

Speaker Bios -2026 TRAV Annual Meeting

Dedi Spradlin is a nationally certified American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreter. She currently teaches ASL at Roanoke College and provides free-lance interpreting services. She serves on the Virginia Horse Council Foundation. Dedi is a life-long horse person and has previously presented on deafness and hearing-impaired at TRAV's educational workshops. She has a small boarding and lesson business on her family farm. She is an experienced horse show manager and judge and has volunteered at TRAV's horse show. She resides in SW Virginia.

Dr. Melinda Freckleton is the founder and owner of Firestar Veterinary Services, LLC. She is a graduate of Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine. After an equine medicine and reproduction internship, she has been practicing equine ambulatory medicine for over 20 years in Northern Virginia. While working with pleasure horses, athletic sport horses of all types, trail horses, and loved equine pets, Dr. Freckleton gained a reputation for being practical, kind, and informative. During these years in practice, she often thought about ways that she could improve the health of her patients and give their owners more personalized information about their horses' health. Dr. Freckleton is also a United States Dressage Foundation Bronze Medalist.

Amy Smith, OTD and Certified Brain Injury Specialist Trainer has worked in community-based disability services for over eight years. As the Brain Injury Association of Virginia's (BIAV) Director of Education and Engagement, Amy is responsible for providing brain injury training programming as well as leading community outreach initiatives. She is passionate about spreading awareness through education. In addition, Amy works with community partners including the Sheltering Arms Institute, domestic/sexual violence and brain injury agencies participating in BIAV's Department of Health-funded screening project, and universities invested in BIAV's internship program. She also provides key support for BIAV's Camp Bruce McCoy, the nation's longest running camp for brain injury survivors. Whether she is working with service recipients, providers, funders, or other partners, Amy is adept at using her expertise to achieve positive and sustainable outcomes. Amy received her BA from the University of Virginia and her OTD from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Anna Baucum is a certified Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning through PATH International and serves as a supervisor and veterinary technician at Brook Hill Farm. With a degree in psychology, she integrates her knowledge to support at-risk youth through equine assisted programs. Anna has presented at national and regional conferences, including the Temple Grandin Center, and her work has been featured in Horse Illustrated. She has also coached at the United States Pony Club Championships in show jumping and serves on the

Equine Well-Being Committee for the Humans and Horses Research Foundation and is on the board of the Equine Welfare Collaborative of Virginia.