



2021 Scholarships by the Numbers



More than \$757,000 made available to NHSRA members this year

By Stephanie Rodrigue, National High School Rodeo Foundation Secretary

With more than \$350,000 awarded for achievements in the arena at the National High School and Jr. High Finals Rodeos, \$105,275 awarded for academic excellence, leadership, and school and community involvement in Jr. High and High School Foundation Scholarships, \$3,750 to High 50/50 Sellers in the Queen Contest, and \$298,000 in NHSRA Merit Scholarships, the grand total of scholarships awarded at the NJHFR, the NHSRA, and State and Provincial Finals in 2021 totaled more than \$757,025.

That well “over three-quarters of a million dollars” grand total was made possible through the generosity of NHSRA national sponsors, funds raised by the NHSRA in numerous endeavors, the National High School Rodeo Foundation’s Live and Silent Auctions and 50/50 Sales, Gist Scholarship Incentive Program, State and Provincial Matching Funds and Scholarship Donors.

Many of the scholarships memorialize those who paved the way for the NHSRA, the NHSR Foundation and the sport of rodeo. Those include Claude Mullins, John Hatley, Gene Litton, “Gabby” Hayes, Roger Hart, Billy Duhon, Earl Northrup and Ken Norris. Still with us today, but fittingly in that category, is

Pat Litton who, together with her late husband Gene, took over the reins of the Foundation in the “second generation” of its existence. Same with Ray and Cindy Spence, who were the “third generation” to handle the donations and pay out the scholarships.

Other named scholarships memorialize those cowboys and cowgirls from the NHSRA ranks who left this world far too early, including Lane Frost, Rick Spence, Corbin Carpenter, Meagan McCain and J.D. Hebert.

Special scholarships are sponsored by NHSRA national sponsors. Those include, at jr. high and high school levels, the Cinch Academic Cowboy and Cowgirl and the Professional’s Choice Student and Equine Athletes of the Year and, at the high school level, the Keith Maddox Memorial Scholarships (sponsored by his family that constitutes the American Hat legacy), the Western and English Sales Association Scholarships, Western Specialty Insurers Awards, National Rodeo Historical Society Scholarships, ProRodeo Hall of Fame Western Heritage Award, Teskey’s Top Hand, Dr. Kate Scott Animal Welfare Scholarship, the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association Tip of the Hat, and Dutton Bits Student Officer Scholarships,

Gist Silversmiths annually donates funds back to state and provincial associations that award Gist buckles. These funds combine with Foundation Matching Funds to assure that every senior NHSFR qualifier who completes an application and goes through the interview process will be awarded a minimum \$500 scholarship. The “big check” of \$11,249 was presented to the Foundation by Jennifer Folsom, Vice President of Marketing and Development for Gist Silversmiths, at the Foundation Scholarship Presentation on July 23.

The success of these fundraising endeavors would not be possible without the generosity of sponsors and donors, including those who donate and purchase auction items, those who sell and purchase 50/50 tickets and those who sponsor scholarships, whether to memorialize or honor a significant individual or to simply invest in the future by helping to educate generations of young people for years to come. For more information on creating a scholarship, email stephanied.rodrigue@gmail.com. What better use of discretionary funds today than to invest in our leaders of tomorrow and grow the current figure of \$757,025 awarded in scholarships to NHSRA cowboys and cowgirls!



Sponsorships, fundraisers and memorial donations make scholarships possible for both the Junior High and High School Divisions.