



La Plata Electric Association, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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NEWS

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LPEA awards \$89,000 in scholarships to seven local high school seniors

DURANGO, Colo. – La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) awarded \$89,000 in scholarships to seven local high-school seniors to support their continued education. The cooperative received 43 applications for this year’s scholarship programs. Recipients were selected based on merit by a local committee comprised of 11 individuals from across LPEA’s four districts.

“On behalf of LPEA and our board, I congratulate all the recipients for securing a scholarship and for continuing their education after high school,” said LPEA CEO Jessica Matlock. “We offer these scholarships every year, and every year they become more important to continue delivering the steady stream of trained individuals needed to keep our power flowing and our lives running. We are honored to do our small part to contribute to a strong future workforce.”

The 2023 scholarship recipients are as follows:

- **LPEA Scholarship** (Up to \$28,000 for tuition, books, and fees at any university for undergraduate study): Awarded to Eliza Bosmans from Durango High School to study computer and mechanical engineering at an accredited university, and to Rio Edmonson from GOAL High School to study political and environmental science at Eckerd College.
- **John Voelker Memorial Scholarship** (\$10,000 for tuition, books, and fees at any vocational school, junior college, or university): Awarded to Rebekah Latham from Durango High School to study business and agriculture at Colorado Mesa University Western Community College and to Aiden Rosenberg from Durango High School to study physics and aerospace engineering at the Colorado School of Mines.
- **LPEA Lineman Scholarship** (\$12,000 for tuition, books, fees, and tools for lineworker school): Awarded to Justin Rivas from Pagosa Springs High School to study to become a journeyman at Northwest Lineman College.
- **Tri-State G&T Scholarship** (\$500 for expenses at any school): Awarded to Sofia Maines from Durango High School to study electrical and nuclear engineering at the University of New Mexico and to Zane Ross from Ignacio High School to study to become an electrician at Lincoln Technical College.

“I am thrilled and honored to receive the LPEA scholarship, which will allow me to attend an institution I may not have otherwise been able to attend,” said Bosmans. “I am very grateful for this opportunity and for the support of my local community.”

More quotes and photos from this year's scholarship recipients are available at:
<https://lpea.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/CommunicationsGroup/EgTTXV0QFgJBobrooJBaYWIBP3nBIGq1JIOfVvLPsDpXkA?e=mGZrkg>

Scholarship recipients will be recognized at the LPEA Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. in the LPEA truck barn in Bodo Park, Durango. All LPEA members are invited to attend. More details at lpea.coop/annual-meeting.

The LPEA Scholarship, John Voelker Memorial Scholarship, and LPEA Lineman Scholarship are funded by LPEA's [Unclaimed Capital Credit](#) funds. As LPEA is a not-for-profit utility delivering service to its members at cost, any payments made by members over the cost required to provide their electric service are placed into a patronage capital account in each member's name, referred to as Capital Credits. When the cooperative can, these credits are retired and returned to members as bill credits or by check. If these checks are not cashed after three years, they are considered unclaimed – and put back into the community in the form of grants and scholarships.

LPEA's power supplier Tri-State funds the Tri-State G&T scholarships.

LPEA is a member-owned, not-for-profit electric distribution cooperative serving La Plata and Archuleta counties, with segments of Hinsdale, Mineral, and San Juan counties. LPEA is the fifth largest cooperative of 22 in Colorado and aims to provide safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost to approximately 35,000 members. For additional information, contact LPEA at (970) 247-5786 or visit lpea.coop.

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