



La Plata Electric Association, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

April 21, 2021

# NEWS

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## **LPEA awards \$80,000 in scholarships to seven local high school seniors**

DURANGO, Colo. – La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) has awarded \$80,000 in scholarships to seven local high-school seniors to support their continued education. The cooperative received a total of 81 applications for this year’s scholarship programs. Recipients were selected based on merit by a local committee comprised of nine individuals from across LPEA’s four districts.

“We are always impressed by the quality of applications we receive from young, promising, local students with big goals and dreams,” said LPEA CEO Jessica Matlock. “We are honored to support them in achieving these dreams, while also supporting industries that will depend on a skilled and educated future workforce.”

The 2021 scholarship recipients are as follows:

- LPEA Scholarship (Up to \$28,000 for tuition, books, and fees at any university or college): Awarded to Trevor Harms from Animas High School to study Engineering at Colorado School of Mines, and to Caitlyn Chapman from Ignacio High School to study Engineering at Colorado School of Mines.
- John Voelker Memorial Scholarship (\$10,000 for tuition, books, and fees at any vocational school, technical school, or junior college): Awarded to Guy Wright from Bayfield High School to pursue a degree in Agricultural Business.
- LPEA Lineman Scholarship (\$12,000 for tuition, books, fees, and tools for line school): Awarded to Zack McSweeney from Bayfield High School to study at Northwest Lineman College.
- Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship (\$1,000 for expenses at any school): Awarded to Kylie Keuning from Pagosa Springs High School to study Speech Pathology and Audiology at Calvin University.
- Tri-State G&T Scholarship (\$500 for expenses at any school): Awarded to Sonie (Taylor) Schermer from Animas High School to study Engineering at the University of Colorado - Boulder, and to Jacob Genualdi from Durango High School to study Economics at Harvard University.

The LPEA Scholarship, John Voelker Memorial Scholarship, and LPEA Lineman Scholarship are funded by LPEA's unclaimed Capital Credit funds. As LPEA is a not-for-profit utility delivering service to its members at cost, any payments made by members in excess of the cost required to provide their electric service are placed into a patronage capital account in each member's name, referred to as capital credits. When the cooperative is able, Capital Credits are retired and returned to members as bill credits or by check. If these checks are not cashed after three years, they are considered unclaimed – and put back into the community in the form of grants and scholarships.

The Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship and Tri-State G&T Scholarship are funded separately by those organizations.

LPEA is a member-owned, not-for-profit, electric distribution cooperative serving La Plata and Archuleta, with segments of Hinsdale, Mineral and San Juan counties. LPEA is the fifth largest cooperative of 22 in Colorado, and aims to provide safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost to its approximately 35,000 members. For additional information, contact LPEA at (970) 247-5786 or visit [www.lpea.coop](http://www.lpea.coop).

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