



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES

Race Track Industry Program

845 N. Park Avenue, Suite 370
Tucson, Arizona 85721
(520) 621-5660, fax (520) 621-8239

For Immediate Release

February 1, 2018

Tom Sage Tackles All Things Regulatory During RTIP Visit



Tucson, AZ — Tom Sage, Executive Director of the Nebraska Racing Commission spoke to the RTIP students in two classes on Wednesday, January 31.

In the Joe Hirsch Speaker Series, he discussed his participation with the AQHA racing integrity team, a group of regulatory professionals who are present at many of Quarter Horse racing's biggest events. Tom shared where and how the team operates, how they are funded as well as some of the contraband they've found during vehicle searches on the backstretch. He encouraged the students to ask questions and share their perspectives on this type of enhanced security for racing's big events.

In the Advanced Racing Laws and Enforcement course, Tom put on his Executive Director's hat, discussing how a commission functions and the realities of operating under a state's administrative procedures act. As an example, he discussed the process that commissions must go through if they want to adopt the National Uniform Medication Program and the inherent difficulties due to many state's long rule making process.

He also discussed how the regulatory process plays out in medication cases. He illustrated one case in which mitigating circumstances came into play and he stressed the importance of investigators finding the truth and not assuming all licensees are at fault or intended to cheat. When asked his opinion on the biggest threats to racing, number one was designer drugs and the need for more "boots on the ground" to identify substances for which racing doesn't currently have a test.

Tom and the students finished the class by looking toward the future and discussing a number of situations such as the development of a national regulatory body for racing as well as having a national spokesperson to help frame a more positive message for racing.

Contact: Race Track Industry Program, bprewitt@ag.arizona.edu

Race Track Industry Program — The University of Arizona Race Track Industry Program offers a Bachelor's degree with an emphasis on the pari-mutuel racing industry and hosts the annual Global Symposium on Racing held every December in Tucson, Arizona.

University of Arizona — Established in 1885, the University of Arizona, the state's super land-grant university with two medical schools, produces graduates who are real-world ready through its 100% Engagement initiative. Recognized as a global leader, the UA is also a leader in research, bringing more than \$606 million in research investment each year, and ranking 21st among all public universities. The UA is advancing the frontiers of interdisciplinary scholarship and entrepreneurial partnerships and is a member of the Association of American Universities, the 62 leading public and private research universities. It benefits the state with an estimated economic impact of \$8.3 billion annually.