



THE UNITED STATES PONY CLUBS, INC. PRESS RELEASE
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National Youth Congress and Academy of Achievement Alumni Inducted at USPC 2020 Equine Symposium and Convention

February 14, 2020 (Lexington, KY) – Every year at the Equine Symposium and Convention hosted by USPC, The National Youth Congress (NYC) convenes for three days. NYC recognizes outstanding Pony Club members, with delegates selected by their regions to attend three days of leadership training and workshops. This year 20 delegates were a part of the three-day Congress at the Equine Symposium & Convention, hosted by USPC and presented by the Ben B. Cheney Foundation, in Seattle, Washington, January 29-February 2, 2020.

A very special part of the NYC is the induction of outstanding USPC Alumni into the Academy of Achievement, honoring alumni who have attained outstanding success in their chosen fields. The alumni inductees join the delegates of the NYC as leaders and mentors, sharing their experiences starting from the common foundation of the Pony Club program.

Three Pony Club alumni were inducted into the Academy of Achievement for 2020: Katy Barglow, Ph.D.; David Silver; and Erin Tomson, Ph.D. (Visit <http://blog.ponyclub.org/> to learn more about each of these distinguished alumni.)

“Pony Club gave me a strong foundation in riding, horsemanship, and the social-emotional skills that have shaped me as a person,” said David Silver, founder of the nonprofit organization Detroit Horse Power. “These experiences set me up on the path I have chosen to share the benefits of horses with kids in inner city Detroit.”

“I can confidently say I would not be in my current role without this background,” said Katy Barglow, who works as a vice-president in the biotech industry. “The biggest thing I learned [from Pony Club] was about leadership — how to teach, how to be a leader among your peers, and how to interact with people in positions of authority while still showing your own mastery.”

Barglow, who is also a wife, mother, dressage trainer and judge, offered valuable advice on work-life balance and time management during the workshops. The sessions provided a forum for the Academy of Achievement alumni and youth delegates to exchange ideas and share discussion on life skills and leadership topics.

“They really have a leg up in the world in terms of their preparation to do their best in college and coursework in whatever they choose to do. Pony Club has a lot of values that contribute to that. It was amazing to come here and feel the energy and see them all working together,” said Erin Tomson, a clinical assistant professor in the College of Communications at Washington State University. “We’re working to advance not only horse sports, but young people in general and all the things that are really important to improving our society.”

The following members were elected to the National Youth Congress for 2020:

Olivia Arbogast – Intermountain Region
Anika Baker – Middle California Region
Sarah Bonfield – Camino Real Region
Brooke Burchianti – Tri-State Region
Parker Chance – Maryland Region
Brooke DeCant – Old Dominion Region
Anna Fitzhugh – Maryland Region
Emily Garside – Tri-State Region
Nicole Hetzel – Midwest Region
Alexis Horn – Virginia Region
Gibsen Kaye – Lake Shore Region
Addison Leckrone – Northwest Region
Elizabeth Margeotes – New Jersey Region
Elizabeth Morgan – National Member
Savannah Ranes – Southern California Region
Claire Ristow – Lake Shore Region
Anderson Rogers – Eastern Pennsylvania Region
Ava Severs – Rocky Mountain Region
Sandra Jane Thomas – Sunshine Region
Catherine Yudlow – Sunshine Region

The USPC National Youth Congress and Academy of Achievement programs are made possible thanks to the support of Hastilow Competition Saddles, USA, and the Western & English Sales Association (WESA).

About Pony Club - The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. (Pony Club). There are more than 10,000 Pony Club members in the US, with over 500 clubs and riding centers nationwide. USPC is proud to provide education to equestrians of all ages (including adults); incorporate more than nine riding disciplines (including Western) into instruction and competition opportunities; and to be instrumental in curriculum development for schools and universities across the United States. Many of the nation’s top equestrians, including Olympic team members, as well as successful professionals, government leaders and military officers, have roots in Pony Club.