

Abilene Student Signs to Ride with Equestrian Team

Written by Debbie Schwanke
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Colby Community College Equestrian Team Coach Shanda Mattix recently announced that Heather Darling, Abilene, has signed to ride for the Colby team as an Open Horsemanship rider for the 2011-12 school year.

Colby Community College has the only two-year equestrian team in the state. The CCC team is a member of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) which was established in 1967. Colby started their program in 1992.

The IHSA competitions provide full-time students with an interest in showing horses to participate without the expense of owning a horse. Students compete with students at their own level of experience. The riders compete for individual recognition as well as team competition.

The CCC show team, under the direction of Coach Shanda Mattix, competes as a member of Zone Seven, Region One, which includes two- and four-year colleges in Colorado, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Wyoming.

"We are so pleased that Heather chose to attend CCC and be a member of our Equestrian Team," said Mattix. "I am looking forward to next year and the contributions that she will make to our team."

The CCC team had a great deal of success this year with several students qualifying for semi-final competition in both the western and hunt seat team competitions. For the second year in a row, a CCC rider will be competing at the national competition which is held in May in Lexington, Ky.