



Week of October 3 – 7, 2022

Dear School Administrator:

During the week of October 3 – 7, 2022, the **Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA)** is hosting a special equestrian event during the **All American Quarter Horse Congress** in Columbus, OH in collaboration with the **Ohio Quarter Horse Association (OQHA)**

The IEA is a large national organization of youth riders in grades 4-12 and more than 160 IEA riders have been invited to attend this special event on Thursday, October 6th during the Congress.

The All American Quarter Horse Congress is the world's largest single-breed horse show and was designed to have a strong educational component ever since it was created in 1967. It was and still is the goal of OQHA to educate the horse owner and potential horse owner about all aspects of horse ownership. Youth who participate in this event are able to place themselves before some of the top college recruiters in the nation. The NCAA recently developed equestrian sport as a scholarship-eligible sport. Young horsemen from the around the country are eligible for full-ride scholarships from prestigious colleges and universities through this and other programs of the IEA and OQHA. What could be more educational than earning a full-ride scholarship while showing a horse?

According to a study conducted by the American Horse Council, the equine industry is responsible for more than 460,000 full-time equivalent jobs in the United States. The horse industry has a direct impact of \$39 billion on the US economy, and when the multiplier effect of spending by industry suppliers and employees is added, that figure rises to a \$102 billion impact in our country.

Because of the enormous impact of the equine industry on our economy, we believe the educational efforts with IEA at the All American Quarter Horse Congress extend far beyond the education of individual horse owners. In fact, we believe we help prepare the youth who attend this show for the next generation of careers in the equine industry.

We greatly appreciate your understanding and flexibility in excused absences in this matter and invite you to learn more about the mission and programs of IEA by visiting www.rideiea.org.

Sincerely,

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