



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

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Tim Korte  
(505) 697-3643  
Tim.Korte@nmgco.com

**NATIVE AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED**  
**NEW MEXICO GAS COMPANY HONORS 20 STUDENTS**

**ALBUQUERQUE** – New Mexico Gas Company has awarded scholarships to 20 Native American students, helping each pursue educational and personal success.

The scholarships, awarded since 2011, are available to students in traditional bachelor's and graduate degree programs as well as those enrolled in trade school certifications and community college programs. The \$3,000 scholarships provide flexibility because they can be used for any education-related expenses.

"We're proud to support these accomplished students, who are focused through their educational journey to make a difference in their communities," said NMGC President Ryan Shell.

To be eligible, a student must be a New Mexico resident and an enrolled member of a New Mexico tribe, pueblo or nation. This includes students who recently completed high school or earned a GED and are seeking further education, as well as those currently enrolled at a college, university, trade school or in technical training.

This year's recipients include individuals from Acoma Pueblo, Isleta Pueblo, Laguna Pueblo, Nambe Pueblo, Santo Domingo Pueblo, Cochiti Pueblo, Taos Pueblo, Zuni Pueblo, the Mescalero Apache tribe and the Navajo Nation. The students are enrolled at six universities, two colleges and three community colleges.

The guest speaker at Saturday's recognition banquet was Notah Begay III, golf professional and founder of the NB3 Foundation. He encouraged scholarship recipients to value the support of their families, their communities and their culture.

“Don’t leave your community or your culture behind. Those are going to be huge assets for you,” said Begay, who has San Felipe Pueblo, Isleta Pueblo and Navajo heritage. “It always gave me the will to succeed and to achieve whatever I was pursuing.”

The 2025 recipients, with hometown, tribal affiliation, school and field of study:

- **Kaden Bee**, Kirtland, Navajo Nation, attending San Juan College to study engineering.
- **Sarah Begay**, Brimhall, N.M., Navajo Nation, attending Navajo Technical University to study applied sciences and biology.
- **Shiloh Conn**, Red Valley, Ariz., Navajo Nation, attending University of Connecticut at Hartford to study criminal law.
- **Mya Fragua**, Acoma Pueblo, attending New Mexico State to study nursing.
- **Wacey Jodie**, Albuquerque, Navajo Nation, attending University of New Mexico to study civil engineering.
- **McKenzie Johnson**, Rio Rancho, Navajo Nation, attending University of New Mexico to study business administration and accounting.
- **Gabriella Jojola**, Albuquerque, Isleta Pueblo, attending New Mexico State to study nursing.
- **Kassidy Jones**, Gallup, Navajo Nation, attending Onandaga Community College to study kinesiology.
- **Tatum Lantana**, Bloomfield, Navajo Nation, attending Texas Tech to study kinesiology.
- **Norlyn Lowden**, Acoma Pueblo, attending University of New Mexico to study nursing.
- **Preston Lujan**, Taos Pueblo, attending New Mexico State to study aerospace engineering.
- **Daija Martinez**, Mescalero Apache, attending New Mexico State to study nursing.
- **Brooke Nez**, Pinehill, Navajo Nation, attending Carthage College to study nursing.
- **Aaron Pino**, El Paso, Acoma Pueblo, attending Indiana Institute of Technology to earn a Master of Science in cybersecurity.
- **Whitney Platero**, Bloomfield, Navajo Nation, attending San Juan College to study mortuary science.
- **Margaret Quintana**, Santo Domingo Pueblo and Cochiti Pueblo, attending University of New Mexico to study nursing.
- **Kiela Shroulote**, Laguna Pueblo, attending Brookline College to study nursing.
- **Amari Solomon-Lule**, Zuni Pueblo, attending Central New Mexico Community College to study health care.
- **Hayle Trujillo**, Santa Fe, Nambe Pueblo, attending University of Arizona to study microbiology.
- **Vivyana Valencia**, Acoma Pueblo, attending New Mexico State to study animal science.

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About New Mexico Gas Company

As the largest natural gas distribution utility in the state, New Mexico Gas Company ([www.nmgco.com](http://www.nmgco.com)) provides service to more than 550,000 homes and businesses throughout New Mexico. The Company has about 740 employees in 26 offices, who are responsible for safely and reliably operating more than 12,000 miles of pipelines.