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**NEWS RELEASE  
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**WRCA Foundation board members approve new scholarship budget**

**AMARILLO, TEXAS** – The Working Ranch Cowboys Association Foundation Board met recently to discuss scholarship applications and budgets. The board approved 76 scholarship recipients, including new and returning applicants, and increased the budget, raising each scholarship by \$500.

WRCA Foundation Manager Kaycee Hooper said she has been reviewing scholarship applications since they were due on March 2. After rejecting 16, she presented 32 applications to the board at the meeting on April 14, all of which were approved. The other 44 recipients are renewed scholarships for previous applicants who are still attending school and maintaining a GPA above a 3.0.

During the meeting, the board voted to increase the budget per Hooper's recommendation based on the past fiscal year. Fundraising efforts during the year included donations, a Calcutta auction, two raffles, a silent auction, and a live auction during the 2025 World Championship Ranch Rodeo.

Scholarship applicants must prove they or their family makes their income through working cattle. However, Hooper emphasized that they do not need to pursue a degree in agriculture.

“I look at GPAs and I look at how good the kid’s doing. What does it matter what they’re going into? It’s just the determination to see how far they’re going to get,” Hooper said.

She said the foundation believes it is important that consumers are educated about the ranching industry and is confident that students can do so through a variety of careers. She said it is her job to make sure the recipients know they are “stewards of the donor’s money” and are doing so for the “longevity of how they were raised.”

Hooper said the foundation appreciates the unique opportunity to get to know their scholarship recipients and become a part of their life.

“We’re really proud of the kids,” Hooper said. “You start really caring for that person and you wish them the best.”

The Working Ranch Cowboys Association and its Foundation exist to promote ranching at a national level through competition and financial assistance. Both their goals are to preserve the ranching heritage, advocate for the working ranch cowboy, financially support their families, and be a voice for the community. For more information, please visit [wrca.org](http://wrca.org).