

Scholarship Program Celebrates Unprecedented Success

Students who applied for scholarships from San Isabel Electric for the 2024-2025 academic year have shattered all previous records.

The SIEA board of directors selected 39 outstanding students to receive \$1,000 scholarships, surpassing all previous numbers of scholarships awarded and the total dollar amount awarded. This year, San Isabel Electric awarded \$48,000 in scholarships.

What's particularly noteworthy is that every southern Colorado school that receives electricity from SIEA has at least one deserving student benefiting from a scholarship.

At the heart of SIEA's scholarship program is the \$4,000 Powered-Up Scholarship. While traditionally awarded to students aiming for a 4-year degree, this year marks a significant shift.

This year, the recipient for this prestigious award is seeking a two-year certificate in the trades, and is a working female welder and full-time high school student.

With a future as bright as her welding torch, Hannah Kinnison of the Primero School District, plans to leverage her scholarships from San Isabel Electric to finish her general studies associate degree, earn a welding certificate, and subsequently enroll in the heavy machinery and diesel mechanics program at Trinidad State.

Three exceptional candidates, each with a story of ambition and determination, were in the running for the Powered-Up scholarship. While only one could claim the top prize, the board was so moved by their passion and drive that they decided to extend additional \$2,500 Runner-Up Powered-Up Scholarships to two runners-up: Hailey Maurer of Pueblo West High School and Bryan Williams of Hoehne School District.

The Powered-Up and the Runner-Up Scholarships are in addition to the \$1,000

scholarships awards. So, Kinnison will receive \$5,000 from SIEA, and Maurer and Williams will each receive \$3,500.

"It's our hope that these scholarships are not just a financial boost, but a vote of confidence in their abilities," San Isabel Electric Board President Edward Garcia said.

Each application was evaluated individually by the board using a rubric that assessed various criteria such as community involvement, leadership potential, academic achievement, and goals. The following 39 students have earned scholarships from San Isabel Electric:

- **Aguilar High School**
 - » Dante Gonzales
- **Branson High School**
 - » Cole Hofmeister
 - » Brock Doherty
- **Christian Academy of America**
 - » Jessamae Lague
- **Florence High School**
 - » Jacob Brooks
- **Goal Academy**
 - » Zoe Cappellucci
 - » Jordyn Hardcastle
- **Hoehne High School**
 - » Chrisily Furia
 - » Kami Furia
 - » Bryan Williams
- **La Veta High School**
 - » Brayden Nix
 - » Madeline Bjorum
- **Primero High School**
 - » Hannah Kinnison
 - » Shawn Martinez
- **Pueblo Central High School**
 - » Grace Venn
- **Pueblo County High School**
 - » Amanda Alfonso
 - » Jessie Christie
 - » Jack Walsh
- **Pueblo West High School**
 - » Addison Andrews
 - » Ashley Cordova
 - » Elizabeth Daugherty
 - » Rylee Hardiway
 - » Hayden Herlickson
 - » Hailey Maurer
 - » Ava Pecoraro
 - » Philip Rasmussen
 - » John Velasquez IV
 - » Emmelia Warner
- **Rye High School**
 - » Sofia Crosson
 - » Faith DeRudder
 - » Brendan Gray
 - » Katelyn Huskins
 - » Milena LaForest
 - » Alexia Provenza
 - » Caelen Sirbu
- **Swallows Charter Academy**
 - » Chesney Escalante
 - » Jodi Griffin
 - » Trevor Vigil
- **Walsenburg Jr./Sr. High School**
 - » Antonia Martinez

Announcing the BRENDON BEACH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

In honor of the late Brendon Beach, a tenacious San Isabel Electric Journeyman Lineworker, we are proud to introduce the Brendon Beach Memorial Scholarship. Brendon's tragic passing in an auto-accident after a morning of skiing this March deeply impacted our community.

The Brendon Beach Memorial Scholarship will provide full tuition and fees to attend lineschool for a deserving student who shares Brendon's enthusiasm for a career as a lineworker. This scholarship aims to not only commemorate Brendon's life and legacy, but also to support aspiring lineworkers in their educational journey.

Stay tuned for more details. Information about eligibility, when, and how to apply will be shared in this magazine and on siea.com when it becomes available.

More information about San Isabel Electric's scholarship program can be found at siea.com/scholarships. Applications for future dreamers open for the 2025-2026 academic year on November 1. San Isabel Electric has been awarding scholarships since 1990.

CHILL OUT AND CASH IN

Six ways to save on your summer electric bill



Summer months bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. Why? Cooling your home accounts for a large portion of your monthly energy use, and the hotter it gets outdoors, the harder your air conditioner works to keep you cool indoors.

One of the great things about being part of San Isabel Electric is that we're locally owned by you, our members. Instead of making profits, we can focus on helping our community. That's why we've developed incentives and programs to help you keep your money in your wallet.

Save money with these easy incentives and programs:

- **Rebates** – San Isabel Electric offers nearly two dozen ways to give you money back for efficient equipment you purchase, such as heat pumps and water heaters. Many of our rebates can be claimed by simply filling out a form. Find a list of all our rebates at siea.com/rebates.
- **Recycle** – If you have an old refrigerator or freezer that's running but is not used much, it's costing you. Get it recycled and you could receive a \$60 rebate. EnergyStar.gov has a calculator to find out how much getting rid of an old refrigerator or freezer could save you, or to calculate the savings of replacing your main fridge/freezer. You can also save a few bucks by adjusting your refrigerator and freezer's temperature so they don't run as often.
- **Take control** – Use SmartHub, our account management app, to track your energy use. You can even get alerts when your use spikes so you can make changes



in real time. Visit siea.com/smarthub to sign up or download the app.

- **Free energy assessments** – SIEA energy advisors can determine the overall efficiency of your home or business and suggest ways to improve it. Our Empower program provides free energy assessments to evaluate energy savings opportunities. Professional, in person energy assessments include estimating the amount of electricity used by appliances, heating and cooling equipment, water heating equipment, and rating the effectiveness of insulation, venting, outdoor power equipment, and electric vehicles. You can also do it yourself with our interactive self-home energy assessment tool. Visit siea.com/empower/#assessments to request an assessment with an energy advisor or to start your own assessment online.
- **Turn up the thermostat** – The U.S. Department of Energy estimates heating and cooling account for 48% of home energy consumption. “You can save as much as 10% a year on heating and cooling by simply turning your thermostat back 7-10 degrees for 8 hours a day from its normal setting,” according to energy.gov.
- **Add fans** – Adding fans can have a chilling effect on your comfort level and electric bill. We're not talking about small fans. We're talking big fans that use very low amounts of electricity. Small fans — including the ones that stand on a pedestal that you plug into the wall — and small ceiling fans rely on speed to create small turbulent air streams that

quickly disperse air. They typically use a lot of electricity. Large fans, such as QuietCool whole house fans, can reduce your cooling costs by 50-90% if you have central air conditioning. If you're using an evaporative cooler — or a swamp cooler, as we southern Coloradoans call them — a whole house fan might not reduce your cooling costs, but they can make your home feel 5-10 degrees cooler within minutes.

Another option includes high-volume-low-speed (HVLS) fans. These rely on size — not speed — to minimize energy usage by moving more air at a lower speed.

San Isabel Electric is an authorized QuietCool whole house fan dealer and a Hunter Fan vendor. This means you can purchase any fan manufactured by those companies directly from us. Plus, we offer 0% financing for up to one year and you can pay for your energy-efficiency improvements through your electric bill. Our prices are often the same or lower than local competitors.

We also sell water heaters, HVAC systems, and more. To check out our energy efficiency products visit siea.com/empower.

Most people don't know everything about electricity, and that's why we're here to help you. There are no investors making profits here. Just knowledgeable people with local jobs, working for our neighbors to ensure there is electricity available when you need it. Contact us and we can work with you to find more ways to save energy — and money.

SIEA Board Recognized for Leadership Certification


The San Isabel Electric Board of Directors has reached a historic milestone becoming the only board in Colorado to have earned this achievement. All seven members of the board of directors have earned their National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Board Leadership Certificates, marking a significant achievement not only for the company but also for the cooperative community at large.

The journey toward this accomplishment began with the Credentialed Cooperative Director program. The five classes required to earn this certificate equip leaders with essential knowledge and skills to effectively serve their cooperative and its members.

What sets San Isabel Electric apart is the board's commitment to leadership training. Six board members have also attained the Director Gold certificate. This distinction

signifies an exceptional level of expertise and dedication to cooperative governance. It represents a culmination of efforts to cultivate capable and knowledgeable leadership within SIEA, ensuring that decisions are made with careful consideration and in the best interest of the cooperative and its members.

This milestone is noteworthy within the broader cooperative community. While SIEA is celebrating its achievement, it's important to recognize that only 35 out of more than 900 cooperatives across the country have reached a similar milestone.

 CREA's Kent Singer (left) congratulates SIEA board president Edward Garcia for the board's certification achievement.



San Isabel Electric operates under seven cooperative principles which includes practicing a Concern for Community. Each board member lives in the community they serve, and we all work together to help our communities thrive.

Each month, the Board of Directors donates to community projects to help keep our communities strong and growing. All philanthropic funding comes from unclaimed capital credits not from member rates and electric bills. Our process for using unclaimed capital credits follows state law for unclaimed property. Unclaimed capital credits cannot be used for system improvements, maintenance, payroll or other overhead costs.

For more information about capital credits and unclaimed capital credit, visit siea.com/capitalcredits.

DONATION IMPACT REPORT

February & March 2024

The following donations were approved during February and March's board meetings. All donations were matched by Basin Electric Power Cooperative:

February

\$500

- Gardner Chuckwagon Supper
- Beulah Fire Auxiliary — Beulah Fire Barn
- Stonewall Fire Auxiliary — 25th Annual Fishing Tournament

March

\$1,000

- Walsenburg Panther Baseball — Panther Baseball Equipment Replacement
- Beulah Fire Protection and Ambulance District Auxiliary — Beulah Community Garden at Beulah Fire Station

\$750

- Rye High School Booster Club — After Prom

\$500

- Pueblo West Chamber of Commerce — 2024 Annual Dinner
- Western Landscape Symposium, CSU Extension
- Spanish Peaks Cycling Association — Stonewall Century Bicycle Ride
- Pueblo West High School Girls Golf — New Team Golf Bags
- Fox Theatre Walsenburg — PorchFest Concert
- Primero RE-2 School District — 2024 FBLA State Conference
- Greenhorn Valley Chamber of Commerce — 2024 Fishing Derby



BEWARE OF PHONY UTILITY SCAMS

Scammers are now using search engines such as Google to try and trick you into clicking a malicious link. Here's how it works. The scammers create fake ads with search engine companies that look like billing portals and utility payment options that you find each month to pay your bill.

Once clicked, you'll be prompted to dial a phone number allegedly belonging to your utility company. Scammers know it's easier to trick someone by speaking with them in person. When you dial that number, you're actually calling the scammer — not your utility company. The scammer may talk up an offer about enrolling in a program to help you save money on your utility bills, but only if you "act now." The scammers may demand immediate payment by phone, wire, or in cash or else your service will be shut off.

San Isabel Electric will never come to your door without notifying you first. For both their safety and yours, field crews do not collect payments. We also will never call and ask you for your payment information by phone. Members can only make payments by phone by calling our secure

system. Employees are not authorized to take credit card information by phone.

FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO AVOID FAKE UTILITY & SEARCH ENGINE AD SCAMS:

- Be careful when clicking on search engine results that says "sponsored." Anyone can purchase keyword ads. These ads typically match the keywords you use in the query. So, they may seem very relevant. Look for search results that do not say "sponsored."
- Save or bookmark San Isabel Electric's website — siea.com. By saving the real site, you'll be able to spend less time searching for the real site and make your payment faster.
- Beware of requests with unusual payment methods such as a gift card, wire, Venmo, Paypal, CashApp or other similar services. If something seems strange, stop and call us. SIEA's payment options and account access are also available through our SmartHub app.

ADDITIONAL TIPS:

- Don't give in to high-pressure calls seeking personal information. If someone calls claiming to represent your local utility and they demand

immediate payment or personal information, hang up, and call the number on your bill.

- To verify whether an employee was dispatched to your location, call your utility using the number on your bill or the company's website. SIEA field employees wear shirts with a San Isabel Electric logo and drive logoed vehicles. SIEA employees will gladly wait outside while you call the company to verify their identity.
- Never provide your Social Security number, credit card numbers, or bank account information to anyone during an unsolicited phone call or an unannounced visit.

Save our phone number — 1-800-279-7432 (SIEA) — in your mobile phone's contacts. This will make the number handy if you need to verify the legitimacy of a request, or whether an employee was dispatched to your location. Plus, if you do need to reach us, you'll already have our number handy, and won't need to look it up. We are always happy to help keep our members safe.



Beat the Peak!

Members with an electric thermal storage unit, electric vehicle, electric vehicle charger, or battery storage unit: **Don't forget summer off peak hours are now only from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.** Winter off-peak hours ended April 30. Members signed up for the Time-of-Day Rate pay nearly half the regular rate for electricity, 8 hours per day in the summer, and 14 hours per day in the winter. That's just \$.062 per kilowatt-hour after the first 1,000 kWh.

Go to siea.com/TimeofDay for more info.

SIEA OFFICES ARE CLOSED
MONDAY, MAY 27
IN OBSERVANCE OF
MEMORIAL DAY



MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER AND HONOR