



PRESS RELEASE

The American Horse Council (AHC) Diversity, **Equality**, and Inclusion (DEI) task force added two new NAEAA members to the committee. Debra Powell, Ph.D. (**former chair**) and Jessica Suagee-Bedore, Ph.D. (**current chair**) are **members** of the NAEAA DEI committee. **Jessica Suagee-Bedore will represent NAEAA on the AHC DEI task force and Debra Powell will represent CHA on the AHA DEI task force.**

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NAEAA Members Joining the AHC DEI Task Force:

Debra Powell, Ph.D., PECTS, Nelsonville, OH

Jessica Suagee-Bedore, Ph.D., Virginia Tech

In January 2021 the American Horse Council established a Diversity/Equality/ Inclusion task force to provide input and feedback to help the equine industry develop and implement programs that will increase diversity and strive to ensure inclusiveness and equality. Task Force participants will share their respective initiatives and efforts with one another, identify successes that can be replicated, share lessons learned, identify possible gaps that need attention, share resources and brainstorm ideas that may be used by individual organizations or the industry collectively.

The Task Force is open to anyone in the industry. To-date the participants include: AYHC, APHA, IEA, AAEP, PATH Intl., USHJA, Purina, USEF, The Jockey Club, Amplify Horseracing, NRHA, and Mulatto Meadows.

The group's first round of deliverables included a comprehensive DEI business case which is available on the AHC website.

About the American Horse Council: As the national association representing all segments of the horse industry in Washington, D.C., the American Horse Council works daily to represent equine interests and opportunities.

Founded in 2007, NAEAA is a non-profit professional organization representing individuals from public and private institutions and the equine industry that strive to educate undergraduates within an equine academic program. The core belief of the organization is that there is educational and societal value in the equine disciplines of study. The mission is to strengthen post-secondary equine academic programs, provide networking opportunities, and facilitate

increased cooperation and information sharing among our members. More information about NAEAA can be found at www.naeaa.com.