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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photo Credit: West Coast Active Riders logo, courtesy of WCAR.

**West Coast Active Riders Announce 2005 Meritorious Riders Scholarship Winners  
Wellington, FL- February 5**

The West Coast Active Riders (WCAR) organization is pleased to announce the winners of their 2005 Meritorious Riders Scholarship (MRS). The winners were judged on academic and athletic merit, and they were given a scholarship by generous California horse shows to help pay for showing and stabling fees. The scholarship will enable the two deserving riders to compete at "A" level horse shows while still furthering their education.

Crystal Hickey sent in an impressive list of academic accomplishments on her application. She had to make the hard decision to sell her horses to pay for college, but still wishes to compete in the top level of the sport. Trainer Karen Healey Bauer recommended Hickey, and stated that Hickey is always willing to work hard.

WCAR president and MRS committee member Will Simpson stated, "We know that this is a time in the sport for many young riders when the financial pressure is particularly overwhelming, and we hope that this scholarship can help bridge that gap for Crystal to get her started as a professional in our great sport!"

Samantha Harris is an up and coming star who is known for her extreme dedication to her sport and horsemanship. Harris was also chosen for her commitment to humanitarian and volunteer work. Simpson commented, "We love that she does all her own barn and grooming work, and we think that her outstanding humanitarian work and serious attitude toward the sport will take her far!"

Thanks to the generous efforts of Dale Harvey and West Palm Communications, Robert Ridland and RJ Brandes at Oaks Blenheim, and Larry and Marnye Langer of Equestrian Sports, Inc., the WCAR was able to award their scholarship for the third year. New sponsors this year include Tom Struzzi and Horse-Shows-In-the-Sun (HITS), Dr. Rebecca Lewis, and rider Helen McNaught. The two winners will receive \$4000 to use towards paying for their entry fees at horse shows this year.

In other WCAR news, everyone is welcome to attend a celebration of the life of Larry Mayfield, a dedicated member of the California horse community who passed away on January 14. The

service will be held directly following the conclusion of the Grand Prix ring schedule on the berm by the Grand Prix ring at the horse show grounds in Indio, CA. Please join in remembering a great California horseman.

Congratulations are extended to Kyle King and Kingsland Farms' Riptide, who won the \$30,000 Ariat Grand Prix on January 28 in Indio, CA, and Jill Henselwood and Special Ed, who galloped off with first place in the \$50,000 EMO Grand Prix at the HITS Indio Desert Circuit.

WCAR would also like to thank Tom Struzzieri and the entire HITS staff for improvements made at the Indio, CA, show grounds. Safety has been an issue, and now there is a new horse walkway and better footing in the grand prix ring. Participants and spectators are also grateful for the new shaded tent, a much-improved bathroom situation, and beautiful new jumps in the Sunday Grand Prix. WCAR executive director, Gabriella Salick, emphasized, "We know it's a big job, but we notice, appreciate, and are extremely grateful for your continued facility improvements."

For more information on West Coast Active Riders, please visit their website at: [www.westcoastactiveriders.com](http://www.westcoastactiveriders.com).

For information on tours, clinics, fundraisers, and/or sponsorship opportunities, contact: West Coast Active Riders, 3830 Valley Center Drive, #705 PMB 805, San Diego, CA 92130. Fax: (805) 373-1092. E-mail: [info@westcoastactiveriders.com](mailto:info@westcoastactiveriders.com).