**Academic Excellence in Coaching Award**

**Date: April 25th, 2023**

**Name of Coach: CJ Aragon**

**Title: Head Rodeo Coach**

**Justification:**

1. Coach CJ has inspired a generation of young cowboys and cowgirls to go further in their academic career. He shows his support in and out of the arena by staying on top of his athletes’ grades and punctuality.
2. He has helped individuals find a purpose and a reason on why to stay here at Sul Ross and in school. Students from all different walk of life participate on his team which allows them to find purpose here at Sul ross and feel like they belong Coach Aragon has created a family with his team.
3. Coach Aragon has brought individuals from all over the world to experience Sul Ross curriculum. He has done the hard work to bring people to experience the Lobo culture.
4. He has had more Academic all Americans than any other sport combined at Sul Ross. This is a reflection on how he ensures students are focused first on their studied and then rodeo.
5. Coach Aragon’s Graduation rate for his student athletes is 80%. This is direct refection of his program and how his athletes stay to finish all four years at Sul ross, compared to other sports where athletes are more than likely to transfer out within their first and second year.

Overall, we believe that Coach CJ Aragon has embodied what it means to be a leader of an athletic program, not only does Sul ross perform high in collegiate rodeos we have also been recognized at high professional levels because of his athletes and all the raining that they put in and out of the arena. We believe that he deserves to be rewarded for all his hard work he puts in year-round.