

--- Name of 501(c)(3) Organization ---

Bluegrass Community and Technical College Foundation

--- Federal Tax-Exempt ID# ---

76-0826082

--- Year Established ---

2014

--- Amount Requested ---

7,614

--- Name of Executive Director ---

Erin Tipton

--- Mailing Address ---

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--- Email address ---

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--- Organization's website ---

<https://bluegrass.kctcs.edu/education-training/program-finder/equine-studies.aspx>

--- Copy and paste the link to your organization's most recent filed IRS Financial Statements (#990): ---

https://app.candid.org/profile/8560493/bluegrass-community-technical-college-foundation-inc-76-0826082?_gl=1*jb5lna*_gcl_au*NzAxMDUxNzg3LjE3NzMyNTE1ODM.*_ga*MTI1MDkwMjE5Ny4xNzczMjUxNTgz*_ga_5W8PXYYGXB*cxE3NzMyNTE1ODIkbzEkZzAkdDE3NzMyNTE1ODIkaWwJGwwJGgw&activeTab=7

--- Upload all supporting documents required for your application and your organization's most recent filed IRS Financial Statements (#990): ---

<https://www.terfusa.org/wp-content/uploads/wpforms/809-a07c4cb3463c1ac16da216b7fda5277e/501c3-BCTC-Foundation-Inc-IRS-Designation-of-Non-Profit-status-U-3dfbc952a366325ea93a23cac2f76c04.pdf>

<https://www.terfusa.org/wp-content/uploads/wpforms/809-a07c4cb3463c1ac16da216b7fda5277e/3-BCTCF-Final-Stm-2024-2025-d442aecca8b67b3dec66e2494e1ef5a7.pdf>

<https://www.terfusa.org/wp-content/uploads/wpforms/809-a07c4cb3463c1ac16da216b7fda5277e/Kentucky-Secretary-of-State-2024-filing-receipt-b5181947e6718be9361933f34ea6191b.pdf>

https://www.terfusa.org/wp-content/uploads/wpforms/809-a07c4cb3463c1ac16da216b7fda5277e/760826082_2023_202411229349302806_990-395c2a9ceb1fd80d330354db8ba8ea0f.pdf

<https://www.terfusa.org/wp-content/uploads/wpforms/809-a07c4cb3463c1ac16da216b7fda5277e/BCTC-Equine-Scholarship-Budget-40cd20a12ff739ed826d4d5756d2594c.pdf>

--- Farm/Facility Name ---

BCTC Equine

--- Farm/Facility Physical Location (City, State, Zip) ---

Lexington, Kentucky 40511

--- Farm/Facility Mailing Address ---

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--- Contact Name and Title ---

Dixie Kendall, BCTC Equine Program Coordinator

--- Contact Work Phone ---

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--- Contact Email ---

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--- 1. Brief mission statement and describe the distinguishing features of your organization that supports the mission of TERF and the relevance to this proposal. ---

Bluegrass Community and Technical College (BCTC) transforms the Bluegrass Region—one student, one employer, and one community at a time. BCTC Equine is focused on Thoroughbred welfare and uses retired racehorses for its curriculum, teaching students industry-accepted standards for care, handling, and management. By providing formal, accredited training for exercise riders and veterinary assistants—roles traditionally learned through unstandardized apprenticeship—BCTC Equine directly contributes to making racing safer through a more competent, safety-conscious workforce. BCTC Equine offers an Equine Veterinary Assistant Certificate and will implement an Equine Science track to its Associate in Applied Science in Equine Studies degree in Spring 2027 for students intending to transfer to a four-year university for Pre-Vet, which aligns with TERF’s focus on providing scholarship support for veterinary-related studies. The BCTC Equine Veterinary Assistant Certificate internship (co-op) is the bridge between classroom learning and the professional equine industry. Supporting this specific class directly places TERF-funded students into the workforce where they can apply best practices for horse health and safety. By funding Veterinary Assistant students specifically, TERF invests in the primary

caregivers responsible for the daily health monitoring and medical support of Thoroughbreds.

--- 2. Briefly outline 3-5 goals for the requested funds and how these goals support your mission. ---

The requested funds aim to eliminate financial barriers for students entering the equine workforce, specifically by covering the six-credit-hour tuition for the Equine Reproduction & Rehabilitation Cooperative Education (EQS 298) internship.

Goal 1: Increase Access to "Boots on the Ground" Training

Description: Provide scholarships to cover tuition for the mandatory internship (co-op) class, ensuring that financial constraints do not prevent students from completing their credential.

Support for BCTC Mission: Directly supports the mission of providing an affordable, quality training pathway for entrance into the equine workforce.

Goal 2: Facilitate Hands-on Competency in Thoroughbred Health

Description: Fund students in the Equine Veterinary Assistant Certificate program and the Equine Science track to complete supervised work at veterinary clinics or breeding farms.

Support for BCTC Mission: Aligns with the mission to prepare students with technical skills in horse care and management using industry-accepted standards.

Goal 3: Bridge the Gap Between Classroom and Professional Industry

Description: Allow students to apply academic knowledge of anatomy, lameness, and biosecurity in a planned and evaluated work environment.

Support for BCTC Mission: Supports the goal of developing experiential learning opportunities in collaboration with industry partners like Hagyard Equine Medical Institute and Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital.

Goal 4: Enhance Graduate Employability and Retention

Description: Enable students to complete the final credentialing step required for job placement with top equine operations.

Support for BCTC Mission: Advances the mission to meet equine industry workforce needs by ensuring students are "prepared when they enter the industry"

--- 3. Provide a detailed description of the proposed project, how it is related to the mission of TERF and how it will impact the health and welfare of the horse. (Note: research applications should be understandable to a non-scientific audience and include sufficient detail and rigor for the scientific reviewers.) ---

The proposed project seeks to provide tuition coverage for the six-credit-hour Cooperative Education (Internship) course (EQS 298) for students enrolled in the Equine Veterinary Assistant Certificate program at Bluegrass Community and Technical College (BCTC). The proposed project establishes an Equine Veterinary Assistant Scholarship Initiative designed to fund the critical clinical capstone for students at BCTC Equine. Specifically, the grant will provide tuition coverage for the six-credit-hour Equine Studies Cooperative Education (EQS 298) course, which serves as the bridge between classroom theory and professional practice. By removing the financial burden of this tuition, the project ensures that students—many of whom represent underserved populations in the Lexington area—can complete their degree requirements through intensive, real-world internships at premier equine veterinary clinics and Thoroughbred farms. This initiative focuses on formalizing the training of the support staff who provide the "boots on the ground" care essential to the daily operations of the racing and breeding industries.

This project is deeply rooted in the mission of TERF, as it directly addresses the foundation's commitment to supporting Thoroughbred health and welfare through specialized educational programs and scholarships. By investing in the Equine Veterinary Assistant Certificate pathway, the project fulfills TERF's priority of making racing safer by professionalizing the workforce. Standardizing the education of veterinary assistants ensures that the individuals assisting in medical procedures, anesthesia recovery, and diagnostic imaging are trained in accredited, safety-first protocols. This educational pipeline creates a sustainable workforce of skilled professionals who are uniquely qualified to uphold the high standards of care required by the modern Thoroughbred industry.

The ultimate impact of this project on the health and welfare of the horse is profound, as it places highly trained caregivers at the front lines of equine medical management. Students who complete this funded internship gain advanced competency in early illness detection, biosecurity measures, and post-surgical monitoring—interventions that can mean the difference between a minor ailment and a catastrophic event. By mastering sophisticated horse-handling techniques and clinical support skills, these assistants reduce stress and injury risks for the horse during medical exams. Ultimately, this project ensures that Thoroughbreds are surrounded by a more observant, technically proficient, and safety-conscious support team, directly improving long-term health outcomes and the overall integrity of the sport.

--- 4. Provide a timeline detailing the expected progress of the project and specific milestones. ---

Phase 1: Grant Acquisition & Program Setup (April – July 2026)

April 1, 2026: Final submission of the TERF Education Grant request.

May – June 2026: Initial outreach to industry partners (equine hospitals and clinics) to confirm co-op placement availability for the upcoming academic year.

July 1, 2026: Receipt of written notice from TERF regarding the acceptance of the funding request.

July 15, 2026: Formal internal setup of the TERF Scholarship Fund within the BCTC Financial Aid system.

Phase 2: Fall Semester Implementation (August – December 2026)

August 17, 2026: Fall semester classes begin at BCTC.

September 15, 2026: Final selection of scholarship recipients based on academic standing and commitment to the Thoroughbred industry.

October 1, 2026: Advanced Registration for the Spring 2027 semester opens. Selected students are officially enrolled in the EQS 298 Cooperative Education class.

November 1 – 15, 2026: Application period for the first cohort of Equine Veterinary Assistant students to apply for TERF-funded scholarships for their spring co-op tuition.

December 1, 2026: Disbursement of funds to cover the six-credit-hour tuition for the upcoming Spring 2027 internship term.

Phase 3: Clinical Placement & Evaluation (January – May 2027)

January 11, 2027: Spring semester begins; scholarship recipients start their hands-on clinical rotations at regional equine veterinary facilities.

March 8 – 12, 2027: Mid-term evaluations conducted by the BCTC Equine faculty and site supervisors to monitor student progress and horse welfare standards.

May 9, 2027: Completion of the internship course. Scholarship recipients submit final reflection portfolios detailing their impact on Thoroughbred health.

May 15, 2027: Final project report and impact data (student outcomes and placement statistics) submitted to TERF.

--- 5. Provide a detailed budget for the projected use of the funds. (Note: no funds will be provided for administrative overhead or capital spending; TERF reserves the right to modify funding based on Foundation requirements). Attach budget to submitted proposal as needed. ---

The proposed budget for this initiative seeks a total of \$7,614.00 from the Thoroughbred Education and Research Foundation to provide 100% tuition and fee coverage for six BCTC Equine Veterinary Assistant students. This comprehensive funding model is built upon the Bluegrass Community and Technical College in-state resident rate of \$195.00 per credit hour for the 2025–2026 academic year. For each student, the primary cost center is the \$1,170.00 required for the six-credit-hour Equine Reproduction & Rehabilitation Cooperative Education (EQS 298) internship totaling \$7,020.00 across the cohort of six participants.

Beyond the base tuition, the budget accounts for all mandatory institutional fees to ensure students face zero out-of-pocket expenses during their clinical rotations. This includes \$288.00 in mandatory student fees (calculated at \$8.00 per credit hour) and \$240.00 in cumulative security charges (a flat \$40.00 per student). Furthermore, because these students work directly with Thoroughbreds in a clinical capacity, the budget incorporates

\$66.00 for professional liability insurance (\$11.00 per student), a prerequisite for all hands-on equine internships. By covering the full individual cost of \$1,269.00 per student, this funding ensures that financial hardship does not act as a barrier to completing the high-level technical training necessary to improve the health and safety of the Thoroughbred.

Providing 100% coverage of tuition and mandatory fees is a critical component of the BCTC Equine mission to diversify and professionalize the Thoroughbred workforce. Many students in the Equine Veterinary Assistant program are non-traditional learners or first-generation college students who balance full-time academic loads with jobs and many other demands. By eliminating the \$1,269.00 individual cost of the capstone co-op, BCTC removes the primary financial hurdle that often forces students to delay graduation or withdraw during their final semester. This full funding allows students to commit their complete focus to the 40-hour-per-week clinical rotation, ensuring they gain the high-level technical skills in horse health and safety that TERF champions, rather than being forced to prioritize outside employment to pay for their credits.

Furthermore, covering the liability insurance and mandatory security fees—costs that are often ineligible for standard federal grants—ensures that no student is barred from a premier clinical placement due to a lack of discretionary funds. This approach directly increases student retention by providing a clear, debt-free pathway to a professional credential. Ultimately, by securing this 100% funding model, BCTC Equine guarantees that its most dedicated students can transition seamlessly into the industry as highly skilled veterinary assistants, immediately contributing to the welfare and safety of the Thoroughbred.

--- 6. Provide a list of all other sources of funding and the amount(s) received. ---

While BCTC Equine has received support from Godolphin, the U.S. Department of Education, Thoroughbred Charities of America, and others-- none are providing assistance to Veterinary Assistant students.

--- 7. Briefly summarize your charity's past public education and research efforts. ---

In the fall of 2006, BCTC Equine - then known as the North American Racing Academy (NARA) - was officially launched by Kentucky Community and Technical College System. Designed as a jockey school and modelled after existing jockey schools overseas, NARA was uniquely focused on the training and preparation of professional jockeys. Launched as the North American Racing Academy by Hall of Fame jockey Chris McCarron, the program was originally the first and only accredited "jockey school" in the United States. It was modeled after international racing academies to provide standardized professional training for racehorse riders.

Today, BCTC Equine remains as the first and only accredited community college-based equine program of its type in the U.S. BCTC Equine is focused on working with equine industry employers on addressing their workforce needs by preparing students for the widest variety of career pathways across all equine industry breeds and disciplines. Under the leadership of BCTC, the program transitioned into BCTC Equine to address broader industry needs. It expanded beyond rider training to offer an Associate in Applied Science in Equine Studies and specialized certificates for equine veterinary assistants and horsemen. BCTC Equine has built a legacy of collaboration with elite industry partners—including New Vocations, the Secretariat Center, and the International Federation of Horse Racing Academies—to secure global internship and employment opportunities for its graduates. Recent efforts have focused on expanding access to the equine industry through dual-credit programs for high schoolers and targeted recruitment within the refugee, LatinX, and military veteran communities.

--- 8. If you received funding from TERF previously, describe how these funds were used and outcomes achieved. Include any relevant publicity your charity received relating to the funding. (i.e.: media coverage, such as news articles, scientific publications, provide links to copies, as appropriate). ---

BCTC Equine has never received funding from TERF.

--- 9. List other organizations or major contributors that have provided funding to your organization in the last calendar/fiscal year. For research grant applications, provide a list of all current funding relating to your current proposal. ---

While BCTC Equine receives support from many sources, none are providing assistance to Veterinary Assistant students.

Major contributors and funding partners include:

Thoroughbred Charities of America (TCA): A long-standing primary supporter providing grant funding to support the education and welfare of the program's off-track Thoroughbreds.

Keeneland Association: Provides significant industry support and endorsements to facilitate workforce development and internship placements within the Kentucky racing circuit.

Secretariat Center: Partners with BCTC to fund and host specialized foundational courses for transitioning military veterans and their spouses.

New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program: Collaborates on instructional facilities and provides retired racehorses for student labs, reducing operational costs for the college.

Prominent Racing Stables: Top-tier trainers and stables—including Todd Pletcher Racing, Mike Maker Racing, and Ken McPeck Racing—invest in the program through paid internship placements and workforce integration.

--- 10. Name a responsible person with whom TERF may communicate regarding specific questions and who will be responsible for follow-up information regarding the project. ---

Dixie Kendall

--- 11. Provide appropriate references to support the proposed research. ---

The efficacy of the proposed scholarship project is rooted in established educational research demonstrating that hands-on, experiential learning is the gold standard for developing technical competency and ensuring animal safety. In veterinary and equine sciences, the "clinical capstone" or internship model allows for the transition from theoretical knowledge to "day-one readiness." Research indicates that students who engage in supervised, real-world practice show significantly higher levels of clinical

reasoning, diagnostic accuracy, and professional confidence compared to those limited to classroom instruction. By providing scholarships for these specific credit hours, BCTC Equine ensures that students can commit to the intensive time requirements of a clinical rotation without the distraction of outside employment, which has been shown to directly correlate with higher graduation rates and more successful long-term career placement.

The impact on the health and welfare of the horse is equally supported by industry data. In high-stakes environments like Thoroughbred racing and veterinary medicine, the "human factor" is the most significant variable in preventing injury. Studies in animal welfare science confirm that standardized, formal training for support staff leads to a measurable decrease in medical errors and an increase in the early detection of distress signals, such as colic or lameness. Furthermore, handlers trained in evidence-based behavioral techniques can perform medical procedures with lower stress to the horse, reducing the physiological indicators of fear and the risk of acute injury to both the animal and the practitioner.

Ultimately, scholarships that facilitate deep immersion in the professional equine environment bridge the gap between academic intent and high-standard care. This model is supported by findings from organizations like the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP), which emphasize that mentored, hands-on experience is the single most effective way to produce a workforce capable of upholding modern welfare standards. By funding these six-credit-hour internships, the project creates a direct pipeline of skilled assistants who possess the reflexive safety habits and technical proficiency required to make the Thoroughbred industry safer and more sustainable.

--- 12. How many Executive Staff and Board of Directors does your organization have? ---

12

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--- 1. Name - Job Title ---

Erin Tipton, Executive Director of BCTC Foundation and BCTC Vice President of Advancement and Workforce Development

--- 1. Duties ---

The Bluegrass Community and Technical College Foundation pays no employees. Bluegrass Community and Technical College pays Erin Tipton \$135,954.25 annually to function in the role of BCTC Vice President of Advancement and Workforce

Development with responsibilities for managing all government relations of Bluegrass Community and Technical College, managing four BCTC regional campuses, overseeing the entire BCTC Workforce department, and serving as the Executive Director of BCTC Foundation.

--- 2. Name - Job Title ---

Gavin Colton, BCTC Associate Vice President of Advancement

--- 2. Duties ---

The Bluegrass Community and Technical College Foundation pays no employees. Bluegrass Community and Technical College pays Gavin Colton \$75,837.00 to serve as the BCTC Associate Vice President of Advancement.

--- 3. Name - Job Title ---

Amanda Verhoeven, BCTC Foundation Accountant, and BCTC Advancement Department Accountant

--- 3. Duties ---

The Bluegrass Community and Technical College Foundation pays no employees. Bluegrass Community and Technical College pays Amanda Verhoeven \$49,854.00 to serve as the BCTC Advancement Department Accountant for Gift Tracking and the BCTC Foundation Accountant.

--- 4. Name - Job Title ---

Denise Rodriguez, BCTC Foundation Administrative Assistant, and BCTC Advancement Department Administrative Assistant

--- 4. Duties ---

The Bluegrass Community and Technical College Foundation pays no employees. Bluegrass Community and Technical College pays Denise Rodriguez \$45,994.43 to work as the BCTC Advancement Department Administrative Assistant and the BCTC Foundation Administrative Assistant

--- 14. Add additional Information and Notes: ---

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal! If any of you are ever in Kentucky, we would love to give you a tour of our facilities.