

SIEA AWARDS LOCAL STUDENTS SCHOLARSHIPS

San Isabel Electric Association awarded a total of \$32,500 through its newly expanded scholarship program on Wednesday, April 17, at a scholarship banquet at John Mall High School in Walsenburg.

Scholarship funding comes from unclaimed capital credits, money that the electric co-op tried to return to member-owners but went unclaimed. The current list of unclaimed capital credits was published in local newspapers April 4, 2019, and at siea.com/capitalcredits.

The \$5,000 Powered-Up Scholarship, for the student who had a GPA of at least 3.5 and an SAT score of 1,200 or higher, was awarded to Jordan Cruz, Pueblo West High School.

Honoring tradition, Pueblo West High School, the school of the student receiving the \$5,000 Powered-Up Scholarship, also received a \$500 donation from the San Isabel Electric Board of Directors.

The \$3,000 Powered-Up Scholarship runner-up recipients were Mikayla Lerch, Pueblo West High School, and Marie Moore, Pueblo West High School.

For the first time, the member-owned utility awarded five new scholarships in its newly expanded scholarship program.

Vocational scholarships, for students attending an occupational training program of two years or less at an accredited vocational school, technical school, community college or junior college, were awarded to Trystan Moltre, Hoehne High School; JoHannah McKinley, Primero High School; Madison Gookin, Rye High School; Brittany Miller, Rye High School; and Samuel Stosek, District 70 Online.

At-large scholarships, for students who attend a high school outside of San Isabel Electric's service territory whose parents or guardians are current San Isabel Electric member-owners, were awarded to Frederic Schmid, Goal Academy High School; Colton Ortiz, Pueblo South High School; and Erin Dionisio, Pueblo County High School.

Twelve \$1,000 San Isabel Electric scholarships, for students who plan on attending accredited colleges and universities and whose parents or guardians are current San Isabel Electric member-owners, were awarded to Kyle Ramsey, Aguilar High School; Kamryn Baca-Cordova, Hoehne High School; Kyle Rowe, Hoehne High School; Kaitlyn Lasley, John Mall High School; Armando Ruiz, John Mall High School; Kyle Gomez, John Mall



REG RUDOLPH

High School; Kaylee Corsentino, La Veta High School; Alexis Topping, La Veta High School; Grace Gonzales, Pueblo West High School; Emiree Sutton, Rye High School; Joy Denigan, Rye High School; Taylor Lauritzen, Rye High School; and Justin Duran, Trinidad High School.

San Isabel Electric has been awarding scholarships since 2000. In 2019, San Isabel Electric awarded a total of 24 scholarships. In 2018, San Isabel Electric awarded a total of 22 scholarships totaling \$32,500.

A total of 53 students applied for a scholarship from the local co-op. The San Isabel Electric Association Board of Directors scored the applicants based on their eligibility and completeness of their application, as well as their answers to a 300-word essay about a leadership experience. Students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. To complete the application, students were required to use the San Isabel Electric application form and provide a high school transcript and a letter of recommendation.

Eligibility requirements varied based on each scholarship opportunity. Information on the full eligibility requirements for each scholarship opportunity is available at siea.com/scholarships.

All scholarship opportunities require the applicant or the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to be a current San Isabel Electric member-owner.



◀ **Twenty-two students are awarded San Isabel Electric scholarships totaling \$32,000.**

SIEA AWARDS \$5,000 SCHOLARSHIP

Recipients of San Isabel Electric's \$1,000 scholarships can also compete for the \$5,000 Powered-Up Scholarship. To compete this year, students had to provide a 300-word essay describing a situation where they led a group or brought people together for a common goal or purpose, and in 50 words or less provide their personal goal statement.

This following is the essay and goal statement from this year's Powered-Up winner, Jordan Cruz.

BY JORDAN CRUZ 2019 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

I have been very lucky to have a number of incredible leaders in my life. My parents taught me how to never give up, my mentors taught me how to work hard and my coaches taught me how to push myself harder than I could ever imagine. Throughout my years in high school, I have been both appointed and voted into leadership positions. Each one of my leadership positions has taught me a great deal about myself.

However, I believe my position as president of my 4-H Club has been the most impactful in my life. As president of my club, I lead a group of around 30 members, all under the age of 16 years old.

In 4-H I have decorated cakes for eight years. Each month I mentor and help the younger members with their cakes. I

have seen through the years that younger members look up to me. One case in particular stands out. There was a young group that wanted to make it to state. They tried year after year and were unable to qualify.

Seeing their frustration, it became my mission to help them succeed. I focused and stayed with them for hours at a time, answered late night texts and watched them grow. On competition day, many of the girls qualified for the first time. Their success became more important to me than my own. They had become the little sisters I never had. This was one of the first times I fully understood what a leader should be.

Just as my parents, mentors and coaches taught me, leaders make sacrifices and care more for others than themselves. I am



\$5,000 scholarship recipient Jordan Cruz.

thankful for getting the opportunity to make an impact on the lives of others, just as my life has forever been changed.

Goal Statement

In high school, one topic that always found its way into discussion was the worsening condition of the planet. I plan on studying environmental science to open the eyes of those around me, making it impossible to turn a blind eye to the issues the environment faces.



SIEA scholarship winner Jordan Cruz accepts a \$5,000 check presented by (from left to right): Julie McMurry, Pueblo West High School counselor; Jacque Sikes SIEA board president; Debbie Rose, SIEA board member; Joseph Costa, SIEA board member; Doris Morgan, SIEA board secretary; Don Keairns, SIEA board treasurer; Jordan Cruz, Powered-Up Scholarship recipient; Edward Garcia, SIEA board member; and Dennis Maroney, SIEA board vice president.

Behind the Desk With a Lineworker

BY PARIS ELLIOTT
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER



◀ Roger Lemons works on top of an electric pole.

From making sure your bill is paid to working on the lines, the San Isabel Electric team is working carefully and efficiently for its members. Behind the desk, Roger Lemons is a lineworker with San Isabel Electric, making sure members know they have friends in high places.

Who is Roger Lemons?

Roger is a father of three who enjoys drag races with his daughter, hunting and keeping busy. Before his career as a lineworker, he worked as a railroad signalman for 15 years. Roger was hired with San Isabel Electric in May 2006 as a warehouse employee. He earned a lineworker apprenticeship in 2007 and is now thriving as a journeyman lineworker for the co-op. Roger takes great pride in his job of almost 13 years with San Isabel Electric.

What does a day's work look like?

When there's not an emergency, lineworkers are making sure everything stays working

the way it was made to. From repairing lines to making sure meters are communicating correctly, a lineworker does a lot that we should thank him for.

Roger expressed how great his job is when he can make a member's day by restoring power. When a member further down the work order list is surprised by how quickly San Isabel Electric responds, he feels a sense of pride knowing he made a member's experience one to remember.

What happens during an emergency?

"It's the normal scope of our work," Roger said calmly. Handling emergencies is a task that comes up more often than not.

He explained that anything can be an emergency, depending on the member. When it comes to assisting in an emergency, Roger does whatever is necessary to keep members happy, reflecting San Isabel Electric's mission to provide members with

products and services that will improve their quality of life.

What makes the job worth it?

Emergencies come hand in hand with being on call to ensure members are being served regardless of the time of day or weather. When asked what makes it all worth it, Roger replied without missing a beat. "There are people who depend on us to get the power on, so I feel that's what needs to be done," he said. Though it may take time from his personal life, Roger is making the public safe, which is the reward for him.

Though the weather this time of year can be unpredictable, we can always count on our lineworkers. Whether it's out in the field or behind a desk, San Isabel Electric's goal is to put members-owners first. Roger Lemons is an excellent example of the co-op's commitment to doing that.

BECOME A DIRECTOR

The nominating committee will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, July 1, 2019, at the San Isabel Electric Association headquarters, 781 E. Industrial Blvd., Pueblo West, CO 81007. Nominations by petition must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. on Thursday, August 1, 2019. Directors districts up for election are District 2: Rye, Colorado City & Vicinity and District 8: Pueblo West Proper.

The following is an excerpt from the bylaws regarding nominations for the board of directors: Article III, DIRECTORS, Section 4 Nominations:
It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not less than seventy (70) days nor more than ninety (90) days before the date of a meeting of the Members at which Directors are to be elected, a Nominating Committee consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) Members who shall be selected so as to give equitable representation on the committee to the geographical areas served by the association. No Officer or member of the Board of Directors shall be appointed a member of such a committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Association at least sixty (60) days before the meeting, a list of nominations for Directors, but any fifteen (15) or more Members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures, duly acknowledged, not less than forty-five (45) days prior to the meeting and the Secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted and add said names to the ballot. At least one (1) Member of the Nominating Committee shall be appointed from each district from which a Board Director is to be elected.

ANNUAL MEETING



**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2019**

**JOHN MALL HIGH SCHOOL
WALSENBURG, COLORADO**



SIEA Awards Largest Rebate Check in Co-op's History

BY PARIS ELLIOTT
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

▲ Pueblo County District 70 representatives were presented a \$110,000 rebate check by San Isabel Electric board member Debbie Rose and Matt Fitzgibbon, a representative from the electric co-op's power supplier. Pictured left to right: Matt Fitzgibbon, Tri-State Generation & Transmission relationship manager; Jack Snell, San Isabel Electric energy services manager; Ed Smith, Pueblo County District 70 superintendent; Mark Emery, Pueblo County District 70 board of education; TJ Vinci, Pueblo County District 70 chief financial officer; Debbie Rose, San Isabel Electric director; Ted Ortiz, Pueblo County District 70 Board of Education; Tony Montoya, Pueblo County District 70 Board of Education president; Staphanie Cordova-Catalano, Pueblo County District 70 Board of Education; and Tim Yates, Pueblo County District 70 director of technology.

Pueblo County District 70 is saving more than a half million dollars thanks to the \$110,000 commercial lighting rebate and about \$414,000 in anticipated electric bill cost savings.

The rebate was provided by San Isabel Electric and the local cooperative's power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association.

Tri-State supports San Isabel through energy efficiency programs that are designed to promote energy efficiency products, including LED lighting. In 2018, Tri-State and its members rebated \$3.3 million and reduced life cycle energy usage by almost 32 million kilowatt-hours.

The rebate check was presented to District 70 Board of Education president Tony Montoya for upgrades to LED lighting in nine schools served by the local electric cooperative.

Rebates help lower a member's electric bills, but they also help keep power supply demands down for the co-op, therefore keeping rates low.

The co-op's energy efficiency program includes a total of 38 residential rebate options, which are all listed at

siea.com/rebates, along with the co-op's commercial lighting rebate programs.

Rebate amounts vary but can be substantial and the energy savings can really add up, especially in the case of District 70.

The LED upgrade project was part of the district's energy performance contract, which had a purpose of identifying ways to save energy and money to fund other necessary projects and repairs, such as replacing boiler systems, air-conditioning, roofs and other repairs.

"The main thing that helped pay for the repairs was retrofitting the old lights to LEDs. Lighting rebates were a huge factor in making the energy performance contract work," explained TJ Vinci, District 70 director of business services, who oversaw the project.

Every accessible lightbulb and fixture that could be retrofitted with LED lighting in every District 70 building was upgraded, except for some football stadium lights.

A total of 19 schools, nine of which are located outside of San Isabel Electric's service area, were also included in the district's upgrade project.

SIEA offers both commercial and residential lighting rebates.

However, residential lighting rebates are expiring soon. Residential members of San Isabel Electric have until the end of 2019 to claim a rebate of up to \$400 for purchasing LED lightbulbs or fixtures or any combination of the two. The co-op will reimburse members up to 50% of the cost to purchase lightbulbs or fixtures (up to \$8 per bulb or fixture and up to a maximum of 50 bulbs or \$400.)

To claim the rebate, member-owners must fill out a rebate request form, which is available online at siea.com/rebates or a hard copy can be picked up at any San Isabel Electric office location. A receipt or paid invoice must be returned with the completed rebate request form within 120 days of the product's purchase to claim the rebate. The rebates are exclusively available to San Isabel Electric members only.

Together, SIEA and Tri-State have been promoting the efficient use of electricity by paying co-op members cash when they purchase or install certain energy-efficient appliances, lighting, insulation, heating equipment and more since 1985.