

Two AU riders earn top regional honors, entry to nationals

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ALFRED, NY A pair of Alfred University equestrian team members have earned regional high-point rider titles and with it entry into the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) national championships. Senior Barbara Koziol (Syracuse, NY/Bishop Ludden) was named the Cacchione Cup winner as high-point hunt seat (English) rider for Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) Zone II, Region I, while senior Allison Lawrence (New Paltz, NY/Oakwood Friends) was named high-point Western rider for the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) Zone II, Region I. Koziol and Lawrence are the first riders in AU program history to earn regional high-point rider honors in either discipline. Koziol and Lawrence were honored for earning the most points in the Open level of competition throughout regular season shows. Koziol competed in open equitation on the flat and open equitation over fences to earn her Cacchione Cup title. Lawrence competed in open horsemanship and open reining en route to being named AQHA Regional High Point Rider. By earning the high-point rider titles, Koziol and Lawrence gain automatic entry into the IHSA national championships May 5-8 in Lexington, KY. They will compete against other regional champions in their respective disciplines. The top hunt seat rider at the end of two flat phases and two phases over fences will be named national Cacchione Cup Champion; the top Western rider at the end of two horsemanship and two reining phases of competition will be named AQHA High Point Champion. Koziol is coached by Leigh Fischer and Lawrence by Harry Hurd and Kristen Kovatch.