

GCEC Awards Scholarships

Each high school was given \$500 to distribute to graduating students

Each year, Graham County Electric Cooperative provides a scholarship to each of the five local high schools, under the direction of the board of directors. The following students were recipients of awards for the 2014-2015 school year:

► **Chris Moore.** The son of Ronald Dean and Lori Moore, Chris ranked eighth in a class of 172 at Safford High School and received numerous honors and awards. He was involved in the marching, concert and jazz bands. He earned a 4.1667 weighted GPA and was a member of the National Honor Society. Chris also earned 38 credits from Eastern Arizona College during high school. He learned to speak Spanish and participated in Spanish Club activities. He loves chess and finished in the Chess Club's Elite 4. Chris also loves serving others and will serve a two-year mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Ohio Columbus Mission. He has been accepted into the chemical engineering program at the Ira A. Fulton School of Chemical Engineering at Arizona State University.

► **Hailey Rios.** The daughter of Ruben and Kay Rios, Hailey ranked 33rd in her class at Thatcher High School. She served as president for the Family Community and Career Leaders of America Club and vice president for Drama Club. Hailey earned the Spirit of Thatcher High School award and the Eugene and Annice Cope Scholarship. She loves acting, cooking, 3-D rendering, writing, reading, science, astronomy and learning new things. She will attend EAC and then plans to study astronomy at the University of

Arizona. Hailey hopes to return to the area and work at the observatory on Mt. Graham.

► **Kenny Boswell.** The son of Brad Lee and Cheryl Lee Boswell graduated from Pima High School. He enjoyed show choir for two years. Kenny plans to earn his associate degree from EAC and ultimately pursue a master's degree in fine arts.

► **Alexis Benally.** The daughter of Alejandro and Nanla Benally graduated from Fort Thomas High School. Alexis hopes to become a nurse. She plans to attend EAC. She says the GCEC scholarship gives her the opportunity to concentrate on her academics rather than worry about finances.

► **Jordan Kitcheyan.** The son of Jonathan and Melvalena Kitcheyan, Jordan graduated from Fort Thomas High School. He received awards in math, welding, football and basketball. He was a member of student council and Athletic Club. Jordan plans to pursue an associate degree in criminal justice from EAC, then transfer to a university to complete his bachelor's and perhaps master's degrees.

► **Destiny Ruiz.** The daughter of Tanya Ruiz, Destiny was one of 55 graduates from Mount Graham High School. She won the GIFT award for culinary arts. Her teacher, Billie Huff, awarded Destiny a chef coat. She was secretary of The Green Iguanas (the school's culinary arts club). Destiny plans to attend EAC before going to culinary school. ■

Also receiving scholarships from GCEC were Destiny L'Italien of Pima High School and Ana Padilla of Mount Graham High School. Neither submitted biographies nor photos for this article. Chris Moore photo by Adam Rossow Photography.



Chris Moore



Hailey Rios



Alexis Benally



Jordan Kitcheyan



Destiny Ruiz