HOIST 10/11/2016 T. SCHNEIDER

Shanna Burris is a senior at UW-River Falls pursuing a degree in equine management. This year, she was accepted into the McNair Scholars Program and began research into the struggles paraplegic horseback riders face every day. She is a non-traditional student, and through working in health care for many years was inspired by the many lifts they use to move patients.

MP3 RUNS 1:08 O/C: STD.

TORI SCHNEIDER: BURRIS HAS CREATED A HOIST THAT LIFTS A SADDLE ONTO A HORSE BECAUSE WITHOUT THIS, PARA RIDERS NEED TO RELY ON SOMEONE ELSE TO DO IT FOR THEM. OTHER PROBLEMS FOR PARA RIDERS, LIKE GETTING THEMSELVES ONTO A HORSE, ARE ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF BY RAMPS AND BODY LIFTS.

SHANNA BURRIS: “KNOWING THIS POPULATION AND KNOWING SOME OF THE STRUGGLES THAT THEY GO THROUGH TRYING TO TACK UP THEIR HORSE AND HOW BENEFICIAL RIDING IS TO THEM, I WANTED TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO MAKE IT MORE ACCESSIBLE AND HELP THEM BE MORE INDEPENDENT.”

TORI SCHNEIDER: DEAN OLSON, ASSOCIATE DEAN OF CAFES AND A PROFESSOR IN AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING, HELPS BURRIS ON THE PROJECT. TOGETHER, THE TWO CREATED THE HOIST USING SPARE PARTS FROM THE AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT FOR LESS THAN $150. BURRIS HAD TAKEN AN INTRODUCTION COURSE FROM OLSON IN THE PAST AND HE SAW HER APPLY THE CONCEPTS THAT WERE TAUGHT.

DEAN OLSON: “SHE WAS, SHE RECOGNIZED THAT THIS REALLY ISN’T AN EQUINE PROBLEM, THIS IS AN ENGINEERING PROBLEM.”

TORI SCHNEIDER: BURRIS PLANS TO GO ON TO PURSUE HER PH.D. IN EQUINE AND ONE DAY HOPES TO BECOME A PROFESSOR AT U-W-R-F. FOR THE FALCON NEWS SERVICE, I’M TORI SCHNEIDER.

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