

Six Local Students Receive Scholarships

Graham County Electric and Graham County Utilities support education opportunities

In May, six lucky students received scholarships from Graham County Electric and Graham County Utilities. Directors presented scholarships to deserving high school seniors from each of the local high schools. Committee members from Fort Thomas, Mount Graham, Pima, Safford and Thatcher selected the student recipients.

Director Chris Claridge presented the Ft. Thomas scholarships to **Melanie Kitcheyan and Preston Kenton**.

Melanie, daughter of Jonathan and Melvalena Kitcheyan, plans to attend Eastern Arizona College and earn an associates degree in sports medicine. She hopes to play for EAC's women's basketball team in the fall. After EAC, she wants to pursue a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and work for the San Carlos Apache Tribe as a lawyer.

Preston would like to major in graphic design. His parents are Mirabelle Duane and Anthony Kenton. Preston wants to see what potential he has, and recalls hearing numerous times, "you can be more than what most people are on the reservation."

"The future is unfolding before me, and I'm not too sure if I'm willing to handle it, but if it's for a better life then I guess I will have to take the plunge," he says.

He takes pride in and is committed to

whatever activity he does. He plans to give back to the San Carlos Apache Tribe by helping the youth. He would like to create a televised youth language program teaching children the Apache language.

Vice President Mark Claridge presented a scholarship to **Kourtney Kendall**, daughter of Tammy Kendall and the late Rusty Kendall. Kourtney participated in Spanish Club, softball and FFA throughout high school. She placed third individually in dairy judging and first in state for the test score. During state judging, the Safford team placed high enough to earn a trip to FFA nationals. Her dream is to attend New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, and have a career in veterinary medicine.

Thatcher High School senior **Jessica Constanza** was presented a scholarship from GCU President Jeff Larson. Her parents are Brian Norton and Beatriz A. Rosales. Jessica plans to attend Eastern Arizona College and then UC Davis, majoring in biology and becoming a veterinarian.

Sheryl Harney of Pima High School was presented a scholarship from Director Gerald Schmidt. Sheryl is the daughter of Saraphine Placencia and David Harney.

Sheryl was in the Art Club and

Future Business Leaders of America. She received third place in the 2017 skills day competition in still-art drawing. She also received second place in FBLA for T-shirt design. She plans to attend Fort Lewis College and earn a bachelor's degree in studio art. She plans to become an animator, game designer or an illustrator.

Director Gene Larson presented Mt. Graham High School student **Dylan Peck** with his scholarship. Dylan is the son of Jason Peck and Dawn Pitner. He transferred from Safford to Mt. Graham High School. Graduating with 22 students in his class, Dylan had many family members who supported him.

Dylan's passion for writing is leading him toward a career in cinematography as a screenplay writer or movie producer. He hopes Eastern Arizona College is the right choice to chase after his dream. He promises no one will tell him to abandon his future miracles.

All of these students would like to thank GCEC for the scholarships they received, as they enhance their education and provide them a foundation for the future. GCEC continues to support community programs that enlist leadership, learning and education to youth who further enhance their dreams and ambitions. ■



Melanie Kitcheyan



Preston Kenton



Kourtney Kendall



Jessica Constanza



Sheryl Harney



Dylan Peck