

**For immediate release**

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Pioneers Heading to the National Finals College Rodeo

Altus, OK. – At the conclusion of the 2020-2021 regular season, Western Oklahoma State College qualified six men for the College National Finals Rodeo, June 13-19 to be held in Casper, Wyoming. These young men will not only be competing as individuals in Casper, but holistically as a Western team.

The Pioneers qualified for the CNFR following their performances at Colby Community College, the regular season finale for the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association's (NIRA) Central Plains Region. Out of 14 Central Plains schools, the men's team finished the season in fourth place with 2,960 points. "I'm proud of my team for the hard work they put in and I'm thankful for a college that supports us so well in our journey," stated Coach Jess Tierney, WOSC rodeo coach.

Garret "Hot Shot" Elmore finished 2nd in the All Around standings, with 890 points. He will move on to compete in both Calf Roping and Team Roping. Western's very own, Jessen James, will be Elmore's partner in the team roping competition.

JC Yeahquo finished in 1<sup>st</sup> place with 655 points in the header standings in the region, alongside his brother, LJ Yeahquo, also finishing in 1<sup>st</sup> place with 655 points in the heeler standings. They will be competing together in the finals. Stran Morris finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place with 415 points in the header standings and will be competing with is partner, Kolton White of SEOSU.

Three out the top four athletes in the heeler standings, were Pioneers. LJ Yeahquo at 1<sup>st</sup> with 655 points, Blayne Horne finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> with 451 points, and Jessen James finishing 4<sup>th</sup> with 415

points. Horne will be competing with his partner Ethan Griffan of OSU and James will be competing with his partner, Western's very own Garrett Elmore.

"These young men have battled through a global pandemic, a shortened 2020 season and a compressed 2021 season. Through the adversity, they have become stronger competitors and we are excited to cheer them on in Casper at the pinnacle of college rodeo," stated Dr. Chad Wiginton, Western president.

Western Oklahoma State College is the oldest original municipal two-year college still in existence in the state of Oklahoma. Its mission is to provide high quality education, support student success, and empower individuals to become productive members of local, regional and global communities. Western offers high-quality associate degrees and certificates to its five-county service area and beyond. For more information, visit [wosc.edu](http://wosc.edu).



Left to right: Mitch Davis, assistant coach, Blayne Horne, JC Yeahquo, Garret Elmore, Stran Morris, Jessen James, and LJ Yeahquo