



Drew Carlin

### **USEF CAREER WORKSHOP**

My name is Drew Carlin. This past year I was nominated by USDF for the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Youth Sportsman Award. This was a huge honor and I am extremely thankful. This nomination includes an all expense paid trip to Lexington, Kentucky.

On June 22, five different disciplines were represented in the workshop.

The Youth Sportsman Award was designed to develop leaders in the equine industry. The career workshop helps young riders discover different opportunities in the equine profession. The wonderful staff from USEF organized an informative and fun tour.

The schedule was packed with amazing tours and activities. After we arrived in Lexington, we had a wonderful dinner and toured historic Lexington via carriage. On June 23, we visited Cornerstone Farm and Claiborne Farm. Cornerstone Farm is a Saddlebred breeding facility, and Claiborne Farm is a Thoroughbred breeding facility. Claiborne Farm has bred many notable racing horses including Secretariat and Seattle Slew. Our afternoon was spent with Quillin Leather & Tack and Hallway Feeds. The craftsmanship of the leather was beautiful, and to watch the feed process was impressive. Wednesday we spent

our morning watching the AM workouts at Keeneland. Keeneland was beautiful! KESMARC and Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital were our next stops. KESMARC had amazing technology we had never seen before; oxygen therapy, water therapy, and treadmills. Rood & Riddle allowed us to view surgery. The facility was outstanding.

In the evenings we had different activities and speakers. The speakers included Lori Rawls (USEF) and Kimberly Abbott (on behalf of Breyer). Our workshop included a visit to the USEF headquarters where we were greeted by Amanda Bassett, Leigh Anne Claywell, and Chuck Walker. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to meet such impressive individuals, and to view so many exceptional facilities! I encourage other young equestrians to go to the USEF website and download the application for the Youth Sportsman Award; it is a great opportunity for young equestrians.