FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILLINGS – The Rocky Mountain College Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) Equestrian Team will be hosting three western shows and the regional western show this weekend, Feb. 19-20, 2011, at the Intermountain Equestrian Center, Billings.

Teams from the College of Southern Idaho, Utah State University, Carroll College, University of Montana, University of Montana Western and Montana State University will be competing.

“This is a huge event for our equestrian team,” said Christi Brown, RMC equestrian studies professor and IHSA coach. “The first three shows are three more opportunities for team members to place and qualify for the regional show. Plus, we’re riding our own horses, so there is a slight home field advantage.”

To date three riders from the RMC Team have already qualified for the regional show: Taylor Day and Kristin Dillehay in Class 12B, the Intermediate II Horsemanship; and Rhiannon Laird has qualified in Class 13, Novice Horsemanship.

Other strong contenders to compete include Bethany Bappe who qualified for the regional show as well as advancing to the Semi-National competition held in Cazenovia New York. Meredith Burton only needs eight points to advance to the Open Horsemanship class as well as qualify for regionals. Team members Kayla Walter, Jessica Steinke, Shauna Ketcham, Becca Wolf and Rachel Phillips all have the opportunity to qualify for the regional show as well.

“We’re all looking forward to compete and hopefully qualify for the regional show. If we place first or second in the regional show, then we advance onto the Semi-National show held at the University of Findlay in Ohio,” said Meredith Burton, RMC IHSA Team Captain.

A total of twenty riders from RMC will be competing this weekend. They include Tasha and Ashley Roseboom, San Clemente, Calif.; Rachel Phillips, Billings, Mont.; Erin Burns, Castle Rock, Colo.; Jill Schellenberg, Jenison, Mont.; Lydia Harvey, Poulsbo, Wash.; Alyssa Little, Bismarck, N.Dak.; Becca Severson, Plymouth, Minn.; Becca Wolf, Boise, Idaho; Brooke Ruffier, Butte, Mont.; Lindsy Martens, Colstrip, Mont.; Liz Marklin, Calgary, Alberta, Canada; Bethany Bappe, Riverton, Wyo.; Jessica Steinke, Camas, Wash.; Kayla Walter, Windermere, B.C. Canada; Kristin Dillehay, Rosewood, Ohio; Shauna Ketcham, Livermore, Cali.; Taylor Day, Las Vegas, Nev.; Meredith Burton, Camillus, N.Y.; and Rhiannon Laird, Granger, Ind.

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