriott Hotel and Colorado State University Equine Center in Fort Collins, Colorado just a few weeks ago.

The Partnership in Safety Award went to the American Vaulting Association . This award is given to an outstanding organization or person that has demonstrated excellent commitment to safety in equestrian endeavors. Recently CHA and AVA worked together to create the first Recreational Vaulting Coach Certification Program. “The AVA is very

honored to have received the 2006 Partnership in Safety Award from CHA,” says Noel Martonovich the VP of Education for AVA. “Working with the incredible staff and clinicians from CHA while building the vaulting coach certification program has been an inspiring experience for me personally. I hope our two organizations can continue to work together to improve safety in the horse industry in upcoming years.”

The Volunteer of the Year is Beth Powers of Bellefontaine, Ohio. Beth has been active in CHA for over 20 years as a board member, as chairman of the Membership Committee and the Trade Show committee, in putting together the Ohio Equine Affaire CHA booth for many years, in working at different CHA trade show booths around the country, in volunteering at the CHA annual conference each year, and in putting together the new CHA youth membership – TEAM CHA. “I am very humbled and honored to win this award,” says Beth. “CHA is all about the people and the variety of equine backgrounds we all have. It is a great association to be a part of because we all share knowledge so well and the networking is incredible.”

Clinic Instructor of the Year is Tara Gamble of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Clinic instructors are the CHA Master Level Instructors that are clinic staff and certify instructors for CHA throughout North America. “I am honored to have received this award,” says Tara. “I would like to thank all participants and clinic staff that I have worked with, not only this year, but in years past. You have all contributed greatly to my growth and development as an instructor and clinician.”

CHA Instructor of the Year is Karen Pikovsky with Darby Down Equestrian Center in Irwin, Pennsylvania. This award is given to an outstanding CHA certified instructor who demonstrates safe, effective and fun lessons. Karen is a member of USDF, USEF, USEA and hosts a variety of clinics at her farm as well as teaching high school and college students and middle-aged riders. “The achievement of our program is measured by the happiness and abilities of our riders,” says Karen. “It is our riders who make me the instructor that I am and they are why I continue in this business and continue in my own education to give it back to them.”

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 and provides support and educational resources. For more information on the Certified Horsemanship Association and the annual conference, please visit [www.cha-ahse.org](http://www.cha-ahse.org) or call toll free 800-399-0138.

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