Career Awards In Honor Of...

On occasion our Board of Directors have established special awards to honor the individuals whose vision, leadership, and dedication have helped shape the future of equine health.

In 2024, the Foundation proudly introduced **The Nancy C. Kelly Honorary Career Development Award**, celebrating a remarkable legacy of passion and purpose. As Vice President of Development for Grayson, Kelly was instrumental in raising millions of dollars to advance critical research. Through her leadership with The Jockey Club Safety Net Foundation, she brought the community together—creating meaningful, memorable events that inspired generosity and strengthened the industry's commitment to care for its own.

This one time grant was presented to:

Lauren Hughes
University of Minnesota
Her project is "Genetics of Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction Risk"
Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Molly McCue

Building on this tradition, In 2026 **The Edward Bowen Career Development Award** honors the late Edward L. Bowen, who was named president of the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation in 1994. During his 24 years at Grayson, Bowen helped propel the organization to remarkable success. Bowen guided the Foundation through a transformative era, helping raise more than $22 million in support of groundbreaking equine research. His leadership not only expanded the scope of scientific discovery, but also strengthened the Foundation's role as a steward of equine health for generations to come.

This one-time award was given to:

Megan Palmisano
North Carolina State University
Her project is"In Vitro Neutrophil Response in Equine Sepsis"
Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Rosemary Bayless

Through these awards, Grayson not only honors extraordinary service—but also invests in the next generation of researchers, ensuring that the legacy of leadership, innovation, and compassion continues to advance the health and well-being of horses everywhere.