

# FOUNDATION IN FOCUS

by Thomas Marten  
Angus Foundation executive director



## Bridge builders

*Have you ever taken a particularly long bridge?*

I remember driving across the Mackinac Bridge about six years ago between the upper peninsula and mitten of Michigan. It is a stunning feat of engineering, and not an endeavor for those with geophyrophobia. An aspect of bridges is that they feature spans and piers. Some have long spans, but even these spans require support. Bridges offer a wealth of analogies.

In the context of your Angus Foundation, piers are akin to the donors, like you, who hold up the programming, or spans, that make the mission of the Angus Foundation.

During the Cattlemen's Congress and National Western Stock Show, a flurry of generous donors gave in-kind gifts, which other generous donors in turn purchased. The incredible showing of support for the Angus Foundation makes our mission possible.

Through the sale of the heifer package, pregnancies and items during the Oklahoma Stars event, the piers were laid out to fund worthy programs this year such as Angus Women Connected, Raising the Bar, commercial cattlemen scholarships and general scholarships as well as many other worthy programs.

Without the piers, that is you, there is nothing to hold up the mission. Even with piers and spans in place, a bridge is just a structure until

it's used, then it becomes a link.

As we come into the spring, one of the original purposes of the Angus Foundation comes to life as young men and women fill out scholarship applications, vying to earn financial support for their education and future careers.


If you have a son or daughter who is a graduating high school senior, continuing college student, or pursuing a graduate degree, remind them to apply by May 1. The applications will become available in March and will involve online submission this year to prevent delays in the postal service.

In addition to our scholarship programs for involved junior Angus members, we're proud to offer our commercial cattlemen scholarship program. This program is available for youth from commercial herds who have purchased registered Angus sires or dams and transferred to them in the past three years. Be sure to encourage your customers with children to apply.

One misnomer about our scholarship program is that it only applies towards the cost of a four-year institution. In fact, we're proud to award many scholarships for students enrolled in community colleges and technical schools. As with any programs funded by the Angus Foundation, these

scholarships are made possible through the generosity of endowment fund donors and Angus Fund donors.

If you know a young person, encourage them to apply. Also, be on the lookout for "office hours" we will be hosting to assist them in polishing up their applications by making suggestions and helping them avoid common mistakes we see. These sessions will be a valuable resource, and we hope to work with many young professionals during these one-on-one sessions.

Whether it is pursuing a degree, sharpening leadership skills, or making new friends, your gifts to the Angus Foundation are a vital link for youth to find encouragement to cultivate a career in our breed and industry. Thank you for building bridges! 

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*Editor's note: For more information regarding the Angus Foundation, contact Thomas Marten at (816) 383-5100 or [tmarten@angus.org](mailto:tmarten@angus.org).*