



Thoroughbred Industry Employee Awards

PRESS PACKET



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WHAT IS TIEA?

The Thoroughbred Industry Employee Awards (TIEA) recognize and reward the outstanding talent, diligence and commitment of the farm and racing stable staff who are at the heart of our sport. TIEA began in 2016, following in the footsteps of similar global Thoroughbred industry award initiatives in England and Ireland, also sponsored by Godolphin. There are now industry award programs in five countries, connected by their shared mission to recognize and reward those who have dedicated their lives to the Thoroughbred industry.

In the US, TIEA is conducted in partnership with The Jockey Club, the National Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, the Thoroughbred Owners' and Breeders' Association and the Breeders' Cup, and with the sponsorship of Godolphin. TIEA has awarded over \$600,000 in prize money to fifty-two finalists and thirty-one winners since 2016.

While prize money is an important aspect of TIEA, the essential goal of this program is to celebrate behind-the-scenes, unsung heroes of the Thoroughbred industry, who otherwise may never have the chance to hold a trophy in our sport.

Each year, nineteen finalists across seven award categories are recognized and \$122,000 in prize money is awarded. These finalists are brought to Lexington, Kentucky for a whirlwind trip including travel, accommodation, a horse farm tour, private dinner, day of racing and the Award Ceremony luncheon.

This packet includes the relevant details for the 2021 Awards as well as information about TIEA since 2016. If more information is required, please contact info@tiea.org.



2021 Thoroughbred Industry Employee Awards

Important Dates

- Monday, June 7th Nominations open at tiea.org
- Monday, August 2nd Nominations close at tiea.org
- TBD Shortlist Judging Panel Meeting
- Thursday, October 14th Finalist Interviews with Judging Panel
- Friday, October 15th 2021 TIEA Ceremony at Keeneland

Contacts

General Inquires info@tiea.org

Completed Nominations awards@toba.org

Management klamonica@godolphin.com
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Media Partners

BLOODHORSE



**PAULICK
REPORT.com**



CATEGORIES

LEADERSHIP AWARD *sponsored by Hagyard Equine Medical Institute*

An award to an individual in a managerial or supervisory role with more than two employees who displays exceptional leadership qualities, particularly in terms of motivating, mentoring and supporting colleagues in the workplace. **PRIZE** \$7,500 to the winner and \$2,500 to their farm (division) or stable. \$2,500 to each runner-up and \$2,500 to their farm (division) or stable.

DEDICATION TO BREEDING AWARD *sponsored by Hallway Feeds*

An award to an individual who has worked a minimum of 10 years in the Thoroughbred breeding industry and shown consistency, reliability and a talent for Thoroughbred breeding horsemanship. Must be a pivotal part of his or her employer's success. **PRIZE** \$7,500 to the winner and \$2,500 to their farm (division). \$2,500 to each runner-up and \$2,500 to their farm (division).

DEDICATION TO RACING AWARD

An award to an individual who has worked a minimum of 10 years in the Thoroughbred racing industry and shown consistency, reliability, and a talent for Thoroughbred racing horsemanship. Must be a pivotal part of his or her employer's success. **PRIZE** \$7,500 to the winner and \$2,500 to their stable. \$2,500 to each runner-up and \$2,500 to their stable.

KATHERINE MCKEE ADMINISTRATION AWARD *sponsored by Keeneland*

An award to an individual who works in an administrative role in the Thoroughbred breeding industry, racing industry, or any supporting sector within the Thoroughbred breeding and racing industry. Must be a pivotal part of his or her employer's success. **PRIZE** \$7,500 to the winner and \$2,500 to their stable/farm. \$2,500 to each runner-up and \$2,500 to their stable/farm.

NEW FOR 2021 SUPPORT SERVICES AWARD *sponsored by I am Horse Racing*

An award to an individual who works in any non-administrative, support service role in the Thoroughbred breeding industry, racing industry, or any supporting sector within the Thoroughbred breeding and racing industry. Must be a pivotal part of his or her employer's success. **PRIZE** \$7,500 to the winner and \$2,500 to their stable/farm. \$2,500 to each runner-up and \$2,500 to their stable/farm.

NEWCOMER AWARD

An award to an individual who has worked in any area of Thoroughbred breeding and/or racing for less than five years and shown commitment to – and ambition for – a career in the Thoroughbred industry, including a desire to improve and progress their skills and knowledge. **PRIZE** \$2,500 to the winner and \$1,000 to their farm (division) or stable + a 5-day educational tour to Dubai. \$2,000 to each runner-up and \$1,000 to their farm (division) or stable.

COMMUNITY AWARD *sponsored by Churchill Downs*

This award recognizes those who have demonstrated an outstanding contribution to the Thoroughbred industry, and in particular, to the greater good of the sport. This could include those who support the breeding and racing staff or have made an outstanding contribution to the wider Thoroughbred community. Nominees for this award do not need to be directly employed in the Thoroughbred industry. **PRIZE** \$7,500 to the winner and \$2,500 to their charity of choice. \$2,500 to the runner-up.

TIEA IN DETAIL

How to Nominate

- 1) Fill out and submit an online nomination form at tiea.org, by
 - Typing out your nomination in the digital format, OR
 - Attaching a Word or PDF document with your responses, OR
 - Upload an audio or video file, verbally submitting your responses
 - All video and audio files will be transcribed to ensure all nominations are judged through an equal medium
 - Please do not submit an edited video, speak directly to the camera and answer the nomination form questions
- 2) Print off the nomination form at tiea.org, complete by hand and
 - Mail to TIEA, 2365 Harrodsburg Rd. Suite A 200, Lexington, KY 40504
 - OR Scan the form and email to awards@toba.org
 - You can also request a printed nomination from info@tiea.org
- 3) Call the TIEA nomination line at **+1 (859) 977-4655**
 - Speak to a dedicated TIEA employee who will guide you through the nomination
 - Please look over the nomination form before calling
 - Have the form in hand and be prepared to respond to the questions
 - Your call will be recorded, and your responses transcribed in order for your nomination to be submitted

Notes on the nomination

The nomination is the most vital part of the selection process. The shortlist judging panel only has the nomination form as reference to the character of the individual and as to why they are deserving of recognition.

Therefore, if you are nominating someone, please be sure to include as much relevant detail as possible and include examples of their dedication. Also, please consider the criteria of the award category in completing the nomination.

The most important part of the nomination is the depth of the content included. Particulars such as grammar, punctuation, etc. are not considered by the judging panel.

After Nominations Close

Following the close of nominating period, all nominations are collected and organized by the TIEA partners. Once completed, the shortlist judging panel is convened.

The shortlist panel is asked to read through every single nomination prior to meeting. They are tasked as a group to select three finalists in each category, as well as the winner and runner-up of the Community Award. Finalists are selected based upon their qualifications in regard to the award category. Each finalist is selected by a majority of the shortlist panel, determined by discussion among the panel. On occasion this is finalized by a blind vote amongst the panel.

Once the shortlist panel has determined the finalists in each category and the Community Award winner and runner-up, a press release is published. While the finalists in each category are notified, every single nominee is sent a certificate commemorating their nomination. The certificate includes the award category they were nominated to as well as the individual who nominated them.

After the finalists have been announced, the TIEA partners begin creating individual highlight videos of each finalist. The goal of these videos is to celebrate these individuals. The TIEA partners also begin to finalize plans for the Awards Ceremony.

Each finalist and a guest are invited to Lexington, Kentucky for 48 hours around the Awards Ceremony. Travel to and accommodation in Lexington is provided. The day before the Awards Ceremony, finalists are offered a chance to tour a local horse farm and invited to join a private dinner with their guests. Each must also participate in an interview with the final judging panel.

The final judging panel will meet with each finalist the day before the Awards Ceremony. This panel is tasked with determining a winner in each category. The final judging panel rely on the criteria of each award category to aid them in this process. In meeting the finalists face-to-face, they have an opportunity to get more in-depth knowledge of each finalist. The winner of each award category is selected by a majority of the final panel, often determined by discussion among them and may be finalized by a blind vote. Once the final judging panel has made their decisions, that information remains private until it is announced at the Awards Ceremony the following day.

The Awards Ceremony is a luncheon event* held exclusively for finalists, their friends and family, TIEA partners, sponsors and select media. The ceremony is hosted by Jill Byrne, with a notable trophy presenter each year. The ceremony format involves Jill describing each category and highlighting each finalist by playing their video. All three finalists are asked to join Jill on stage. After playing all three videos, the category winner is announced.

Each winner receives a trophy, while the runners-up receive a framed certificate. The Community Award winner is highlighted last, often with their nominator having the opportunity to introduce them.

All finalists and their guests are invited to enjoy a day of racing following the ceremony.

**The 2020 TIEA Ceremony was held virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions*

The Judging Panels

Each of the judging panels, both the shortlist and final, are comprised of industry professionals representing various aspects of the sport. Each are volunteers, asked to give an entire day to meet with their respective panel. They are expected to review each nomination, and for the final judging panel each finalist video, in advance of their panel convening. If during the judging process, there is any conflict of interest relating to an individual nomination in a given category, that judge must recuse themselves from voting in that category. In the final judging panel, they would be recused from participating in any of the interviews for that category.

Community Award

The Community Award recognizes individuals who have a charitable aspect to their work. Due to those qualifications, it was determined in the development of TIEA to have the shortlist panel select the winner rather than announce finalists in the category. In 2021, TIEA will also recognize a runner-up in the Community Award Category with a prize of \$2,500. This individual will not be a part of the Awards Ceremony.

Prize Money

Prize money is awarded to all three finalists in each category, and to the winner and runner-up in the Community Award. Prize money is also awarded to the farm/division or stable for each finalist. The genesis behind the idea of awarding money to their teams is to promote support and camaraderie around TIEA. The idea being, if your colleague wins, you win too! TIEA asks that employers work with their finalist to determine how the money will be split amongst their team.

In order to be recognized as an award category finalist or announced as the winner, the individual must partake in the final judging panel interview. Finalists must also be present at the TIEA Ceremony in order to win.

TIEA OVERVIEW

Award Finalists & Winners

Please note that information in finalists' videos may have changed since filming, including location and employer.

2020 [Click here to view the 2020 Virtual Ceremony Program](#)

CATEGORY	FINALIST NAME	NOMINATOR	REGION	VIDEO
Administration Award	Dionne Johnson	Andy Belfiore	New York	LINK
Administration Award	Michele Holbrook	Steve Johnson	Kentucky	LINK
Administration Award	Lynnelle Fox Smith	Gay Welliver	Oregon	LINK
Dedication to Breeding Award	Helen Otero	Dermot Ryan	Kentucky	LINK
Dedication to Breeding Award	David Kyle	Boyd Browning	Kentucky	LINK
Dedication to Breeding Award	Steve Avery	Logan Payne	Kentucky	LINK
Dedication to Racing Award	Gregory Smothers	Niall Brennan	Florida	LINK
Dedication to Racing Award	Patrick Autry	Kenny McPeek	Kentucky	LINK
Dedication to Racing Award	Marcelo Arenas	Leah Gyarmati	New York	LINK
Leadership Award - Breeding	Wayne Clem	Seth Hancock	Kentucky	LINK
Leadership Award - Breeding	Christy Holden	Sallyellen Hurst	Maryland	LINK
Leadership Award - Breeding	Matt Lyons	Teri Tucker	Kentucky	LINK
Leadership Award - Racing	Carmen McShane	Michelle McShane	Iowa	LINK
Leadership Award - Racing	Cindy Hutter	Blair Golen	Florida	LINK
Leadership Award - Racing	Roy Smith	Joe Carr	Indiana	LINK
Newcomer Award	Aaron West	Pete Bradley	Kentucky	LINK
Newcomer Award	Alexis Kolasa	Conrad Bandoroff	Kentucky	LINK
Newcomer Award	Robert Cole	Tammy Gantt	Florida	LINK
Community Award	Maria Cristina Silva	Joseph Brocklebank	New York	LINK

2019

CATEGORY	FINALIST NAME	NOMINATOR	REGION	VIDEO
Administration Award	Bessie Gruwell	John Breeden	Delaware	<u>LINK</u>
Administration Award	Andrea Greathouse	Pat Costello	Kentucky	<u>LINK</u>
Administration Award	Maria Catignani	Darla Gaige	West Virginia	<u>LINK</u>
Dedication to Breeding Award	Ernest Blair	Michael Cline	Kentucky	<u>LINK</u>
Dedication to Breeding Award	Barrett Midkiff	Frank Taylor	Kentucky	<u>LINK</u>
Dedication to Breeding Award	Steve Clark	Candice de Stefano	Kentucky	<u>LINK</u>
Dedication to Racing Award	Lesley McCall	Laura Moquett	Kentucky	<u>LINK</u>
Dedication to Racing Award	Cristobal Trejo	Mike Tomlinson	Kentucky	<u>LINK</u>
Dedication to Racing Award	Janeen Painter	Richard Mandella	California	<u>LINK</u>
Leadership Award - Breeding	Jenny Carpenter	Mary Ann Puentes	New York	<u>LINK</u>
Leadership Award - Breeding	Joe Peel	Seth Hancock	Kentucky	<u>LINK</u>
Leadership Award - Breeding	Mark Cunningham	Benjamin Henley	Kentucky	<u>LINK</u>
Leadership Award - Racing	Saul Castellanos	Mark Hennig	New York	<u>LINK</u>
Leadership Award - Racing	Destin Heath	Alissa Heath	Kentucky	<u>LINK</u>
Leadership Award - Racing	Thomas Brandebourger	Sheriza Serravento	New York	<u>LINK</u>
Newcomer Award	Amy Stokes	Gerry Duffy	Kentucky	<u>LINK</u>
Newcomer Award	Courtney Schneider	Matthew Koch	Kentucky	<u>LINK</u>
Newcomer Award	Michael Norris	Katherine Ritvo	Florida	<u>LINK</u>
Community Award	Bobby Lillis	Cricket Goodall	Maryland	<u>LINK</u>

2018

CATEGORY	FINALIST NAME	NOMINATOR	REGION	VIDEO
Dedication to Breeding Award	Therese Reese	Terri Burch	Kentucky	<u>LINK</u>
Dedication to Breeding Award	Noe Murillo-Hernandez	William Rainbow	Florida	<u>LINK</u>
Dedication to Breeding Award	Barbara Nicholls	Alex Hancock	Kentucky	<u>LINK</u>
Dedication to Racing Award	Lisa See	Bessie Gruwell	Delaware	<u>LINK</u>
Dedication to Racing Award	Jehobany Alvarez	Peter Miller	California	<u>LINK</u>
Dedication to Racing Award	Esteban Medina	Duane Domingue	Louisiana	<u>LINK</u>
Leadership Award - Breeding	Sandy Hatfield	Carrie Gilbert	Kentucky	<u>LINK</u>
Leadership Award - Breeding	Richard Barry	Dermot Ryan	Kentucky	<u>LINK</u>
Leadership Award - Breeding	John Hall	Frank Taylor	Delaware	<u>LINK</u>
Leadership Award - Racing	Cesar Aguilar	John Sadler	California	<u>LINK</u>
Leadership Award - Racing	Gene Corbin	Bert Pilcher	Florida	<u>LINK</u>
Leadership Award - Racing	Daisy Tobin	Melissa Lewis	West Virginia	<u>LINK</u>
Newcomer Award	Devon Dougherty	Roy Houghton	Pennsylvania	<u>LINK</u>
Newcomer Award	Zachary Richards	Molly Brindle	New York	<u>LINK</u>
Newcomer Award	Lindsay Scott	Jayne Kolsterman	Ohio	<u>LINK</u>
Community Award	Angie Carmona	Rick Hammerle	California	<u>LINK</u>

2017

CATEGORY	FINALIST NAME	NOMINATOR	REGION	VIDEO
Dedication to Breeding	Lugusta "Gus" Gray	Tammy Gantt	Florida	<u>LINK</u>
Dedication to Breeding	Francisco 'Pancho' Sanchez	Craig Wheeler	Florida	<u>LINK</u>
Dedication to Breeding	Ronda Clifton	Elliott Walden	Kentucky	<u>LINK</u>
Dedication to Racing	Arturo Ramirez	David Donk	Kentucky	<u>LINK</u>
Dedication to Racing	Raymond Davenport	Timothy Keefe	Maryland	<u>LINK</u>
Dedication to Racing	Lena Lorieul	Daisy Phipps	New York	<u>LINK</u>
Leadership Award – Breeding	Larry McGinnis	Elliott Walden	Kentucky	<u>LINK</u>
Leadership Award – Breeding	Clayton Murdock	Tom Clark	California	<u>LINK</u>
Leadership Award – Breeding	Aidan O'Meara	Leah O'Meara	Kentucky	<u>LINK</u>
Leadership Award – Racing	Christophe Lorieul	Brittlan Wall	New York	<u>LINK</u>
Leadership Award – Racing	Hilary Pridham	Michael Stidham	California	<u>LINK</u>
Leadership Award – Racing	Richard Budge	Elliott Walden	Kentucky	<u>LINK</u>
Newcomer Award	Jak Knelman	Doug Cauthen	Kentucky	<u>LINK</u>
Newcomer Award	Emily Castrenze	Leigh Delacour	Delaware	<u>LINK</u>
Newcomer Award	Kristina Taylor	Richard Budge	Kentucky	<u>LINK</u>
Community Award	Leslie Janecka	Carrie Gilbert	Kentucky	<u>LINK</u>

2016

CATEGORY	FINALIST NAME	NOMINATOR	REGION	VIDEO
Dedication to Breeding Award	James Sebastian	Walker Hancock	Kentucky	<u>LINK</u>
Dedication to Breeding Award	Everett Charles	Arthur Hancock	Kentucky	<u>LINK</u>
Dedication to Breeding Award	Leon Hamilton	Gray Lyster	Kentucky	<u>LINK</u>
Dedication to Racing Award	Jose "Vinny" Castaneda	Wendy Davis	California	<u>LINK</u>
Dedication to Racing Award	Danny Ramsey	Kenny McPeek	Florida	<u>LINK</u>
Dedication to Racing Award	Raul Rodriguez	Art Sherman	California	<u>LINK</u>
Leadership Award – Breeding	Victor Espinoza	Jeffrey Berk	Kentucky	<u>LINK</u>
Leadership Award - Breeding	John Hall	Frank Taylor	Kentucky	<u>LINK</u>
Leadership Award - Breeding	Matt Koch	Courtney Schneider	Kentucky	<u>LINK</u>
Leadership Award - Racing	Melissa Cohen	Richard Violette	New York	<u>LINK</u>
Leadership Award - Racing	Jimmy Barnes	Bob Baffert	California	<u>LINK</u>
Leadership Award - Racing	Laz Guerra	Mike Maker	Kentucky	<u>LINK</u>
Community Award	Israel "Izzy" Vega	Dan Waits	California	<u>LINK</u>

Award Categories

2021 CATEGORIES + PRIZE MONEY

Award Category	Winner	Connections	Runner-up	Connections	Runner-up	Connections	Total
Leadership	\$ 7,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 20,000
Dedication to Racing	\$ 7,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 20,000
Dedication to Breeding	\$ 7,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 20,000
Administration	\$ 7,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 20,000
Support Services	\$ 7,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 20,000
Newcomer	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 9,500
Community	\$ 7,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,500
TOTAL							\$ 122,000

THROUGH THE YEARS

	Total Categories	Total Finalists	Categories
2021	7	19	Dedication to Breeding, Dedication to Racing, Community, Newcomer, Administration, COMBINED Leadership, ADDED Support Services
2020	7	19	Dedication to Breeding, Dedication to Racing, Leadership - Breeding, Leadership - Racing, Community, Newcomer, Administration
2018	7	19	Dedication to Breeding, Dedication to Racing, Leadership - Breeding, Leadership - Racing, Community, Newcomer, ADDED Administration
2019	6	16	Dedication to Breeding, Dedication to Racing, Leadership - Breeding, Leadership - Racing, Community, Newcomer
2017	6	16	Dedication to Breeding, Dedication to Racing, Leadership - Breeding, Leadership - Racing, Community, ADDED Newcomer
2016	5	13	Dedication to Breeding, Dedication to Racing, Leadership - Breeding, Leadership - Racing, Community

Nominations

BY CATEGORY

	TOTAL	Dedication to Breeding	Dedication to Racing	Leadership - Breeding	Leadership - Racing	Community	Newcomer	Administration
TOTAL	634	83	144	98	85	131	54	39
2020	153	9	28	21	19	40	13	23
2019	125	13	23	16	20	24	13	16
2018	119	23	30	17	18	19	12	-
2017	132	19	37	17	14	29	16	-
2016	105	19	26	27	14	19	-	-

BY STATE

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL
TOTAL	105	132	119	125	153	634
Kentucky	61	42	51	58	61	272
New York	18	22	14	18	18	90
Florida	8	13	8	9	16	54
California	7	9	18	7	10	51
Maryland	2	6	6	6	15	35
Pennsylvania	-	5	4	5	7	21
Delaware	1	1	4	4	2	12
Louisiana	1	5	3	1	-	10
Illinois	-	3	-	1	3	7
Virginia	-	1	1	2	3	7
New Jersey	1	3	1	1	-	6

BY STATE continued

West Virginia	-	-	-	3	3	6
Iowa	-	2	1	-	2	5
Ohio	2	1	1	-	1	5
Oklahoma	-	1	1	2	1	5
South Carolina	-	1	1	2	1	5
Texas	1	-	-	1	3	5
Indiana	1	-	1	1	1	4
Oregon	-	3	-	-	1	4
Arizona	1	1	-	1	-	3
Massachusetts	1	2	-	-	-	3
Nevada	-	-	1	1	1	3
Washington	-	1	1	1	-	3
Colorado	-	-	1	1	-	2
Minnesota	-	1	-	-	1	2
Nebraska	-	1	-	-	1	2
Arkansas	-	1	-	-	-	1
Conneticut	-	1	-	-	-	1
Georgia	-	-	1	-	-	1
Idaho	-	1	-	-	-	1
Tennessee	-	1	-	-	-	1
Utah	1	-	-	-	-	1

Award Ceremony

	Date	Location	MC	Presenter
2021	October 15 th	Keeneland	Jill Byrne	TBD
2020	November 5 th	Virtual (<i>Studio 46</i>)	Jill Byrne	N/A
2019	October 11 th	Keeneland	Jill Byrne	Bill Mott
2018	October 31 st	Churchill	Jill Byrne	Bob Baffert
2017	October 13 th	Keeneland	Jill Byrne	Ramon Dominguez
2016	October 7 th	Keeneland	Jill Byrne	D Wayne Lukas

Judging Panels

2020

Shortlist Panel

- Susan Martin Director of Marketing at The Jockey Club Information Systems
- Cate Johnson Director of the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame
- Stephanie Brennan* Director of Sales and Marketing, Niall Brennan Stables
- Corey Johnsen President, CJ Thoroughbreds
- David Pope President - Co-Owner, Siena Farm

Final Judging Panel

- Susan Martin Director of Marketing at The Jockey Club Information Systems
- Pat Cummings Executive Director, Thoroughbred Idea Foundation
- David Richardson TOBA Trustee, Jockey Club member and UofL Chief of Surgery
- Kevin Grigsby TVG Executive Producer and SVP of Television
- Terry Finley President and CEO West Point Thoroughbreds
- Bessie Gruwell Executive Director, DTHA & TIEA Administration Award Winner
- Julie Krone Retired Hall of Fame Jockey

2019

Shortlist Panel

- Dan Fick Chairman of Racing Officials Accreditation Program, retired
- Ramiro Restrepo Market Representative at Fasig Tipton Co.
- Maggie Wolfendale Paddock Analyst and host for NYRA and Fox Sports
- Cate Johnson Director of the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame
- Stuart Angus Account Manager, Taylor Made Sales

Final Judging Panel

- Dan Fick Chairman of Racing Officials Accreditation Program, retired
- Hal Wiggins Trainer, retired
- Brett Calhoun Trainer
- Rosie Napravnik Rosie Off Track, Jockey, retired

2019 Final Judging Panel continued

- Terry Finley President and CEO West Point Thoroughbreds
- Mike Penna President and host of Horse Racing Radio Network
- Susan Martin Director of Marketing at The Jockey Club Information Systems

2018

Shortlist Panel

- Dan Fick Chairman of Racing Officials Accreditation Program, retired
- Holly White Director of Development, Grayson Jockey Club
- Stephanie Nixon Vice President, Virginia HBPA
- Nacho Patino General Manager, Siena Farm
- Beth Bayer Director of Sales, Woodford Thoroughbreds

Final Judging Panel

- Dan Fick Chairman of Racing Officials Accreditation Program, retired
- Rogers Beasley Keeneland, retired
- Maggi Moss Thoroughbred Owner and Breeder
- Eddie Arroyo Chief Illinois State Steward
- Gayle Van Leer GVL Thoroughbred Services
- George Issacs General Manager, Bridlewood Farm
- Carl Nafzger HOF Trainer, retired

2017

Shortlist Panel

- Dr. Reid McLellan Groom Elite
- Dan Fick Chairman of Racing Officials Accreditation Program, retired
- Anna Seitz Cianello Client Development and Public Relations Manager, Fasig-Tipton
- Todd Mostoller National HBPA President
- Stacie Clark Executive Director, Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance

Final Judging Panel

- Dr. Reid McLellan Groom Elite
- Rogers Beasley Keeneland Racing Secretary, retired
- Dr. Stuart Brown Hagyard Equine Medical Institute
- Dell Hancock* Claiborne Farm
- Graham Motion Trainer
- Mike O'Farrell Ocala Stud
- Becky Thomas Sequel Stallions

2016

Shortlist Panel

- Dr. Reid McLellan Groom Elite
- Dan Fick Chairman of Racing Officials Accreditation Program, retired
- Anna Seitz Cianello Client Development and Public Relations Manager, Fasig-Tipton
- Todd Mostoller National HBPA President
- Stacie Clark Executive Director, Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance

Final Judging Panel

- Dr. Reid McLellan Groom Elite
- Rogers Beasley Keeneland Racing Secretary, retired
- Dr. Stuart Brown Hagyard Equine Medical Institute
- Dell Hancock Claiborne Farm (*recused from Leadership – Breeding category*)
- Graham Motion Trainer
- Mike O'Farrell Ocala Stud
- Becky Thomas Sequel Stallions

**Recused from voting in one award category where there was a conflict of interest*