

FOUNDATION FEATURE:



Education is a Key Component for Growth

photos by Rachel Reilly Photography

Expanding the knowledge of NSBA members of all ages is a key component of the National Snaffle Bit Association Foundation's mission and Education pillar. From the scholarship program, to Coaches Summit to leadership, the Foundation works to invest in the future of NSBA members.

Through the NSBYA Scholarship program, Erika Vandevelde, of Casco, Wisconsin, is able to expand her knowledge and her future career. As the 2018 NSBYA Scholarship award winner, she is continuing to use the skills and connections she learned showing in 4-H, Open, AQHA and NSBA breed shows, as well as attending the NSBA Boot Camps.

"Being in the horse industry has helped me with so many skills, such as problem solving, working with others, work ethic and sportsmanship," she said. "Horses helped shape me into the person I am today."

In part due to her NSBYA scholarship, Erika attends the University of Wisconsin LaCrosse where she is a chemistry major working in the pre-dental track. She expects horses, and NSBA, to remain a part of her curriculum along with her focus on studying orthodontics. The 2019 NSBYA Scholarship deadline is February 1.

Funding the NSBA Foundation Scholarship through its Education pillar continues to be a critical area of the foundation's fundraising efforts. Future plans include a multi-year leadership program for trainers to ensure the show horse community continues to thrive for decades to come.

Through the Coaches Summit, therapeutic riding centers, coaches and facility owners have come together to learn how competition can grow their businesses. The three-day workshops bring industry professionals together to explore opportunities for expansion of current or new riding programs, share best practices and learn about competitive events that include Equestrians with Disabilities or Veterans using horses as a form of therapeutic riding. The 2019 Coaches Summit will be held March 25-27 in Dallas, Texas.

Whether you are a child of the horse industry, a professional getting your business established or a seasoned professional, the NSBA Foundation takes care of its people through your support. If you are interested in supporting or learning about all of the NSBA Foundation programs, go to www.nsba.com. ■



Erika Vandevelde

