



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **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. This year marks the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Native American Scholarship Program, which has awarded almost \$650,000 in scholarships to Native American students across New Mexico since 2011.

The scholarships 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.

"For 15 years, this program has helped Native American students invest in futures through education and training," said NMGC President Ryan Shell. "We're proud to support these students and the positive impact they will have on their families, communities and New Mexico."

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

The 2026 recipients, with, tribal affiliation, school and field of study:

- **Amanda Benally**, Navajo Nation, attending University of New Mexico to study elementary education.
- **Rainee Charley**, Navajo Nation, attending New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology to study chemical engineering.
- **Raliah Chavez**, Navajo Nation, attending San Juan College to study dental hygiene.

- **Hailey Duran**, Tesuque Pueblo, attending New Mexico State University to study biochemistry.
- **Mya Fragua**, Navajo Nation, attending New Mexico State University to study nursing.
- **Mikayla Gachupin**, Jemez Pueblo, attending Colorado State University to study natural resources.
- **Carrie Hamilton**, Picuris Pueblo, attending Northern New Mexico College to study information engineering technology and project management.
- **Miya Livingston**, Navajo Nation, attending Navajo Technical University to study early childhood education.
- **Ariyana Mahkee**, Zuni Pueblo, attending New Mexico State University/Doña Ana Community College to pursue an associate degree in science.
- **Ashwan Moquino**, Santo Domingo Pueblo, attending University of New Mexico to study architecture.
- **Helena Naranjo**, Santa Clara Pueblo, attending Colorado State University to earn a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree.
- **Kevin Nelson**, Navajo Nation, attending Charter Institute to study HVAC technology.
- **Brooke Nez**, Navajo Nation, attending Carthage College to study nursing.
- **Caroline Pecos-Duarte**, Acoma Pueblo, attending University of New Mexico School of Medicine.
- **Veronica Ramirez**, Ohkay Owingeh, attending Northern New Mexico College to study business administration.
- **Jared Rivas**, Ohkay Owingeh, attending University of New Mexico to study marketing management.
- **Marissa Sandoval**, San Felipe Pueblo, attending University of New Mexico to study psychology.
- **Tamia Teasyatoh**, Navajo Nation, attending San Juan College to study surgical technology.
- **Hayle Trujillo**, Nambe Pueblo, attending University of Arizona to study microbiology.
- **Victoria Victorino**, San Felipe Pueblo, attending University of Nevada, Las Vegas, to study pre-nursing.

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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 about 1.3 million customers through more than 553,000 homes and businesses across New Mexico. The Company has about 750 employees in 26 offices who are responsible for safely and reliably operating more than 12,000 miles of pipelines.