

AHA Spotlights HYFA Scholarships

The fall is an especially exciting time for the Hereford Youth Foundation of America (HYFA) and its board members, as it is when we have the pleasure of receiving and evaluating scholarship applications from an outstanding group of Hereford juniors. Then, the awardees are announced at the American Hereford Association (AHA) Annual Membership Meeting and Conference in Kansas City, Mo. This year, when seemingly nothing is normal, most of this process proceeded as usual. The only exception was the award ceremony, which was conducted virtually. Although disappointing to the recipients and to the HYFA board members, who always look forward to talking directly with these accomplished young people, the virtual approach turned out to have an upside. It generated two videos, now posted on the AHA's website, [Hereford.org/events/](https://www.hereford.org/events/)

annual-meeting/, where everyone in the Hereford community can meet this year's truly impressive set of awardees. Take a look. I think you'll be proud.

Investing in the youth

We received about 60 applications for the 24 scholarships we awarded. The application asks the students to present their academic record, but more importantly, to tell us about their agricultural and community activities and to write three short essays on various topics. Finally, the applicants must provide two letters of reference from individuals who know them well. In this way, we are given a window into the applicants' stories. What are their interests? What excites them? What are their goals and ambitions? What individuals and activities have been formative in their lives?

The 24 awardees represent the spectrum of the Hereford industry.

Geographically, they hail from 16 different states, from California to North Carolina and from Minnesota to Texas. Some are active on the national stage; others are mainly engaged at the state and local level. Some are especially enthusiastic about the showing; others are more interested in the production side of the industry. Their career interests are incredibly diverse, also. Some are aiming for law school or veterinary school. Some want to contribute to the Hereford and cattle industry by specializing in animal science and nutrition. Some want to focus on agricultural communication and hope thereby to influence the public's perception of agriculture. In the sidebar on this page, two of this year's awardees tell us about their goals and what the scholarship means to them.

This fall's scholarship support totaled \$150,000, and over the years, more than \$1.5 million in aggregate has been awarded to juniors. The money for these scholarships comes from donations made by Hereford breeders. For example, the Vanier family from Kansas has donated 10 \$10,000 scholarships in each of the last five years. We are extremely grateful for their generosity. The remaining 14 scholarships are made possible by endowments set up by individual ranches such as Ball/Cottonwood Springs, EE Ranches and CBY Polled Herefords. Together, these scholarships provide a remarkable investment in the education of Hereford youth and help ensure a bright future for our industry. Please join me in thanking the donors for the opportunities they provide. **HW**

George Sprague is the vice president of HYFA. He can be reached at gks@bar1ranch.com.

Scholarship recipient testimonials



Tyler Allan

I am currently enrolled at Texas Tech University, majoring in animal science with a focus in business. After I graduate, I plan on receiving a master of business administration degree, eyeing a future in pharmaceutical or nutritional sales. I also plan to stay involved with the Hereford breed. I cannot put into words what this scholarship means

to my family and me. The Vanier Family Scholarship does not just help cover the cost of college. It also recognizes those who aim to better themselves, not only through education, but also through working with the Hereford breed during their career.



Peyton Schmitt

I am currently a senior at Iowa State University, studying agricultural communications with a minor in animal science. I plan to seek a career in communications with a role allowing me to serve our industry and the hardworking people within it. My lifelong involvement with the Hereford breed has instilled within me a deep-rooted passion for agriculture and

the livestock industry. The support I have received from the Hereford Youth Foundation of America throughout my education has been instrumental in allowing me to pursue my degree. **HW**