



La Plata Electric Association, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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NEWS

La Plata Electric Association names college scholarship recipients *Academic achievements of seven area high school seniors recognized*

DURANGO, Colo. – Recipients of the 2015-2016 La Plata Electric, John Voelker Memorial, Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Tri-State Generation and Transmission scholarships have been announced by La Plata Electric Association (LPEA).

The 31st Annual LPEA College Scholarships, two four-year scholarships (up to \$7,000 annually or \$28,000 for tuition, books and fees), have been awarded to Mallory Byrd and Shayla Wood, both seniors at Durango High School. Byrd (daughter of Sherell and John Byrd) plans to major in engineering and minor in studio art at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. Wood (daughter of Kerry Wood-Dalsaso and Mike Dalsaso) is heading to University of Colorado, Boulder to study architectural engineering.

Durango High School seniors Bryan “BJ” Morgan and Josh Thompson have been awarded LPEA’s 15th Annual John Voelker Memorial Scholarships, \$10,000 for two years, for vocational, technical school or junior college.

Morgan (son of Christy and LPEA Lead Meter Reader Collector George Morgan) will enroll in Front Range Community College, Westminster, Colo. and study business, while Thompson (son of Kelly and Charles Thompson) will attend San Juan College in Farmington to study automotive technology. LPEA’s John Voelker Memorial Scholarship remembers former LPEA board member John Voelker, who was instrumental in creating the vocational scholarship. Voelker perished in the Egyptian Air plane crash in October of 1999.

Vayle Townsend, a senior at Durango High School, received the \$1,000 Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship. With plans to attend Montana State University, Bozeman, Townsend (son of Thomas and Maria Townsend) is pursuing his blasting license with intent to become a certified blaster.

The Basin Employee Dependent Scholarship of \$1,000, granted to a co-op employee’s child, was awarded to Mackenzie Kemple, step-daughter of LPEA Meter Reader Collector Dusti

Riggs. Kemple will attend University of Colorado, Denver following her graduation from Piedra Vista High School in Farmington.

Ryan McInnis, a senior at Pagosa Springs High School, and Christopher Rodriguez, a senior at Durango High School, each received \$500 scholarships from Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association. McInnis (son of Anette and Jeremy McInnis) intends to study mechanical engineering at University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. Rodriguez (son of Deloris Lopez and Alex Rodriguez) will pursue a career in chemical engineering at Colorado School of Mines.

“We had many qualified students apply this year, but have only so many scholarships and awards,” said Jeannie Bennett, coordinator of LPEA’s scholarship process. “All of our scholarship recipients are great students with exciting potential. At LPEA we are proud to be able to offer these educational opportunities.”

Funds for the LPEA and LPEA/John Voelker Memorial Scholarships come from LPEA’s unclaimed Capital Credits. Each year, LPEA endeavors to find “missing” members who are due a share of retired Capital Credits or Patronage Capital. Those funds unable to be returned to members are then put back into the community – in this case, into college scholarships.

For further information or for questions regarding future scholarship opportunities, contact Jeannie Bennett at 970.382.3505, or jbennett@lpea.coop.

LPEA, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative established in 1939, provides to its more than 31,000 members, with in excess of 42,000 meters, safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost, while being environmentally responsible.

For additional information, contact LPEA at 970.247.5786 or visit www.lpea.coop.

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