WEB 2890 Project 2 – Final Report

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# Project Highlights

I'm really pleased with how the Sunset Equestrian Center project turned out, especially the hero carousel slider, which I think does a good job of grabbing attention. The photo gallery and lightbox also came out nicely, giving the site a more modern and professional look. Overall, I feel it meets my goal of refreshing their existing website. With a bit more time, I would have liked to fine-tune the design for even better responsiveness of the hero carousel across all screen sizes and improve the text content on the lessons and facilities pages.

# Changes due to feedback

I received some good feedback from my instructor, a professional reviewer, and friends and family, which helped me refine the site. Based on their suggestions, I reworked the lessons and facilities pages by removing the partially overlaid text blocks in favor of a cleaner design that better matches the rest of the site. I also tweaked the background colors to enhance text readability. Another suggestion I implemented was making the homepage card images clickable, but I chose to disable this feature on smaller screens to prevent accidental taps while scrolling.

# Resources

I used Bootstrap throughout this project, which allowed me to take advantage of its built-in formatting and responsive features, which made development easier.

# Design Decisions

My goal was to maintain the overall tone of the original website while updating the design to feel more elegant and professional. I tried to focus on a clean, modern layout and to incorporate existing images from their current page as well as some high-quality stock photos to improve the site's look.

# Customizations Made

Although I used Bootstrap, I made several customizations to make sure the site had a unique feel. I adjusted the appearance and behavior of components like the carousel, cards, and lightbox, and made various styling tweaks to colors and fonts to get the look I wanted for the site.

# Advanced Features

I wanted to avoid code reuse, so I separated the navigation menu, hero section, and footer into individual files and used JavaScript to dynamically inject them into the main pages. I also used JavaScript-based image preloading to boost page load speed and improve user experience.

# Lessons Learned

Doing the JavaScript for code injection was a learning experience, especially when it came to optimizing performance. I also had to adjust how I preloaded fonts to avoid issues like screen flicker and font shifts during page load. I also learned a lot about Bootstrap’s breakpoints and how the various sizes affected the look and feel of the site. It took some experimenting, but I was able to get a fairly smooth and responsive result in the end.