

Alfred University's Kohler named IHSA regional president

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ALFRED, NY - Nancy Kohler, director of the Alfred University Equestrian Program, has been appointed Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) regional president, the IHSA has announced. Kohler will be president of IHSA Zone II, Region I. She replaces Chris Mitchell, who left his post as coach at Cornell University to take the coaching position at Randolph College in Lynchburg, VA. Kohler will serve the remainder of Mitchell's term, which expires in June 2013, at which point the region's membership will vote on her serving a full two-year term as president. Kohler, who also serves as head coach of the AU hunt seat riding team, said the appointment will help raise the profile of the University's Equestrian Program, which has both an athletics and academic component. "Alfred will be the President College. We will now be able to host the regional (hunt seat) show in 2013," she said. A regional championship - and potentially a Zone II championship as well - held at the Bromeley-Daggett Equestrian Center at the Maris Cuneo Equine Park will increase awareness of the AU Equestrian Program. "This will just give us more visibility and help us get out there what type of program we have here at Alfred." As region president, Kohler's duties include setting regional show dates, collecting show entry fees and maintaining team and rider paperwork and records for the teams in the region. She will also be assigned to IHSA committees representing Zone II, Region I. Kohler said Mitchell chose Kohler to serve out the remainder of his term. "He chose us because of our (Equestrian Center) staff, the program we have in place here and because we have our own facility," she said. Kohler was appointed director of the Alfred University Equestrian Program prior to the 2007-08 academic year and was appointed head coach of the hunt seat team prior to the 2010-11 season. In Kohler's first year as Equestrian Program director, the AU Western team competed at the IHSA national championships, placing sixth. One rider, Kate Mix, placed fourth and eighth in a pair of individual events. From 2009-11, four Saxon riders have participated at IHSA nationals in either hunt seat or Western competition. Kohler came to AU with more than 25 years' experience in riding instruction and training hunter/jumpers and lower level dressage horses. Kohler was the owner of the Willows Horse Farm in Fairview Pa from January 2004 to August 2007. The facility - which was home to the Mercyhurst College and Allegheny College equestrian teams - provided boarding, training and riding instruction services and had hosted horse shows and summer camps. She was partner and manager of The Willows, LLC, in Fairview, PA, from July 1997-December 2003. She partnered with two other owners of the 100-stall equestrian facility and held management responsibilities. She trained riders, served as barn manager and staff supervisor, developed and managed horse shows and summer camps, developed Allegheny College's riding team, supervised student internships, and oversaw maintenance of the buildings, pastures and riding arenas. Kohler was instructor and show manager for Lake Erie College for more than three years, teaching jumping classes and managing dressage and hunter/jumper shows. She also was a member of the Lake Erie College faculty, teaching a Management of Equine Activities class, and organized instructional clinics. She served as director of the equestrian program at The Andrews School in Willoughby, OH, from 1986-97; was a riding instructor at Hobby Horse Farm in Fairview, PA, from 1980-86; and was barn manager for Marianne Urraro, Erie, PA, from 1979-80. During her career, she has trained numerous riders and horses that have won championships and competed nationally. She has been a course designer for schooling and recognized shows and has experience judging schooling shows, hunter/jumper and dressage.