

~ AUI SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ~

**Below are the winners of the 2013 AUI Trustee Scholarship competition conducted by Scholarship & Recognition Programs. These students will each receive an award of \$3,500 per year to aid in defraying expenses at the college of their choice.**

**Mariah Chavez**

Mariah is a senior at PTC Educational Ministries located just outside of Gallup, NM. Mariah has completed four years of High School scholastics in just three years. As well as graduating a full year early she is the Class of 2013 Valedictorian with a GPA of 4.0. She is a regular volunteer at the community pantry, which gives food to those less fortunate. She enjoys reading; hiking and helping Dad build custom motorcycles.

Mariah has been accepted by the University of New Mexico starting fall 2013, where she will major in Nursing. She is the Daughter of Eric Chavez and Angela Maiorano. Eric is a Technical Specialist with ALMA Back End Electronics.

**Mirjana Katarina Gacanich**

Mirjana K. Gacanich epitomizes what it means to be an all-around Socorro Warrior, and her parents, Larry and Jeanne, are proud of their middle daughter. Mirjana has taken all Honors courses and dual credit classes in Biology and Human Anatomy at Socorro High having completed her early schooling at Cottonwood Valley Charter School. She is ranked in the top 10% of her class. Mirjana is the current NHS president having been the first and only freshman inducted at SHS, the Renaissance Council vice president and member for three years, a four year member of the MESA program, a varsity member and letterwoman for the state championship Lady Warrior golf team, a four time letterwoman for the Lady Warrior soccer team and a five time letterwoman for the Lady Warrior swim team. She's served as a Supreme Court Justice for New Mexico Girls' State and is a Girl Scout Juliette. She was selected to attend Rotary Youth Leadership her junior Year. Mirjana has competed in Science Olympiad and Mesa competitions. She is also a certified referee for AYSO and has played soccer since she was four years old. Mirjana believes that we must help our community's children before we can help others. She practices this by organizing a giving tree for disadvantaged children, has committed hours to the Storehouse, raised money for American Cancer Society and Autism Speaks. As a Girl Scout Juliette she teaches younger Girl Scouts scout skills and is a Camp Counselor. As a NHS member and President she has assisted in and managed many blood drives over the last four years. Mirjana's volunteer hours for other organizations are too many to mention.

Mirjana plans to attend law school focusing on copyright law. She will begin her studies at University of New Mexico this fall. Mirjana is the daughter of Larry Gacanich who works at the VLA warehouse.

**Clayton Irvine**

Clayton is a senior at Pocahontas County High School and is the Valedictorian of his graduating class. Clayton is president of the National Honors Society, the National Spanish Honors Society, Natural Helpers, Project Christmas, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and his Local 4-H Club. He is also an active member of the Spanish Club, Future Business Leaders of America, and Rotary Interact club. In addition, he is the long distance captain of the Track Team. Clayton is an avid track and long distance athlete. He is a four year WV State Qualifier for track in the two mile, and has run in three marathons this past year. He has qualified for the 2014 Boston Marathon. He is also a very active member of the First Baptist Church of Huntersville Youth Group. He organizes food drives to benefit local food pantries, volunteers at the nursing home, and finds service trips rewarding.

Clayton plans to attend college at West Virginia University and pursue a career as a Pharmacist. He also plans to work hard, continue his volunteer work, and maintain his long distance running while in school. Clayton is the son of Lisa Irvine. Lisa is the Payroll Manager for Associated Universities in Green Bank, West Virginia.

**Ashley Peck**

Ashley is a senior at St. Pius X High School in Albuquerque, where she is currently ranked 2nd in her class. She took challenging classes including Advanced Placement Physics, Calculus, English, and History as well as many honors classes. Ashley was named a 2012-2013 National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar. Her high school experience included participation in two St. Pius academic competitions, Academic Decathlon and We the People: Citizen and Constitution. She was awarded second place in the Physics category at the regional science fair. Ashley is a member of the National Honor Society. Throughout all four years of high school, she enjoyed playing clarinet in the St. Pius band, which performed at music festivals in Chicago and New York City. She was chosen to participate in the District Honor Band and the All State Small School Band. Ashley received a Maestro Award for her solo performance with the band at the Heritage Performance Competition in Chicago. Ashley enjoyed participating in several community service projects, including volunteering at the Explora Science Museum and the Road Runner Food Bank in Albuquerque.

Ashley plans to major in Mechanical Engineering at Vanderbilt University. She is the daughter of George and Lorraine Peck. George is an Electronics Engineer in Socorro.

### **Rosalie Stoke**

Rosalie is a senior at Western Albemarle High School in Crozet, Virginia. An Honor Roll student for all four years of high school, and a member of the National Honor Society and National English Honor Society, Rosalie has pursued a challenging academic and athletic career that has included six AP-level classes, numerous additional honors-level courses, an independent study in neuroscience, four years of advanced Latin, and nine seasons of varsity sports, including lacrosse, field hockey, and indoor track (during all of which she lettered). She was twice elected to the Virginia team for the US Lacrosse National Tournament for High School, and has been elected to all-district, all-regional, and all-state in Field Hockey, and all-district in Lacrosse. She is an AP Scholar Award winner and has scored cum laude and magna cum laude on the National Latin Exam. Throughout her junior and senior years, she maintained a high GPA while working to earn money for college on weekends at a Charlottesville-based family entertainment facility, where she was quickly promoted to supervisor. Rosalie's summers have been spent working multiple jobs, including as an athletic referee, keeping her edge in sports through participation in tournament teams, and pursuing a passion for serving disadvantaged children in Appalachia through volunteer teaching at the Wade Center in Bluefield, West Virginia.

Rosalie has been accepted for admission to Virginia Tech, but will be deferring for a year so that she can work as an au pair in Valencia, Spain, where she will learn Spanish through cultural immersion and formal classes, and teach English to the young children of the family that hosts her. She is the oldest of four children born to Serrell and John Stoke; John leads NRAO's Education and Public Outreach department from Charlottesville.

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**Timothy Abeyta**

Timothy is a senior at Socorro High School. He is Valedictorian of his class and has taken dual credit classes at New Mexico Tech. He is the president of the Socorro High National Honor Society, has participated in Youth and Government Legislative Sessions, and is a member of the SHS Renaissance Council. Timothy has competed in Science Olympiad and was part of a MESA Competition team that placed third nationally. He has participated as a distance runner in track for three years and is a four year state qualifier in cross country. Tim has volunteered for the SHS Blood Drive, is a Lector at his church, and enjoys taking guitar lessons. He was selected as a 2011-12 National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar.

Tim is planning to attend UNM as a participant in its Combined BA/MD program. He is the son of Leon and Jacqueline Abeyta. Leon is an Electronics Engineer in Socorro.

**Sierra Harland**

Sierra Harland is a senior at Los Lunas High School and is currently ranked number one in her class. She achieved an Academic Letter all three completed years at LLHS, won "Best in Show" at the local Science Fair, and placed in the B.E.S.T. Robotics and Science Olympiad. Sierra is the National Honor Society President, leading her chapter in service projects that benefit the local community through food banks, toy drives, and a pet adopt-a-thons. In addition to volunteering through the National Honor Society, Sierra volunteers at a local children's home, El Ranchito de Los Niños, spending time with, and helping to tutor, the children there.

Sierra was captain of the LLHS girls' varsity soccer team her senior year and was selected to the AAAA District 6 All-District second team as a midfielder. For more than a decade she has played the piano and competed in various competitions. Most recently she took first place in the PMTNM State Honors Piano program, and for two consecutive years placed second in the Music Guild of New Mexico's concerto competition. Sierra was certified at the National Level in the Piano Guild for the last seven years.

Sierra is the Distinguished Young Woman of New Mexico and will represent her state at the nationals in June in Mobile, Alabama. Sierra is the sister of Timothy Harland, a 2009 AUI Scholarship winner, and the daughter of Yuka Ikebuchi and David Harland. David works on EVLA software in Socorro.

**Danielle Valadez**

Danielle is a senior at Socorro High School where she is ranked 3rd in her class and is currently the student body vice president. Danielle is also currently a member of the National Honor Society, the GEAR-UP NM council, and the softball team. Throughout High School, she has been a part of MESA, and has participated in multiple Science Olympiad competitions. She has taken all honors and AP courses including dual credit courses in Micro Electronic Mechanical Systems at CNM, and dual credit Digital Image Editing classes. She has also challenged herself academically every summer since freshman year by taking college level courses at New Mexico Tech. She has been captain of the Lady Warrior softball team for two years, and has been a member of the varsity team since 8th grade. She has been on the Lady Warrior volleyball team for 4 years and was the team's libero. She has received many awards for sports which include: All District, All Tourney, Honorable Mention, and All-Tourney. She has also been in dance all her life and competed at a young age. She was a member of the SHS Dance Team and performed at football games.

Danielle has been very active in the community by volunteering her time at the Good Samaritan Society, the Socorro General Hospital, the Christmas Homes Tour, the local Store House and recycling collection, and the City of Socorro Senior Center. She holds the prom princess title and has currently been nominated to be prom queen.

Danielle has been accepted to many colleges, but she has chosen to attend the University of Nevada- Las Vegas in the fall. She plans to study International Business and Marketing. She is the daughter of Mario Torres and Liliana Valadez. Mario is a Technical Specialist in the ALMA Backend Group at Socorro.

**Allyson Wharam**

Ally is a senior at Albemarle High School. She is currently the president of the Peer Mentors/ Peer Tutors Club, secretary of the AHS chapter of the Science National Honor Society, Community Service Chair of the Key Club, and is an officer of both German Club and her high school's chapter of the German Honor Society. She is also a member of the English Honor Society and National Honor Society. At her Church, Ally participates in the Youth Group as a Leadership Team representative and volunteers her time teaching a toddler class on Sunday mornings. Allyson has represented her peers at the Virginia School-University Partnership Student Leadership Conference at UVA, and has also served as a student representative for Albemarle High School's School Improvement Committee for the past two years.

Ally enjoys serving her community by volunteering at the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen, Martha Jefferson Hospital, and Sugar Hollow Day Camp for Girl Scouts. She has helped to organize various events and fundraisers for her school, including Science Week, Exam Review Tutoring, and Relay for Life. Her favorite event was a fundraiser for the cause Stop Hunger Now, for which over 13,000 meals were packaged and sent around the world. Through her work in Key Club, she has received numerous awards, including the Outstanding Leader Award, an Outstanding Service Award, and the Above and Beyond Award for her district. In her free time she enjoys rowing and playing violin. She is a member of her school's String Ensemble, which has won awards throughout the country for their performances.

Ally has been accepted to several universities, and plans to attend Virginia Tech in the fall as a member of the Honors Program. Ally is the daughter of Mark and Angie Wharam. Mark is a Machinist at the CDL in Charlottesville.

**Erin White**

Erin is a senior at Pocahontas County High School. She is president of the Spanish Honor Society, secretary of the Pocahontas County chapter of the National Honor Society and Vice-President of the Senior Class. She attended the Governor's Honor Academy and will graduate as valedictorian.

Erin has participated in three varsity sports during her high school career. She was elected to participate in the North - South All Star soccer game and has competed at the state tournament level in basketball and soccer as well as running at the West Virginia State Track Championships. Erin has been actively involved with school-wide service projects such as Red Cross blood drives, recycling projects, the Above the Influence program, and volunteered for the NRAO open house.

Erin plans to major in Physical Therapy and has been accepted at Wake Forest, High Point, West Virginia University and the University of Pittsburg but is still undecided where she will matriculate.

Erin is daughter of Steve and Kathy White. Steve is the Microwave Group Leader for the Electronics Division in Green Bank, WV.