

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## Texas Aggie Rodeo Team Launches Capital Campaign

**COLLEGE STATION, 2/1/22** - The Texas A&M Rodeo Team launched its \$1 million capital campaign this week, which will set up the “Dr. Al Wagner ’69 Rodeo Coach Endowment Fund.” Contributions to the fund will allow the team to hire its first full-time rodeo coach, who will reside within the Department of Animal Science. The fund is named after the team’s current volunteer advisor, Dr. Al Wagner ’69, who will be retiring soon. Wagner has worked tirelessly with the Texas Aggie Rodeo Alumni Board and Texas A&M to create a joint-vision for the future that includes not only a full-time rodeo coach, but also additional funds to support a full-time home for team members to practice and stall their horses.

This announcement follows the recent development that the Texas A&M Rodeo Team is now designated a competitive team within the Department of Animal Science.

“This important distinction gives the rodeo team a path forward to assist our student athletes like never before. It allows donors to give directly to the team through the Texas A&M Foundation, which will establish resources that will benefit the Texas Aggie Rodeo Team for the next 100 years,” said Bret Richards ’01, president of the Texas Aggie Rodeo Alumni Association.

Founded in 1949, the rodeo team is part of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association, stacking up national and regional titles over the years. Despite being one of the leading teams in the nation, team members do not have a central practice and boarding facility. Members board their horses at their own expense wherever they can find space. Additionally, they practice individually instead of in a team atmosphere without professional instruction like most colleges and universities provide. Balancing school with their extensive competition and practice schedules, members desperately need the benefits that the capital campaign and future fundraising plans will provide.

Knowing the need first-hand, rodeo alumni have already responded, with \$150,000 in pledges to date. The board hopes to be fully funded by the end of 2022.

Rodeo alumni and friends are encouraged to give in the following ways:

1. Participate in the 5 for 25 pledge (\$5,000 a year for 5 years) or give a greater amount by contacting Scott Jarvis ’00, director of development for the Texas A&M Foundation, or Bret Richards, president of the Texas Aggie Rodeo Alumni Association.
2. To donate immediately, give to the Dr. Al Wagner '69 Texas A&M Rodeo Coach Endowment online at <http://give.am/DrWagnerRodeoCoachEndowment>.

To learn more about the capital campaign watch the [launch video](#) or visit [AggieRodeo.com](http://AggieRodeo.com) .

*The Texas A&M Foundation builds a brighter future for Texas A&M University, one relationship at a time. As a nonprofit and the primary academic fundraising institution for Texas A&M, we aspire to be among the most trusted philanthropies in higher education. Our team works with former students, corporations and other Texas A&M supporters to match their charitable interests with the university's priorities. Gifts create scholarships, advance faculty endeavors, enhance student programs and fund campus construction, greatly enhancing Texas A&M's mission to provide the highest quality undergraduate and graduate programs and develop new understandings through research and creativity. For more information, visit [txamfoundation.com](http://txamfoundation.com)*

**For more information on giving opportunities:**

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**For more information on Texas Aggie Rodeo:**

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