

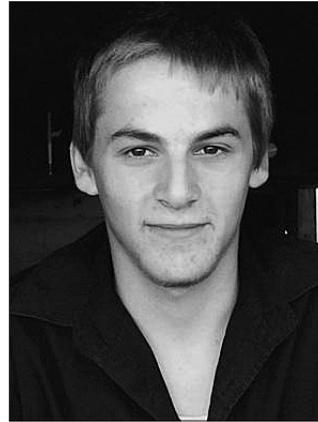
GCEC Awards Scholarships to

Six local graduates get a boost from the co-op to pursue post-secondary opportunities



Kellee McKinney

The Central resident, who graduated with honors from Safford High School, ranked 59th among 154 students with a 3.4 GPA. Kellee was a member of Spanish Club, Bulldog Theater Co. and Theater Tech, Future Business Leaders of America and was on the Academic Decathlon team. She developed a love for children, devoting her senior volunteer hours to helping at the Bulldog Boulevard Preschool. Kellee completed a degree in cosmetology and an associate degree in general studies at Eastern Arizona College while working at a job and attending high school. At EAC, she was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Kellee plans to spend another year at EAC and earn another associate degree in elementary education or pre-med. She hopes to continue her education at Arizona State University. Kellee is the daughter of Gary and Marlene McKinney.



Scheyenne Smith

After completing his first two years of high school in Twentynine Palms, California, Scheyenne moved to Safford, graduating from Mt. Graham High School. At Twentynine Palms, Scheyenne competed in Envirothon—an annual environmentally themed academic competition for high school students. He also competed in academic pentathlons. Scheyenne spent the summer working at his mother's business, Doggie Styles by Brenda. He plans to attend EAC this fall to complete a lab assistant certification. His career plan is to work as a lab technician. Scheyenne is the son of Scott and Brenda Ratliff.



Tiaerra Jordan

After moving from Fort Thomas to San Carlos, Tiaerra traveled 87 miles round trip for the next six years to attend school, ultimately graduating from Fort Thomas High School. With a 3.2 GPA, she ranked fifth in her graduating class of 28. Tiaerra played varsity softball all four years of high school and was manager for the volleyball and girls' basketball teams for two years. She was a member of the Athletic Club, Native American Culture Club, the Gear Up Program, publications, FFA and served as secretary and president of FFA. Tiaerra is especially interested in biology and chemistry. She plans to attend EAC, where she will begin a pre-pharmacy program. She then plans to transfer to a university to pursue her goal of becoming a pharmacist. Tiaerra is a member of the San Carlos Apache Tribe. She is the daughter of Garrell and Tia Jordan.

Outstanding Students



Kamia Arbizo

A Thatcher High School graduate, Kamia ranked 70th in her class of 88 with a 2.51 GPA. She was a member of FBLA, Health Occupation Students of America, Spirit Club and Athletic Club. An outstanding athlete, Kamia played varsity softball for four years and was named to the second all-state team two years and the all-star team her senior year. Her plans include playing collegiate softball at a community college in Phoenix. Kamia then plans to continue her education at a university, where she will study for a career as a social worker or pediatric nurse. She is the daughter of JoPaul and Susie Arbizo.



Melody Rose Rope

The Fort Thomas High School graduate ranked fourth in her class of 28, maintaining a 3.2 GPA. Active in FFA, Native American Culture Club, Skills USA, yearbook, publications, Athletic Club, Gear Up, Peer Mentoring and student council, she was FFA treasurer three years and senior class president. Melody was named student of the month by the Business and Professional Women's Foundation. As a member of Ft. Thomas International Club, she traveled to Italy and Greece. Melody plans to attend EAC and pursue a degree in agricultural chemistry. She says her goal is to one day sign her name with a "Dr." in front of it. Melody's parents are Curtis and Peggy Rope. She was raised by her cousin, Sarah Rope.



Alondra Torres

The Pima High School graduate ranked 14th in her class of 39 with a 3.7 GPA. She was active in Teen Outreach, Gear Up, Future Business Leaders of America, Knowledge Bowl, Students Against Destructive Decisions, student council and color guard. She was senior class president, class treasurer, group leader, vice president of communications for FBLA and part of the St. Rose of Lima youth group. She received the Business and Professional Women's Outstanding Young Woman Award, the Pope John Paul II Award, Gila Institute for Technology Career and Technical Education student of the month award and special congressional recognition. Alondra will pursue an associate degree in business administration at EAC and plans to devote a year of service to AmeriCorps before transferring to Arizona State University, where she will major in nonprofit management. She is the daughter of Rosa Lozoya and Gerardo Torres.

A Bit About the Selection Process

Congratulations to the outstanding students who received Graham County Electric Cooperative scholarships in 2014.

Recipients are chosen by faculty committees at each of the county's public schools. The committee has the option of awarding one \$500 scholarship or splitting it between two students.

To qualify for co-op scholarships, students must reside in households where parents or guardians are co-op members. Guidelines specify students selected will have a financial need and not necessarily be receiving other scholarships. They are not required to be in the top percentile, but must have applied themselves in the classroom and have a strong desire to continue their education.