

NEC Scholarship Recipients



Justin Begay, Alchesay High School graduate, has been accepted by Eastern Arizona College. During his high school tenure, he held the title of Vice-President of the Future Business Leaders of America and participated in Track and Field for three years. Justin attended the University of Arizona's Med-Start program during the summer of 2015 and was enrolled in the dual credit business program at Alchesay High School, both affording him college level credits. Even with all of that, he still found time to support his community by being an active and dedicated member of the Environmental Club in which Justin completed over 50 community service hours in 2016 and helped with the Navajo County E-Waste recycling event, ADOT's Adopt-a-Highway program and the high school campus recycling program. He also volunteered his time at Casa de los Niños, a non-profit organization caring for abused and abandoned children since 1973. In addition, Justin also worked as a farm hand for two months.



Holli Gates, Blue Ridge High School graduate, plans to attend the University of Arizona in the fall and to major in Biology. Her long term goal is to go on to graduate school and to become an Orthodontist. She has already completed college level courses in Algebra and Consumer Math while attending high school. Holli received an Academic Achievement Letter her sophomore, junior and senior years, the Pride Factor Award for being an honorable student and the Hollywood Dance Experience Dance Scholarship. She was a member of the National Honor Society, Students Against Destructive Decisions (S.A.D.D.), Dance, Cheer Ambassador Club, and the Honors Choir and served as Treasurer of the Cheer Team. Still Holli found time to volunteer as Cheer Coach for Elementary Children, a Registration Assistant, Youth Soccer Referee, Sunday School Assistant and Assistant for a Bike Safety Clinic. She also worked as a Customer Service Representative for White Mountain Family Fun Park and as a Dance Teacher at The Dance Academy.



Merceidez Fabok, Mogollon High School graduate, has been accepted by Northland Pioneer College. While attending high school, Merceidez demonstrated her leadership skills by serving as captain of her Junior Varsity and Varsity Volleyball and Basketball teams as well as leading both Youth Volleyball and Basketball Camps. She received awards of Most Valuable Player, All-Section and All-Division for her outstanding abilities in various areas in both sports and also excelled on the Varsity Track team receiving 8 various medals. Academically speaking, she completed college courses in Honors Chemistry, Advanced Placement English, Pre-Calculus and Trigonometry and Advanced Graphic Design and received academic awards such as Outstanding Geometry and Graphic Design Student and Top Anatomy Student as well as Academic Letters. Merceidez also gave back to her community by participating in Run to the Bridge and the Special Olympics Torch Run and helped set up numerous fundraisers for needy and broken families. She still found time to work Tile God, Dairy Queen and completed yard work for older couples during her summers.



Trevor James, 2016 Valedictorian of St. Johns High School, has been accepted at Brigham Young University. After obtaining his bachelor's degree, he plans to go on to medical school and become an Orthopedic Surgeon. While in high school, Trevor was able to complete college level coursework in Algebra, Pre-Calculus, Trigonometry and Chemistry. He participated in Varsity Basketball and Football, he was the Basketball team captain and received various athletic awards including First Team All-Section for Football and Basketball and MVP and All-Section Academic Awards for Basketball just to name a few. Trevor also participated in the Spanish Club where he held the position of President and was a member of the National Honor Society and the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. He also achieved the level of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America, held numerous church leadership positions and received the Duty To God Award through his church for his many hours of service. With all of this, Trevor still found time to provide landscaping and yard maintenance services at private residences.



Kendi Phelps, 2016 Salutatorian for **Round Valley High School** has been accepted at the University of Arizona and Brigham Young University. While attending high school, Kendi participated in the Future Farmers of America, holding various positions and receiving numerous awards; 4-H also holding various positions and planned 4-H Youth Camp; the Cheer Team as Varsity Captain, received an MVP Cheer Award and was a member of the Varsity Dance Team, also receiving awards; was a member of the National Honor Society providing over 100 hours of service; and was a member of the Madrigal Choir for 4 years. Kendi also completed college level coursework in Trigonometry and Calculus and received awards for her academic accomplishments in Science, Algebra, AP English and Spanish.

Kendi also was an NEC Washington D.C. Youth Tour participant and was elected as the AZ Delegate to the Youth Leadership Council. In addition, she found time to participate in church and community activities such as: volunteering for the Boys and Girls Club; Food Bank; Head Youth Camp Leader; Sunday School Class President; Young Women Class President and Young Womanhood Recognition; Women's Hope Center Banquet; Community Food Drive and so much more. Amazingly, there was time to work at Mountain Avenue Clinic and TrailRiders Restaurant.



Brittney Boucher, **Show Low High School** graduate, plans to attend Northern Arizona University for her bachelors and then the University of Arizona Medical School for her doctorate towards becoming an anesthesiologist or pediatric surgeon. Brittney's excellent academic performance earned her membership and an award in the National Honor Society and on the National Business Honor Roll as well as recognition on the Principle's Honor Roll. She received a perfect attendance award, was elected Student of the Week/Month, Student Council Treasurer and as a member of the Future Business Leaders of America, she received a Business Achievement Award and was the Director of Mentors. While in high school, Brittney completed college level courses in English, Psychology, Business and Math. In addition, Brittney played Volleyball and Softball. She served her community by mentoring students in

the Future Business Leaders of America, provided services as a tutor to help other students, helped with the annual blood drive and assisted with relocating firewood from outside to house for a woman. With all of this, she still found time to work as a babysitter, for the Chamber of Commerce as a helper and as a Child Care Worker at the Pinetop-Lakeside Parks and Recreation.



Camden Hardy, **Reserve High School** graduate, has been accepted by New Mexico State University. Camden excelled as an athlete participating on the Junior Varsity and Varsity Track, Volleyball and Basketball teams. She received the Die Hard Award, Pride, Hustle and Desire Award and Dedication Award for Varsity Track; received the Hustle Award and was named All-District Setter First Team for Varsity Volleyball; and received the High Academic Athlete Award (4 years). Camden was a member of the Future Farmers of America, served as their President (3 years) and Vice-President (9 years) and received District and State FFA Extemporaneous Public Speaking Awards and a Star Farmer and Greenhand Award. She participated as a member of the Natural Helpers group, the National Honor Society and Student Council. Camden served her community with the

Glenwood/Alma Flood Preparedness by sandbagging houses; Adopt-A-Highway clean-up; by assisting with Reserve Fire Department activities; washing the Reserve Volunteer Ambulance Service ambulances; fair grounds clean-up days; and Santo Niño Fiestas. Still, she had time to work for the Youth Conservation Corps, as a cashier at Jake's General Merchandise and as an assistant at the Catron County Commissions Office.



Jonathan Dominguez, 2016 Valedictorian, **Cibecue High School**, has been accepted by Eastern Arizona College and plans to become an Automotive Engineer. In the athletic arena, Jonathan participated in Cross Country, Football, Basketball and Track and Field and received many outstanding performance awards while doing so. He was a member of the National Honor Society, the Leadership Committee and served on Student Council and as Class Treasurer his freshman year, Class Vice-President his junior year and Class President his senior year. Jonathan was recognized numerous times as Student of the Month during his junior and senior years and received an Excellence in Math Award. In addition, Jonathan has given back to his community by helping a local church with its vocational Bible program, assisted with the school's Apache Club on his own time and participated in local community clean-up projects and Earth Day activity. He also worked with the Pictures of Apache Land Summer Project his junior and senior years where he helped to protect wetlands and riparian areas on the western end of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation.



Johann Kizzar, **Sequoia Village School** graduate, plans to attend Northland Pioneer College for his prerequisite courses and then transfer to ITT Tech in Tucson to complete certification as a Computer Science Technician. As a student at Sequoia Village School, Johann held the office of Class Representative in Student Council (2014–2016) and served as President for the Future Business Leaders of America and the Teen Outreach Program (2014-2015). He was a member of the Academic Decathlon Team and received the 'Rookie of the Year' Award on Sequoia's first year Academic Decathlon Team. Johann was an active member of the High School Dance Committee and a DJ since 2013 and a volunteer with Country Mountain Airwaves (including 4 radio stations). Still he found time to serve his community by participating with the Community Health Fair and Blood Drive (2012-2016), the Boy Scouts of America (2006-2016), completing Sue's Crew 30 Mile Walk (2015) and volunteering on the Clay Springs/Pinedale Fire Department (2012-2016). Johann worked as a farm hand in 2013 and as a Computer Technician (2013-2015).