



Helping recipients on their path to success: applications due Feb. 19.

by Rose Pezzo & Jackie McFarland

For some time, equestrians have had to vie for the respect to be distinguished as athletes. We all remember the heated debates we had growing up when told it was not a sport if the horse did all the work. But we all know far too well about countless long days at the barn. We have strong legs, muscular shoulders and a balanced core, and we know how to care for and manage our four-legged partners. Knowing this level of devotion and athleticism involved in our sport, Blenheim EquiSports chose to recognize up and coming professionals with the Emerging Professional Grant for the first time three years ago.

The 2018 winner, Jessica Allan, explains what made the grant so attractive. “Within the last several years, I’ve tried to be on the lookout for opportunities that could enhance my education and in turn make me a better rider, coach, and overall professional. We’re eager to learn and gain experience but many of us lack the finances to provide for our own continuing education in the form of showing our own horses. I don’t yet have a substantial enough income-producing business behind me to help finance sales horses or personal horses for me to ride and show. My feeling was that if I was to win the Grant, it would provide me an opportunity to affordably show my horse and gain experience at some of the best shows on the West Coast.”

Februray 2019 - Blenheim EquiSports Emerging Professionals Grant

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Friday, 01 February 2019 02:17



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