



## Season 4 | Episode Six | The Clinical Year

(Phone ringing)

Hello?

Hello... Hey!

Hi, how are you? Where are you?

I'm in the car...

I just got home from a long day...

I'm about 30 minutes from my house.

How was your day?

It was good...

Taylor Peters, Host: OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS, DOZENS OF TEXAS TECH STUDENTS HAVE BEEN SPREAD OUT ACROSS THE STATE AND REGION. IT'S A BIG YEAR FOR THE TEXAS TECH SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE.

[Scrubbing]

Dr. Barnie: Anesthesia, are you good if I cut?

Peters: IN MAY OF 2024, FOURTH YEAR STUDENTS STARTED A CLINICAL YEAR THAT WILL COME TO AN END JUST BEFORE THEIR GRADUATION THIS SPRING, IN 2025. THE FIRST EVER GRADUATING CLASS TO DO SO.

Lora Armendariz: And speak to those, those aspects of his personality that maybe other universities wouldn't think are that exceptional, like his ability to just put in the hard work...

Britt Conklin: For us, it gives us the opportunity to highly define who we are and what our mission is.

Gala Beals: Most unique to us is our rural and regional mission statement

Naila Telles: And so ultimately what drove me more to go to Texas Tech at the time was because they want to serve these rural communities...

Peters: THIS EPISODE FEATURES MANY VOICES IN MANY DIFFERENT PLACES. BECAUSE THESE STUDENTS ARE SPREAD OUT AND WE'RE COVERING THEIR LIFE OVER A PERIOD OF TIME, YOU'LL HEAR THAT THESE RECORDINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS PERFECT. SOMETIMES THEY'RE IN PERSON, SOMETIMES THEY'RE RECORDED IN VOICE MEMOS, SOMETIMES THEY'RE OVER THE PHONE. SO STAY WITH US AS WE INTRODUCE YOU TO AN IMPRESSIVE COLLECTION OF STUDENTS AT THE TEXAS TECH VET SCHOOL. WITH A UNIQUE MISSION. WE'LL TELL YOU ABOUT IT ON THIS EPISODE OF FEARLESS- THE CLINICAL YEAR.

(Music)

Brooke Foster: Hi, I'm Brooke Foster. I'm in the inaugural class of 2025 at the Texas Tech University School of Veterinary Medicine.

Peters: WAITING TO GET YOUR CLINICAL ROTATION ASSIGNMENTS IS STRESSFUL. IT COMES LATE SPRING JUST A FEW WEEKS BEFORE THE END OF THE SEMESTER.

Foster: I am currently sitting here in my living room with my husband Ryan, and my two dogs, Charlie and Goose. I just got home from my lab about an hour ago and I have been anxiously pacing for the past hour, waiting for our clinical year schedules to be released on Evalue.

This is the most anxious I've felt since I was waiting on my call to hear that I was accepted into vet school. I feel like this is truly the next step in our careers as doctors...

(Music)

Peters: BROOKE FOSTER HAS BEEN WAITING FOR THIS DAY FOR A LONG TIME. SINCE SHE WAS A KID ACTUALLY... SO IT'S NO WONDER SHE'S ANXIOUS FOR THE CLINICAL SCHEDULE. SHE'S FROM THE COLLEGE STATION AREA. SHE GREW UP AROUND TEXAS A&M BUT FOUND HER WAY TO WEST TEXAS TO GET HER FORMAL VETERINARY TRAINING WITH TEXAS TECH.

Foster: My next block, I will get to go back to Amarillo, back to Texas Tech and do some diagnostic medicine at the vet school, and then I will get to go to Brazos Valley Equine Hospital for Block five in September.

That is actually my hometown equine vet. I've been taking my horses there since high school. I actually remember doing a junior and little internship, a weeklong internship as a high school student at Brazos Valley, and it was kind of my first taste of veterinary medicine and the first thing that got me interested.

Peters: BROOKE HAS ALWAYS FANCIED HERSELF MORE OF AN EQUINE GIRL. HER LONG-TERM GOAL IS TO WORK WITH HORSES BUT HER THIRD BLOCK OF ROTATIONS AT LIVE OAK ANIMAL HOSPITAL IN LUBBOCK TESTED HER SMALL ANIMAL SKILLS.

(Chatting)

Peters: HER RED SCRUBS STAND IN CONTRAST TO THE WHITE WALLS, SHINY METAL KENNELS HOLDING A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT ANIMALS. WE'RE IN THE OPERATING ROOM WITH BROOK AND DR. BARNIE... IT'S EARLY AFTERNOON AND WE'RE CATCHING THEM IN BETWEEN PROCEDURES.

Foster: I might go track down a hair tie because trying to do surgery with my hair down might be distracting for some viewers.  
(Laughter)

Peters: SHE'S BRIGHT AND HAPPY... EXCITED TO BE HERE. SHE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS ROUND IN LUBBOCK AND IT HAS SO FAR BEEN EVERYTHING SHE HAD HOPED.

[Scrubbing]

Dr. Barnie: Anesthesia, are you good if I cut?

Peters: ON THE TABLE IN FRONT OF BROOKE IS A CAT. IT'S COVERED COMPLETELY BY A BLUE SURGICAL CLOTH WITH A HOLE IN THE MIDDLE FOR BROOKE TO WORK. THIS IS A ROUTINE SPAY, BROOKE HAS BEEN PART OF MANY BEFORE BUT THIS IS THE FIRST ONE SOLO BEING ASSISTED BY DR. BARNIE.

Dr. Barnie: And then to make your life a little bit easier, you might just take that spay hook and get your forceps and pull up on that body wall that way you're not having to fight with that body wall on top of your spay hook.

Peters: IN THE SPRING, BROOKE'S LAST ROUND WILL TAKE PLACE IN KENTUCKY AND WILL REIGN-IN HER SPECIALTY. IT'S AN OUT OF NETWORK OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH SOME THOROUGHBREDS AND RACEHORSES AROUND THE TIME OF THE KENTUCKY DERBY. BUT SO FAR SHE HAS DONE LOTS OF SMALLER PROCEDURES LIKE THIS ONE.

Dr. Barnie: Do you feel like you have a good window going?

Foster: Yeah...

Dr. Barnie: Does it help if I lift for ya?

Foster: Yeah.

Dr. Barnie: 15:50 Sometimes I feel like it's easier to pass with the tip so you don't have to worry about the tail getting caught on everything. Then you can just pass it through that little window. There you go.

Foster: That's better.

Dr. Barnie: 18:30 Looks great.

Foster: Awesome!

Dr. Barnie: 29:50 See you're doing so much better. This is so much faster than yesterday.

Foster: Thank you. Once I get past the first one I'm like...

Dr. Barnie: And that's with cameras recording you too!

(Laughter)

(Music)

Peters: THE CLINICAL SKILLS BROOKE HAS DEVELOPED ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE GAINED BY HER OTHER CLASSMATES, WHOSE EXPERIENCES STARTED MUCH LIKE HERS.

Dylan Fischbeck: My name's Dylan Fishbeck. I just received my schedule for fourth year rotations.

Connor Chamber: So I just got my email, told me my clinical schedule for the upcoming year, so open announcing what it looks like been pretty excited for this. We've all been.

Fischbeck: I got pretty much every pick I wanted at every time, so I'm ecstatic about that and how everything worked out. We start our blocks off. We have 11 clinics or 11 blocks that we'll visit, one being a vacation block. All the blocks run for four weeks with 3 to 4 blocks being back-to-back to back.

Peters: A LOT OF STUDENTS ARE GETTING THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THEIR LIFE AND WORK COME FULL CIRCLE. IT'S A SPECIAL MOMENT.

Chambers: My block six... I'm at Simmons & Harlan Clinic Wichita Falls, which is close to my hometown. That is a clinic that I interned a lot at throughout my undergrad and high school career.

Peters: WHEN DYLAN FISCHBECK LOOKS OVER HIS SCHEDULE, HE'S LIKE BROOKE AND CONNOR... EAGER TO SEE A RETURN NEAR HIS HOMETOWN IN HALLETSVILLE. ITS COMING UP EARLY FALL... BUT WHEN HE OPENS UP THAT EMAIL ON THIS DAY IN APRIL, ITS STILL MONTHS AWAY. FOR NOW, HE HAS THREE MONTH LONG BLOCKS UNTIL THAT TIME.

Fischbeck: It's just really exciting to be a part of this program and I really couldn't imagine anywhere else I want to be and let alone be a part of such a great program and wanting to see where it goes in the future.

Peters: DYLAN SAYS HE IS SOMEONE WHO KNOWS AND LIKES HIS ROUTINE. HE'S SOMEWHAT OF A STICKLER FOR IT. SO THE IDEA OF 11 MONTHS, WITH 11 DIFFERENT LOCATIONS ACROSS TEXAS, A COUPLE IN COLORADO, HE KNOWS IT'S GOING TO BE A CHALLENGE. HE'S EXPECTING IT.

Fischbeck: I can step outside real quick.

Peters: Are you sure? I'm sorry.

Fischbeck: Oh, no. You're good. I was sitting in the stairwell. (continues underneath)

HE'S IN THE MIDDLE OF A CLINICAL BLOCK THAT'S TAKING PLACE AT THE VET SCHOOL... HE SET ASIDE HIS LUNCH BREAK TO TALK WITH US...

Peters: I can imagine that, you know, you finally get familiar with the area or you finally feel comfortable, like, okay, where's the nearest Walmart? What restaurants are available?

Fischbeck: That's pretty much it. You get the routine of the clinic and it's then you get one week is you feel pretty proficient in it and then you're like, oh, I gotta leave. That's the hardest part. It's just like you get in the routine...

Peters: WE TALKED ABOUT THE VET SCHOOL'S MISSION STATEMENT. ABOUT GOING BACK INTO THESE SMALL TOWNS. AND DYLAN SAYS THIS YEAR HAS TAUGHT HIM A LOT OF IMPORTANT LESSONS... ABOUT WORK LIFE BALANCE, WHAT MAKES THIS CAREER SUSTAINABLE, WHAT HIS OWN PRIORITIES ARE. IT HAS ALSO REINFORCED A CRITICAL SENTIMENT.

Fischbeck: I think going into school, my life goal was to, you know, basically venture out and use this, these, these rotations as a job application. But, the closer and closer I've gotten to the end of these rotations, the more and more I kind of just want to go straight back home.

Peters: MANY OF THESE STUDENTS ARE SINGLE, SOME LIKE BROOKE ARE MARRIED. BUT FOR JOVANI ARMENDARIS THE CLINICAL YEAR... WELL HIS WHOLE VET SCHOOL EXPERIENCE, REALLY... IT HAS REQUIRED A LOT OF SACRIFICE.

(Phone ringing)

Jovani Armendariz: Hello?

Peters: Hey, it's Taylor.

Jovani: Hey, how are you?

Peters: I'm doing well, how is everything going?

Jovani: Oh, pretty good. I'm on the road headed home.

Peters: IT'S JULY WHEN WE'RE HAVING THIS CONVERSATION... JOVANI JUST FINISHED HIS FIRST BLOCK IN NAVASOTA, TEXAS... IT'S A SMALL COMMUNITY HALFWAY BETWEEN COLLEGE STATION AND HOUSTON.

Jovani: I got about a 10, 9-hour drive...

Peters: That's a lot. Tell me how the last few weeks have been.

Jovani: So, it was all very new to me but I enjoyed it. This facility, the hospital, had a high volume of specialty... Everything from your basic wellness exams, vaccine visits, to like, really specialized surgeries so it was really neat.

Peters: HE'S HEADED BACK TO HIS FAMILY'S FARM IN HOUSE, NEW MEXICO. SPELLED H-O-U-S-E. IN 2022, THE POPULATION WAS 57. THEIR FAMILY FARM HAS CATTLE, SHEEP, SOME CHICKENS AND OTHER SMALL ANIMALS. THEY HAVE A LLAMA AND A DONKEY. JOVANI AND HIS WIFE PURCHASED THE LAND ABOUT 10 YEARS AGO AND IT REQUIRES ALL HANDS TO OPERATE. EVEN THE SMALL ONES... HIS 12-YEAR-OLD TAKES HER RESPONSIBILITY OF TENDING TO THE 29 CHICKENS VERY SERIOUSLY. SO, THIS DECISION FOR HIM TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL WAS A BIG LIFT FOR HIS ENTIRE FAMILY.

Jovani: It really has taken a village of support, my dad, brother, mom, they keep the cattle operation going. My wife, father-in-law, neighbor, brother-in-law, they help out with the farm, sheep operation. So that kind of allows me to really focus on school and not have to worry about stuff at home.

Peters: Tell me about your wife and kids.

Jovani: Been married for 17 years. I've got two daughters at home, 12 and 10... During the last three years... I live in Amarillo in an RV park about 3 miles from campus during the week. My family is in New Mexico 2 hours away. I try to make it home as much as I can, every weekend that I can but it doesn't always work out that way.

(Phone Ringing)

Lora Armendariz: Hello, this is Lora.

Peters: Hey, Lora, it's Taylor. How are you?

Lora: I'm good. How are you?

Peters: HIS WIFE LORA IS THE HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHER. SHE ALSO TEACHES ELEMENTARY ART, MUSIC, P.E, ARCHERY AS AN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY. AND SHE'S THE DISTRICT TESTING COORDINATOR AND CAREER COUNSELOR... SMALL TOWN. MANY HATS.

Lora: I have the funnest job because I get to teach the preschoolers all the way up to the 12th grade. You know, I, I'm involved in everything,

Peters: JOVANI WAS IN THE MILITARY WHEN THEY MET. THEY MARRIED JUST BEFORE HIS FINAL DEPLOYMENT TO IRAQ. LORA TALKS ABOUT HOW EVEN THEN HE TALKED ABOUT BECOMING A VETERINARIAN. SHE SAYS THEY'VE LIVED IN EVERY SEASON OF LIFE TOGETHER, THEY'VE LITERALLY GROWN UP SIDE BY SIDE. FROM MILITARY LIFE, TO HAVING THEIR FIRST DAUGHTER ADELLA, THEN TWO YEARS LATER LORA GAVE BIRTH TO TWINS. THEY WERE PREMATURE, ISABELLA WAS HEALTHY BUT MIKAYLA REQUIRED SOME SPECIAL ATTENTION.

ISABELLA CONTRACTED A VIRUS WHEN SHE WAS JUST 2 MONTHS OLD. SHE DIDN'T MAKE IT. BUT MICAELA CONTINUED TO GROW, SHE COMPLETED THEIR FAMILY. TODAY THE 10-YEAR-OLD STILL HAS A LOT OF MEDICAL NEEDS, SHE HAS BEEN IN AND OUT OF HOSPITALS, REQUIRES DAILY CARE. I SAY ALL OF THIS BECAUSE IT HELPS BRING INTO SHARPER FOCUS EVERYTHING THAT GOES INTO JOVANI'S DREAM. ALL OF THE PEOPLE INVOLVED, THE SUPPORT AND INVESTMENT TO SEE IT BECOME REALITY.

Lora: We went ahead and we bought a farm a few years ago. It was another dream that we had had. And but that's he went to vet school. That meant somebody else had a, you know, run the farm. And my dad helps immensely with that. He lives about a quarter of a mile down the road.

He puts the girls on the bus so I can run up to school and get things started for my classroom and everything for the day, for my students. And then, my mother-in-law helps out a lot with Micaela needs. She comes and she helps me, do her cares and everything so that I can still function.

(Music)

Lora: And, you know, I just it's funny because if we had adopted this dream of him going back to school and assumed that because it was our dream, we had to do our on our own, we would have been hurting. It would have been very hard. But we've never seen our life that way. And thankfully, we have a family that's never seen things that way either.

Peters: SOME PEOPLE WOULD LOOK AT THIS COMMITMENT TO GOING BACK TO SCHOOL AS A CHALLENGE. BUT LORA REFFERS TO IT AS THEIR LATEST ADVENTURE. SHE SAYS THAT WHEN TEXAS TECH ANNOUNCED THEY WERE GOING TO OPEN THE SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE, HE CAME TO HER AND SAID "I THINK WE COULD DO THIS.

Lora: That was terrifying. I'm not gonna lie. Like, we do have family nearby, but, MiKayla had just gone through a season where she was in and out of children's children's hospitals with epilepsy. And, she was very, very, very sick. And she is just coming out of that. Also just the financial aspect of it, and I was like, okay.

Let's like make take the first step forward and just see what happens. Like I'm not saying yes or no. Yeah. But what really felt like, like this was God's plan was when, when he got the scholarship that provided a way for us financially. It was it was like it felt more obvious that this was what God had planned for him.

Peters: JOVANNI AND LORA WRITE A BEAUTIFUL STORY. THIS SPRING WHEN HE GRADUATES, HE'S GOING TO RETURN TO HIS FAMILY AND HIS HOME RENEWED AND INSPIRED AND MORE DETERMINED THAN EVER TO GIVE BACK TO HIS SMALL COMMUNITY. LORA SAYS THEY'RE DESPERATE FOR MEDICAL CARE IN THEIR SMALL TOWN AND JOVANI IS HUNGRY TO SERVE THAT NEED. SHE SAYS HIS DESIRE HAS BEEN MET BY THE SCHOOL IN AMARILLO... THE PLACE THAT HAS GRANTED HIM THE ABILITY TO WALK IN HIS LIFE'S CALLING.

Lora: I honestly, he loves it there. I didn't know a university like this exists. Part of the one and one of the reasons I absolutely love it is how much they value character and work ethic and the actual doing of life, as opposed to maybe just the academics.

It fits Jovani's personality, perfectly. And, even the way the, the faculty talk to him, stick with him and build him up and encourage him and speak to those, those aspects of his personality that maybe other universities wouldn't think are that exceptional, like his ability to, you know, just put in the hard work, and get things done.

The fact that they found a way financially for it to work for our family. We have a very unusual circumstance. Definitely. I think traditional students and yet it's not only been possible... We're looking at like the light is at the end of the tunnel.

(Music Close)

WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

Tim Howard: MY NAME IS TIM HOWARD, I WORK IN MARKETING HERE AT TEXAS TECH... AT THE UNIVERSITY, WE ARE CONSTANTLY EVOLVING OUR EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF MORE STUDENTS BOTH IN PERSON AND ONLINE. I CAN ATTEST TO THIS BECAUSE I EARNED MY GRADUATE DEGREE THROUGH TTU ONLINE.

THIS PAST YEAR OUR TEXAS TECH ONLINE TEAM ROLLED OUT A NEW PLAN DESIGNED TO OFFER EVEN MORE FLEXIBILITY FOR NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENTS.

IF YOU HAVE EARNED AT LEAST 80 HOURS BUT DIDN'T QUITE COMPLETE YOUR DEGREE, THE NEW 10K DEGREE PROGRAM CAN HELP GET YOU TO THE FINISH LINE FOR AS LITTLE AS 10 THOUSAND DOLLARS. IF YOU'D LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS NEW PROGRAM IN DFW AND COMING SOON TO EL PASO- VISIT OUR WEBSITE. YOU CAN FIND A LINK IN OUR SHOW NOTES.

TEXAS TECH ONLINE IS WHERE FLEXIBILITY MEETS OPPORTUNITY.

(Music)

Peters: IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN PICTURES OF THE VET SCHOOL IN AMARILLO, YOU SHOULD GOOGLE IT. IT'S REALLY INCREDIBLE. THAT CLASSIC TEXAS TECH SPANISH ARCHITECTURE PARTNERED WITH STATE-OF-THE-ART LAB SPACES AND TECHNOLOGY. WHEN YOU STEP FOOT IN THE MAIN ENTRANCE, YOU'RE MET WITH A GORGEOUS DARK STAINED WOODEN STAIRCASE AND AN EXPANSIVE OPEN FLOOR PLAN WITH SEATS FILLED WITH STUDENTS CHATTING AND STUDYING OR RELAXING BEFORE THEIR NEXT CLASS. THE STUDENTS IN THIS ROOM WHILE DIFFERENT, SHARE A COMMON THREAD. THEY HAVE DREAMS AND PLANS AND AMBITIONS THAT ARE THEIR OWN... BUT THEY ARE CUT FROM THE SAME CLOTH.

Gala Beals: Most unique to us is our rural and regional mission statement in that we want to reach the people who are in Texas or, you know, being in Panhandle or in the beef capital... Knowing that we're producing the students that are needed for our culture here in Texas is important in rural and regional and supporting... So they're going to go back there and support their community in more ways than just being a veterinarian.

GALA BEALS IS A STUDENT PROGRAM MANAGER. SHE AND DANIELLE BARBER COORDINATE THIS CLINICAL YEAR FOR EVERY STUDENT. THEY WORK CLOSELY WITH LEADERSHIP INCLUDING BRITT CONKLIN TO REINFORCE THIS MISSION STATEMENT. TO CREATE SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES.

Beals: Is it easy building a school? No, it's not. But the pathway we have developed for our students and their success is what's important.

Britt Conklin: We often say, and maybe you have heard, but being the second publicly funded veterinary school in the state is extremely liberating. So the first one has to be all things to everybody in the state relative to veterinary medicine. For us, it gives us the opportunity to highly define who we are and what our mission is. So we have a narrow scope, we have a narrow target.

Conklin: The bullseye is pretty small, and because of that, that dictates everything that we do. Okay. We admit students differently, we train them differently, and we actually give them that experiential learning in that fourth year in a different manner because we are focused, as GAYLA said, on this rural and regional mission rules, easy to understand, regional and a little less.

Peters: ALMOST 100% OF THESE STUDENTS COME FROM RURAL POCKETS ACROSS THE STATE AND REGION. THEY GREW UP ENTRUSTING THEIR HORSES OR DOGS OR CATS TO THE ONLY VETERINARIAN IN THEIR SMALL TOWNS. BUT IN THE CASE OF STUDENTS LIKE NAILA TELLES – THEY HAD NO LOCAL OPTIONS.

Naila Telles: We didn't have a veterinarian in Eagle Pass. In Eagle Pass, if you wanted veterinary care, you had to travel and for me, who had show animals, I had to travel kind of a long distance just to work on any of my show animals...

Peters: NAILA REMEMBERS FEELING FRUSTRATED – EVEN HELPLESS – BY THIS LACK OF VETERINARY CARE.

Telles: Preventative medicine. That wasn't a thing. Like if you had, any sort of medicine surgery that you needed to do, you go to Mexico like that's how close Eagle Pass is to the border.

Peters: BUT THEN, A WOMAN BEGAN TO INTERVENE. NAILA REMEMBERS HER WELL, AS THE VETERINARIAN WOULD COME TO EAGLE PASS AND HOST VACCINATION DRIVES.

Telles: And that made me realize, like, oh, okay.

Telles: They did... They are trying to do some of this stuff, but at the time we didn't have like a clinic. And so ultimately what drove me more to go to Texas Tech at the time was because they want to serve these rural communities, because I've never been somebody that wants to go back to the city. They have easy access. We don't.

(Music)

Peters: AND THIS PROBLEM IS ALL TOO COMMON. ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE, COMMUNITIES IN SOUTH TEXAS ARE AT AN INCREASED RISK BECAUSE OF THEIR GENERAL LACK OF ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE. THIS APPLIES TO BOTH HUMANS AND ANIMALS. FAMILIES ARE REQUIRED TO TRAVEL FURTHER FOR ANY MEDICAL NEEDS.

THAT'S WHY SINCE 2014 – HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE BOUGHT INTO TEXAS TECH'S DREAM OF THE SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND PUSHED TO MAKE IT A REALITY. EVEN THE STATE LEGISLATURE RECOGNIZED THE DEMAND FOR RURAL VETERINARIANS BY SETTING ASIDE MORE THAN 17 MILLION DOLLARS TO OPEN THE SCHOOL IN MAY OF 2019.

THIS CREATED HOPE FOR A WHOLE HOST OF PEOPLE — BUT COME MAY – IT WILL PROVIDE TANGIBLE SOLUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITIES IN VETERINARY CARE DESERTS WHO HAVE FELT THE PAIN OF GETTING MEDICAL HELP A LITTLE TOO LATE FOR THEIR BELOVED PETS OR THE LIVESTOCK THEY DEPEND ON FOR A LIVING.

FOR LORA – KNOWING HER HUBAND WILL WALK ACROSS THE STAGE AND INTO THESE REGIONS READY TO SERVE SUCH A CRITICAL PURPOSE VALIDATES YEARS OF WORK AND SACRIFICES.

Lora: And it's like the dream belongs to everybody. And at the end of the day, everybody checks in. Everybody helps make that happen. And when he is a veterinarian, it all affect everybody, affect our whole community.

AND FOR NAILA – IT'S HER LONG-AWAITED CHANCE TO PAY FORWARD THE INFLUENCE A VETERINARIAN HAD ON HER – FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

Telles: I think one of the biggest things for me is like when I was a kid, I've had the, the support of my parents to be able to like, tell me, like, you can do whatever you want. Not everybody has that. And so for me, I would have loved to have kids if possible, hear some of these podcasts and be like, hey, we are from small towns and we do to, you know, like, it's totally possible.

(Music)

Peters: FEARLESS IS PRODUCED BY TEXAS TECH MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS. IT'S HOSTED AND WRITTEN BY ME, TAYLOR PETERS. THOMAS BOYD IS OUR EDITOR.

Peters: TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE VET SCHOOL, YOU CAN FIND A LINK IN OUR SHOW NOTES.

Peters: FEARLESS IS A TEXAS TECH PRODUCTION. FROM HERE, IT'S POSSIBLE.