# NCTA

## 2026 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



## Gehrig Eoff

**Gehrig Eoff, son of Cameron Eoff, who is employed by Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AECI), was awarded the David L. Laffere Memorial Scholarship. Gehrig attends Missouri University of Science and Technology, where he is pursuing a dual major in Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering. A 2025 NCTA scholarship recipient, he plans to pursue a career in power generation after graduation. This summer, he gained hands-on industry experience as a mechanical engineering intern at AECI's Thomas Hill Energy Center, where he worked around plant systems and saw firsthand the role of coal generation in providing reliable electricity.**

## Ashley Billiter

**Ashley Billiter, daughter of Delbert Billiter, who is employed by LG&E and KU, was awarded the Thomas C. Canter Honorary Scholarship. Ashley attends the University of Kentucky, where she is majoring in Civil Engineering with a minor in Public Policy. She is interested in transportation infrastructure and hopes eventually to pursue graduate studies in law and public policy. Ashley also completed a highway engineering internship this summer and is active in the Engineering Student Council, Society of Women Engineers, and community service organizations.**



# NCTA

## 2026 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



## Drew Goracke

**Drew Goracke, son of Brian Goracke, who is employed by Nebraska Public Power District, was awarded a College or University Scholarship. Drew attends the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, where he is majoring in Materials and Metallurgical Engineering. He plans to build a career in metallurgy and mining, with particular interests in extractive metallurgy, mineral processing, and metals production. His goal is to apply his engineering education to improving the efficiency, safety, and sustainability of mineral extraction and resource production.**

## Anthony Biley

**Anthony Biley, son of Richard Biley, who is employed by Blackhawk Mining, was awarded a College or University Scholarship. Anthony attends the West Virginia University Institute of Technology, where he is majoring in Electrical Engineering. He plans to become a professional electrical engineer specializing in control and power systems. Anthony has already gained coal industry experience through internships with American Consolidated Natural Resources and Matrix, working with electrical and control systems used in mining and coal processing operations.**



NCTA

# 2025 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



## Camden Schefus

**Camden Schefus is the son of Jon Schefus and Stacey Schefus. Jon works for Nebraska Public Power District in Columbus, Nebraska, and Stacey works for the public school system in Columbus as a para. In his free time, Camden loves to either watch or play sports, frequently with his younger brother Braeden. Camden also enjoys spending time in Lincoln with friends he met at UNL as an electrical engineering student.**

## Gehrig Eoff

**My parents are Cameron and Kim Eoff. My dad works at Associated Electric Cooperative in Springfield, MO. My mom teaches at Nixa Junior High. I attend the Missouri University of Science and Technology where I play college baseball. In my free time I enjoy hunting and fishing.**





## Morgan Adams

**My name is Morgan Adams, and I am enrolled in Seton Hill University's Physician Assistant Program. I also work part time as a pharmacy technician at CVS Pharmacy & am on a neuroscience research team at SHU. In my free time, I love spending time outdoors with my dog, Andy, or by taking care of my various houseplants. I also enjoy skiing, running, and reading. I am the oldest daughter of Kimberly and Craig Adams. Kimberly is a RN who teaches nursing at West Virginia University. Craig is a Safety Supervisor at Bailey Prep Plant, which is a part of Core Natural Resources in West Finley, Pennsylvania.**

## Leila Duncan

**My name is Lelia, I am a senior Ministry major, and I love to dance, sing, draw, and sew! I currently am working on sewing and selling small frogs to fund teachers in Kazakhstan. My parents, Aletha and Steve Duncan, work hard to support me in all that I do. My father worked for Arch Coal, and my mother teaches children with disabilities how to read out of our home. I hope to one day be able to bring hope and opportunities to people without, anywhere that God may bring me!**



# NCTA

## 2024 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



## Camden Schefus

**Camden Schedus is currently enrolled in the University of Nebraska—Lincoln with a declared major in Electrical Engineering. Camden is the son of Jon and Stacey Schefus. Jon is employed at Nebraska Public Power District in Columbus, NE.**

## Mason Fletcher

**Mason Fletcher attends the University of Arizona—Eller College of Management with a declared major in Finance. He is the son of Jayson and Annette Fletcher. Annette is employed at Arizona G & T Cooperatives in Benson, AZ.**





## Anastasia Gukasova

**Anastasia Gukasova attends Purdue University with a declared major in Cybersecurity and Network Engineering Technology with a minor in Russian. She is the daughter of Igor Gukasova who is employed at TVA's Gallatin Fossil Plant located in Gallatin, TN.**

## Tristan Goodwin

**Tristan Goodwin is enrolled in Cochise Community College in Douglas, AZ where he is working towards an Associates Degree in Agricultural Science as well as a Welding Certificate. He is the son of Marshall and Michelle Goodwin. His father is employed by Arizona G & T Cooperatives in Benson, AZ.**



NCTA

# 2023 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



## Camden Schefus

**Camden Schefus, son of Jon Schefus, Nebraska Public Power District, was awarded the David L. Laffere Memorial Scholarship. Camden attends the University of Nebraska, where he is majoring in Electrical Engineering.**

## Devon Borchers

**Devon Borchers, son of Lisa Borchers, Nebraska Public Power District, was awarded the Thomas C. Canter Honorary Scholarship. Devon attends Northeast Community College, where he is enrolled in the Utility Line Program.**





## Kendra Sollars

**Kendra Sollars, daughter of Patrick Sollars, Peabody Energy (Twentymile Mine), was awarded a College or University Scholarship. Kendra attends the University of Wyoming, where she is majoring in Political Science and Sociology.**

## Caden Holm

**Caden Holm, son of Cory Holm, Nebraska Public Power District-Gerald Gentleman Station, was awarded a Vocational, Trade, Certificate, or Associate Degree Program Scholarship. Caden attends Northeast Community College, where he is enrolled in the Utility Line Program.**



# 2022 Member's Dependent **Scholarship Recipients**

*NCTA's Education Committee has announced the winners of the 2022 Member's Dependent Scholarships. Each Member's Dependent Scholarship winner will receive $1,500 to further his or her university, college, or trade school education.*




## David L. Laffere Memorial Scholarship

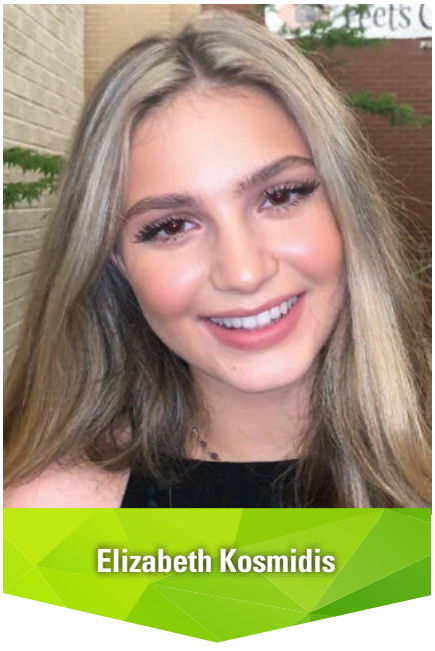
### Logen Livingston

**University of Wyoming and Sheridan College | Accounting**

Logen Livingston attends the University of Wyoming and Sheridan College, where she is majoring in accounting. An intern at Navajo Transitional Energy Company's Spring Creek Mine (SCM), she hopes to apply to SCM as a full-time accountant after she receives her degree.

In addition to her internship, for the past four years Logen has also worked as a live-in care provider for a woman with a traumatic brain injury. She says that this experience impressed upon her the potential for financial exploitation of people in this situation and has sparked in her the desire to open a non-profit organization to provide free Social Security payee services across Wyoming.

Logen is the third generation in her family to have worked at SCM, following in the steps of her father, uncle, and grandparents. "I cannot imagine a future without my yellow hard hat and steel-toed boots," she says. "The skills SCM has already given me will be a great asset to any company, but seeking a job in coal will allow me to build my experience within the industry."




## Thomas C. Canter Honorary Scholarship

### Elizabeth Kosmidis

**University of Tennessee at Chattanooga | Finance**

Elizabeth Kosmidis attends the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, where she is majoring in finance. She currently works at the Tennessee Valley Authority as an intern in the financial services group and hopes to secure a full-time position there after she graduates.

When she is not studying or working at her internship, Elizabeth pursues a range of extracurricular activities, including participating in the Student Managed Investment Learning Experience (SMILE) Fund, the Trading and Investment Club, and working with the Ladies of Philoptochos, which promotes charitable, benevolent, and philanthropic outreach.

Among Elizabeth's post-graduation aspirations are to obtain her CFA Certified Financial Analyst Certificate and secure "a role in finance that analyzes the financials and logistics behind the coal industry."



Devon Borchers

## Vocational, Trade, Certificate, or Associate Degree Program Scholarship

### Devon Borchers

**Northeast Community College | Utility Line Program**

Devon Borchers attends Northeast Community College, where he is enrolled in the Utility Line Program. He hopes to become a utility lineman in Nebraska so that he can pursue his great interest in electricity and love of working outdoors.

Throughout high school, Devon was active in sports—earning varsity letters in soccer, basketball, and football—and in his senior year was selected first-team all-state in football. His many charitable efforts included volunteering on behalf of the American Heart Association, Sammy Superheroes, The United Way, and Night to Shine.

Voted captain of his football team as well as homecoming king, Devon has this to say about providing positive inspiration for others: "I believe being a leader is an important role to fill because, whoever you are with and whatever you do, a positive leader or role model can motivate you to achieve more than you imagined was possible."



Caden Holm

## Vocational, Trade, Certificate, or Associate Degree Program Scholarship

### Caden Holm

**Northeast Community College | Utility Line Program**

Caden Holm attends Northeast Community College, where he is enrolled in the Utility Line Program. He hopes to follow in the footsteps of his father, uncle, and two cousins, all of whom have made careers in the electric generation industry.

Hard work and achievement have been hallmarks of Caden's high school career, during which he earned varsity letters in football, basketball, and track—and was named captain of both the football and basketball teams. He also worked extensively as a farmhand; was active in both 4-H and Future Farmers of America (for whom he led efforts to build a barn/facility for the school); and served as President of the Letter Club, where he helped lead fundraising events and plan homecoming.

Contemplating his future as a lineman, Caden says: "I will never forget last year, during the polar vortex, the line crews that were out in our area restoring power to homes. The world will always need electricity, and therefore the world will always need good, trained workers in the industry."

*NCTA thanks the members of its Educational Foundation Board, who chose the scholarship winners from a top field of applicants. Board members include Sharon Robinson, Blackhawk Mining, Chair; Daniel Sipe, Tennessee Valley Authority; Cathy Proctor, Duke Energy; and Barbara Porter, Arch Resources Inc.* ▲

# 2021 Member's Dependent **Scholarship Recipients**

*NCTA's Education Committee has announced the winners of the 2021 Member's Dependent Scholarships. Each Member's Dependent Scholarship winner will receive $1,500 to further his or her university, college, or trade school education.*




## David L. Laffere Memorial Scholarship

### Jason Fletcher

**University of Mary | Computer Information Systems**

Jason Fletcher is a senior at the University of Mary, in Bismarck, North Dakota, where he is studying for his Bachelor's degree in Computer Information Systems. He is pursuing a career in this field because of his lifelong interest in understanding computer databases, networks, and security.

In addition to maintaining a full-time class schedule—and earning Dean's List honors for the past three years—he works part-time as an information technology intern at Montana Dakota Utilities Resources Group Inc. in Bismarck. When he's not studying or working, he enjoys playing baseball, hunting, fishing, hiking, snowboarding, and spending time with family and friends.

"I enjoy helping users with their technology goals," Jason states, and "I hope to use my degree to help ensure a bright future for the coal family and all that it has to offer." He credits his parents, Jayson and Annette, and brother, Mason, for always giving him the love and support needed to succeed. ▲




## Thomas C. Canter Honorary Scholarship

### Luke Skeels

**Texas A&M University | Business Honors and Accounting**

Luke Skeels is a senior at Texas A&M University majoring in Business Honors and Accounting. He chose to pursue a degree in accounting because it is "the language of business, and accountants are essential in every industry," he says. After completing his degree, Luke will work for Ernst & Young in their Dallas audit practice.

Luke's interest in accounting began in high school when he took two years of accounting classes. He also participated in accounting competitions that furthered his desire to continue his education in this field. In college, he has continued to enjoy his coursework and learning how to understand and analyze financial statements.

Outside of the classroom, Luke is involved in the Texas A&M Wesley Foundation, where he is finance chair, and co-leads a Bible study. He is also Treasurer of the Texas A&M College Diabetes Network, an organization that support students with Type 1 diabetes. Luke thanks his parents, Steve and Suzanne, as well as his sisters, Olivia and Caroline, for their support in helping him accomplish his goals. ▲



Olivia Skeels

## College or University Scholarship

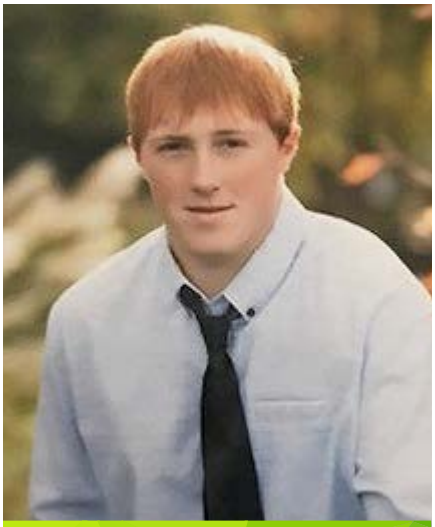
### Olivia Skeels

**Texas Christian University | Biology (Pre-Dental) and Business**

Olivia Skeels is a senior at Texas Christian University studying Biology on the Pre-Dental track with a Business minor. After graduation, she hopes to be accepted into dental school, obtain her Doctorate of Dental Surgery (DDS), and one day own her own practice.

Olivia chose a career in dentistry not only for her love of science and oral medicine, "but also for the rewarding aspect of helping people every day," she says. With dentistry continuing to shift toward more holistic medicine, Olivia wants to focus on assisting her future patients in improving their overall health through oral hygiene.

When Olivia is not studying, she stays busy working at the TCU information technology desk, acting in her capacity as President of the Pre-Dental Club, and attending Bible study. Her hobbies include playing violin and piano, riding horses, and knitting. She credits her parents, Steve and Suzanne; siblings Luke and Caroline; and her boyfriend, Collin, who have all supported her throughout school and encouraged her to reach her goals. ▲



Kane Benson

## Vocational, Trade, Certificate, or Associate Degree Program Scholarship

### Kane Benson

**Northeast Community College | Utility Line Program**

Kane Benson currently attends Northeast Community College in Norfolk, Nebraska, where he is pursuing an Associate of Applied Science degree in the Utility Line Program. "My dad has worked for Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) for 27 years and has introduced me to several line techs," Kane says. "Talking to the line techs has helped me in my decision to pursue a career in utility line work."

In addition to his studies, Kane currently works part-time on a local farm/feedlot and, this past spring, he also job-shadowed with a distribution crew from NPPD. When not in school or working, Kane likes to hunt, fish, and ride all-terrain vehicles—activities he hopes to continue if he can secure work in Nebraska after completing his studies.

Beyond the recreational opportunities, Kane says he looks forward to serving the general public. "I like the small-town atmosphere and have seen the local fire department and Polk County Rural Public Power District participate in county activities," he says. "I like giving back to the community."

*NCTA thanks the members of its Educational Foundation Board, who chose the scholarship winners from a field of about two dozen applicants. Board members include Sharon Robinson, Blackhawk Mining, Chair; Brian Fuller, Southern Company; Cathy LeFevers, Duke Energy; Barbara Porter, Arch Resources; and Levi Cecil, Xcel Energy.* ▲

# 2020 Member's Dependent **Scholarship Recipients**

*NCTA's Education Committee has announced the winners of the 2020 Member's Dependent Scholarships. Each Member's Dependent Scholarship winner will receive $1,500 to further his or her university, college, or trade school education.*



**David L. Laffere Memorial Scholarship**

## James Henry

**The Ohio State University | Electrical Engineering**

James "Jim" Henry is a junior at The Ohio State University studying electrical engineering with a minor in business. He chose to pursue a degree in electrical engineering because electrical devices are integrated into almost every part of life, giving him the opportunity to work in almost any industry. After completing his degree, Jim hopes to work either in the manufacturing or the power industry.

His interest in electrical engineering stems from the impact of his father, Jim Henry, who works at American Electric Power. "From a young age, I was learning about the inner workings of the U.S. power grid and how everyone depends on it to be reliable and affordable," Jim says. "I was curious about how the world worked, so my parents frequently found me taking apart old electronics and other devices and putting them back together."

While his academic studies keep him busy during the semester, he still makes time for Bible study and is a member of Ohio State's Tau Beta Pi engineering honor society. Outside of school, he enjoys 1/8th-scale live steam railroading as well as hiking and biking with friends and family. Jim credits his parents, Jim and Kelley; sister Megan; and fiancée, Haley Heeter, with being instrumental in giving him the support he needs to accomplish his goals.



**Thomas C. Canter Honorary Scholarship**

## Tessa Hannaford

**Bryan College of Health Sciences | Nursing**

Tessa Hannaford is a junior at Bryan College of Health Sciences, where she is majoring in nursing. While attending school, she works as a certified nursing assistant at a memory care facility. Following graduation, she plans to pursue her goal of working at a pediatric hospital helping sick kids and their families.

"Ever since I was little, I have always been interested in the human body and how complicated it is," Tessa says. "My passion in life is to help people during some of the most difficult/scary times of their lives. That is why nursing is the perfect career for me."

Tessa grew up on a farm outside of Auburn, Nebraska, not far from Cooper Nuclear Station, where her mom, Beth, has worked for 25 years and which her dad, Marty, recently retired from after 37 years. She has two brothers, both of whom are majoring in mechanical engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. When not studying, Tessa likes to spend time with her family—playing board games, going on bike rides, and scuba diving.



College or University Scholarship

## John Appelbaum

**Missouri University of Science and Technology | Mechanical Engineering**

John Appelbaum is a junior at Missouri University of Science and Technology, where he studies mechanical engineering. Upon graduation in 2022, he plans to pursue a professional engineering license as well as an MBA.

John found his passion for engineering as a child when he and his brothers would watch and "assist" their dad, Dan Appelbaum of Peabody Energy, on various projects around their house. "Growing up, my father always engaged my brothers and me in engineering projects such as building and launching model rockets, renovating our older home, or fixing the family cars," John says. "These experiences led me to pursue a career in engineering."

At Missouri S&T, John is very active in the Kappa Alpha fraternity. Currently, he serves as the Brotherhood Chairman and an Academic Leader, working to build bonds between fraternity members and guide others academically. He also enjoys giving back to his local community by doing service work every semester. Outside of school, John is an avid outdoorsman, escaping to the Ozarks to hunt and fish every chance he gets.



Vocational, Trade, Certificate, or Associate Degree Program Scholarship

## Megan Lee

**Southeast Community College | John Deere Ag Tech Program**

Megan Lee attends Southeast Community College, in Milford, Nebraska, where she is pursuing an Associate of Applied Science degree in the John Deere Ag Tech program. "I decided to pursue this degree because I was introduced to the farming lifestyle at a young age by my late father, Bill Lee, and this is one way I can make sure I continue to work in the field that both of us love," she says. Megan's mom, Barb Lee, works for the Nebraska Public Power District at Cooper Nuclear Station.

When she's not working at AgriVision Equipment Group in Hamburg, Iowa, Megan tends to a "small herd" of eight cattle—four Angus, and four Herefords. She received her American Farmer Degree at the National FFA Convention this past October and runs a grain cart for a local farmer during the harvest season. Beyond her interest in beef cattle production, Megan is also active in photography and fixing up the family's 340 International tractor.

*NCTA thanks the members of its Education Committee, which chose the scholarship winners from a field of about two dozen applicants. Committee members include Sharon Robinson, Chair, Brian Fuller, Cathy LeFevers, Barbara Porter, and Levi Cecil. For more information or to download a scholarship application, please visit https://movecoal.org/scholarships.*

# 2019 Scholarship Recipients

NCTA has awarded three college scholarships and one vocational/associate degree scholarship to children of the employees of NCTA member companies. Each Member's Dependent Scholarship winner will receive $1,500 to further his or her university, college, or trade school education.



**Recipient of the 2019 David L. Laffere Memorial Scholarship Award**

## Lauren Martinez

### University of New Mexico | Political Science

Lauren Martinez is a sophomore political science major at the University of New Mexico. She is in a program that allows her to obtain her bachelor's degree and an MBA within a four-year timespan, after which she plans to study law. Maintaining a busy academic schedule is nothing new for Lauren. Before attending the University of New Mexico as a full-time student, she took dual enrollment classes at New Mexico State University to earn college credits that would help her meet the accelerated timeframe within which she is pursuing her undergraduate and graduate degrees. "Ever since I could remember, school has been a part of my identity, simply because I love it," says the self-described "coal miner's daughter from a small water tower town."

"As much as I want to achieve my educational goals, I know that gaining experiences are equally important," Lauren says. "I strive to give back to my community—to those in need, to those who do not have a voice, to those that I love, and to those that just need a helping hand." To that end, Lauren has completed over 200 hours of community service. She also maintains a very busy schedule of student activities, including Mock Trial, the Honors Student Association, Emerging Lobo Leaders, Advanced Lobo Leaders, Innovation Academy, mentoring students, and volunteering with student organizations. After attaining her MBA and law degree, Lauren intends to practice family law and business law "to be an advocate for Hispanic women and give back to communities by helping families and start-up businesses that wish to achieve their goals." ▲

*Lauren is the daughter of Lawrence Martinez (Peabody Energy).*



**Recipient of the 2019 Thomas C. Canter Honorary Scholarship Award**

## Trenton Chramosta

### University of Nebraska-Kearney | Computer Science

Trenton Chramosta is a junior at the University of Nebraska-Kearney majoring in computer science with a minor in mathematics. In his letter of application, Trenton cited the security of the electrical grid as the most important issue facing the utility industry. "It will take a new generation of engineers and IT analysts to secure it from foreign and domestic terrorists," he noted. As such, after completing his studies, he hopes to be a software security engineer to help find and fix system vulnerabilities and "solve real world problems." Through hands-on experience in cybersecurity competitions, he has already developed a keen sense for the importance of keeping power industry systems secure.

When he's not studying, Trenton stays busy with a wide range of extracurricular activities—attending competitions as vice president of the university's cybersecurity club, working as a teacher's assistant in the computer science lab, and participating in a men's Bible study program. Balancing a heavy courseload with outside activities is nothing new for this "proud Eagle Scout," who in high school was a member of the Student Council, the Pius X Ambassadors program, the men's choir, and the Lincoln Continentals Barbershop Chorus. ▲

*Trenton is the son of Steve and Janice Chramosta (Nebraska Public Power District).*



## Perry Hayman

### University of Colorado-Boulder | Integrative Physiology

Perry Hayman is a junior at the University of Colorado-Boulder majoring in integrative physiology with a minor in studio arts. "I fell in love with sciences early on in college and have chosen to pursue medical school in the future," Perry says. Over the past four years, she has spent many hours shadowing and familiarizing herself with various medical specialists, from physical therapist to occupational therapist, physician's assistant, and surgeon. "The drawback is, the more exposure I get to each individual profession, the more I feel obligated to explore my options instead of commit to one career path," she says. As of this year, she plans to go to medical school to pursue gynecology or gastroenterology.

Perry currently serves as the Executive Officer of CU-Boulder's branch of the American Medical Women's Association. This student organization encourages women to investigate the medical professions by inviting speakers from the healthcare field every other week to share their perspectives with students. Perry follows up with the group's members after meetings with communications summarizing guests' talking points and linking to internship opportunities. "I take pride in supporting women pursuing a profession in medicine and hope to be a role model for others one day," she notes. When she's not studying or organizing activities for CU colleagues interested in the medical profession, Perry enjoys rock climbing, hiking, camping, traveling, and teaching sailing. ▲

*Perry is the daughter of Joshua Hayman (Xcel Energy).*



## Kayla Barnaby

### Gillette Community College | Business

Kayla Barnaby is a freshman at Gillette Community College majoring in business. She is on course to obtain an associate's degree in the spring of 2021, after which she plans to continue her education at the University of Wyoming. "After obtaining my degree, I would like to return to Gillette and find employment in business management with the goal of owning my own business one day," Kayla says.

Kayla has always had an interest in entrepreneurship and "found it fascinating that you could make money by selling a product that you created," she says. Already, she has established several enterprises, including home-made jewelry and egg-selling businesses, aided by a high school curriculum that included coursework in Money 101, Entrepreneurship, Introduction to Business, and Accounting. When she's not earning money from her own businesses, Kayla helps others with their business ventures—assisting in the concept and implementation of the business plan for her high school store ("Basin Depot"), as well as with several school and church youth fundraising events. ▲

*Kayla is the daughter of Jerry and Kim Barnaby (Western Fuels Association).*

Please encourage your college students enrolled as full-time college sophomores or juniors to apply for a scholarship award to be used for their subsequent junior or senior year or your vocational or associate program student with 25 credit hours in their program. For more information or to download the application, visit our website at movecoal.org/scholarships/scholarship-details.



# 2018 Scholarship Recipients

The NCTA awarded three college scholarships and one vocational/associates degree scholarship to children of the employees of NCTA member companies at the annual conference in Denver.



**Recipient of the 2018 David Laffere Scholarship Award**

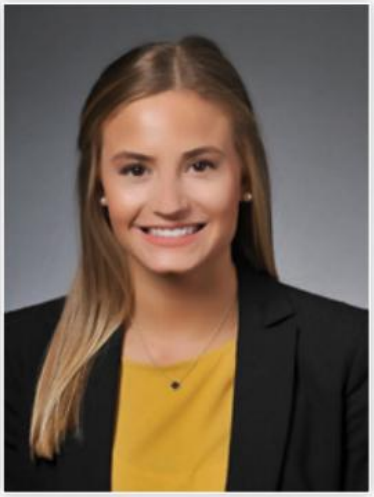
## Alex Fangman

### Missouri University of Science & Technology | Aerospace Engineering

Alex Fangman is senior majoring in aerospace engineering at the Missouri University of Science & Technology. He plans to graduate in May 2019, after which he hopes to pursue a graduate degree in hypersonics and computational fluid dynamics. Alexis currently work on a research project studying nose-cone geometries in high-speed flows, with the goal of using shape-optimization to improve current designs. He is also the propulsion lead for Missouri S&T's aircraft design team, Miner Aviation. Last summer, he had the opportunity to intern at Orizon Aerostructures, where he was able to gain hand's-on experience in the production of military aircraft. Outside of the classroom, he enjoyed playing tennis on Missouri S&T's club team, hiking, playing piano, participating in intramurals, and hanging out with friends.

Alex was born and raised in Saint Joseph, Missouri. He attended Central High School, where my mother, Laurie, works as a secondary math substitute teacher. His father, Joe Fangman, works for Kansas City Power & Light (subsidiary of Great Plains Energy) as a lineman. He has an older brother, a younger brother, and a younger sister. Whenever their family is together during the holidays, they play a lot of board games; even though they are all competitive, there is always a lot of shared fun and laughter. ▲

*Alex is the son of Joe and Laurie Fangman (Kansas City Power & Light)*



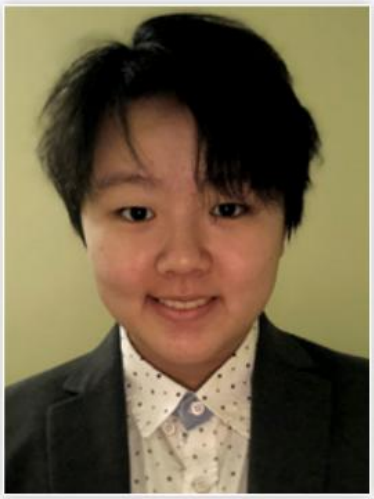
## Jacqueline Janorschke

### University of Missouri | Science and Agricultural Journalism

Jacqueline Janorschke is a junior at the University of Missouri in Columbia studying science and agricultural journalism in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. She is a member of Pi Beta Phi Fraternity for women, where she is currently serving as Vice President of Communications. She is also a member of Mizzou Collegiate Farm Bureau and recently finished her year as the Missouri Farm Bureau Ambassador. Interning for the United States Department of Agriculture, Jacqueline learned first-hand how knowledge needs to be shared so rules and regulations are beneficial for agriculturalists and natural resources. Her goal is to work in public relations for an agricultural company, where the need to communicate is challenging and could ultimately change how food is grown and natural resources are consumed.

Jacqueline hails from northwest Missouri, where agriculture is abundant. Until her involvement in the National FFA Organization, Jacqueline was a part of the 98 percent of Americans removed from everyday agriculture. After she began beekeeping as a project for FFA, she learned about the need for those in agriculture and natural resources to communicate their story. When not spending time studying or in school extracurriculars, Jacqueline spends her free time beekeeping and running long distances. ▲

*Jacqueline is the daughter of John and Michele Janorschke (Kansas City Power and Light)*



## Kelly Li

### Mary Baldwin University | Biochemistry and Mathematics

Kelly Li currently attends Mary Baldwin University in Virginia, where she is double majoring in biochemistry and mathematics. She is expected to graduate in December of 2019 at the age of 16, and then going on to attend medical school. She is attending university at such a young age through Mary Baldwin's Program for the Exceptionally Gifted.

Being fast-tracked into a full college education has granted her the gifts of being able to learn higher-level and challenging material, and being able to work closely with her academic advisors to perform research as a woman in STEM. One of Kelly's biggest goals is that she can motivate other young women to pursue their dreams in the sciences. However, being placed in a college environment has forced Kelly to become psychologically more mature in a short period of time. She is still adapting to the sudden stress of a heavy workload from her university courses, and trying to fight the slight age barrier that may occasionally block her from forming close friendships and connect with her classmates. In the end, Kelly strongly believes that it is all worth it. Being presented engaging course material at her university has helped her further discover and fuel her passion for learning, and she encourages all teenagers to find their own love of learning by finding new ways to challenge themselves every day.

Kelly currently resides in Roanoke, Virginia, with her mother, who works as a project control analyst at American Electric Power Company. At school, she is a member of the honor society Iota Sigma Pi, and is involved in many campus clubs, such as Mary Baldwin's chapter of the American Chemical Society, and the Pen & Paper writing club. In her free time, Kelly enjoys swimming, playing the guitar, and spending time with her two dogs, Simba and Maya. ▲

*Kelly is the daughter of Lili Xi (American Electric Power Company, Appalachian Power)*



**Recipient of the Associate Degree Scholarship**

## Nicole Bivens

### Pima Community College | Radiologic Technology

Nicole Bivens is a sophomore who attends Pima Community College in Tucson, Arizona. She is studying to be a Radiologic Technologist. It roused her interest when she educated herself on the topic and even more when she actually experienced it in person. Nicole's goals are to complete her prerequisites next semester while waiting to gain admittance into the Radiologic Technology program. In addition, she will be taking classes through Northern Arizona University to get closer to receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Radiologic Technology.

Nicole was born in Sierra Vista, Arizona and raised in Benson, Arizona. She has lived there her whole life and proudly graduated from Benson High School. She currently works two jobs; at Dicks Sporting Goods as an Administrative Assistant, and G&F Pizza as a server. It gets a little tough handling school and work but keeping busy is important to her.

She has two older brothers who are each married and have children of their own. Family is important to Nicole and that was her main reason for staying close to home. ▲

*Nicole is the daughter of Robert Bivens (Arizona Electric Power Cooperative)*

Please encourage your college students enrolled as full-time college sophomores or juniors to apply for a scholarship award to be used for their subsequent junior or senior year or your vocational or associate program student with 25 credit hours in their program.

For more information or to download the application visit our website at movecoal.org/scholarships/scholarship-details.



# 2017 Scholarship Recipients

The NCTA awarded four scholarships to children of the employees of NCTA member companies at its annual fall conference in Denver. These are the talented and hard-working recipients.



**Recipient of the 2017 David Laffere Scholarship Award**

## Allison Yaeger

### University of Missouri | Electrical and Computer Engineering

Allison Yaeger is a junior at the University of Missouri in Columbia. She is studying electrical and computer engineering. She is a member of the Eta Kappa Nu electrical and computer engineering honor society as well as a member of the Mizzou engineering student council. Last summer she interned with LS Power, where she worked closely with other engineers and was exposed to many aspects of the power industry. For the summer of 2018, she has already accepted an internship position with Garmin in Kansas City. She is looking forward to this new experience and learning what her future career could hold.

Allison was born and raised in Saint Louis, Missouri and attended high school at Lutheran High School South. Allison grew up with a penchant for math and science and was inspired to study electrical engineering by her parents, both of whom are also electrical engineers.

Allison has an older sister and two younger brothers who all love playing basketball. In her free time, she enjoys reading and scrapbooking. Being from Saint Louis, she supports the local teams, attending Cardinals and Blues games with a stop at Ted Drews frozen Custard afterwards! ▲

*Allison is the daughter of Scott and Maria Yaeger (Peabody Energy)*



## Daniel Riordan

### Ohio University | Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Daniel Riordan attends Ohio University where he is a top member of the Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering program's Class of 2018. He already has a significant amount of experience having worked as a co-op engineer or researcher at Battelle Memorial Institute, Honda of America Manufacturing, Varo Engineers, and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. In these positions, Daniel has had the opportunity to create and improve the materials used in fuel cells, as well as develop advanced techniques to recover rare earth elements from coal and coal by-products. Daniel led one of Ohio University's award winning teams competing in New Mexico State University's WERC Environmental Design Contest and is an Engineering Ambassador for Ohio University's Russ College of Engineering and Technology.

When not at the student recreation center or on a round-trip run from campus to Radar Hill, Daniel enjoys rock climbing, hiking in the mountains, and taking his bike out on the Hockhocking Adena Bikeway. Daniel graduates this coming May and plans on pursuing a career where he can develop new technologies and systems for the energy industry. ▲

*Daniel is the son of Timothy Riordan (American Electric Power)*



## Missy Kimlinger

### Saint Louis University | Biochemistry with Philosophy minor

Missy Kimlinger is currently a senior at Saint Louis University studying Biochemistry with a minor in Philosophy. She will graduate in May and plans to attend medical school at Vanderbilt University. Missy hopes to someday become an Ear, Nose, and Throat physician. Her desire is partly inspired by her father, who has a balance disorder, and her younger sister, who has moderate to severe hearing loss. As an undergraduate, she was involved in a research project studying noise-induced hearing loss in chinchillas. She hopes to continue researching hearing loss in medical school to help in the development of a future drug to help slow hearing loss or restore hearing.

At school, Missy spends much of her time as a teaching assistant for Chemistry courses and volunteering at St. Louis Children's Hospital. She is also involved in research in the Chemistry department, developing a 3D printed device to help with detection of low concentrations of important biomolecules. In her free time, Missy enjoys running and is training for her first marathon. ▲

*Missy is the daughter of Joe and Sheila Kimlinger (Dynegy)*



## Tori Parks

### Black Hills State University | Professional Accountancy

Tori Parks was born and raised in Douglas, Wyoming, a town that thrives on the production of coal. After graduating from high school, she moved to Spearfish, South Dakota to attend Black Hills State University. Tori will graduate this coming May with a degree in professional accountancy. After graduation, she will begin taking sections the four part CPA exam. In August, Tori will begin working for a public accounting firm. She is looking forward to working with a variety of clients from across the state of Wyoming and learning more about their backgrounds in ranching, farming, oil, mining, and railroading.

She has a younger brother and a border collie named Reece. She played softball, volleyball, and ran track. At school she stays busy working as a preschool teacher at the college's daycare center, while taking a heavy course load. When she's not at work or studying, she spends time with Reece. When the weather is nice, they love to get out and explore all the beauty that the Black Hills area has to offer. ▲

*Tori is the daughter of Richard and Tara Parks (Cloud Peak Energy)*



# 2016 Scholarship Recipients

The NCTA awarded four scholarships to children of the employees of NCTA member companies at its annual fall conference in Denver. These are the talented and hard-working recipients.



Recipient of the **2016 David Laffere Scholarship Award**

## Rachel Kamm

### Kansas State University | Industrial Engineering

Rachel Kamm is a junior at Kansas State University. Rachel will graduate in May 2018 with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Industrial Engineering and a minor in Statistics. Rachel has always been passionate about helping others and plans to use her degree to work in the healthcare system. This summer she will be interning with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Topeka and working as an internal consultant.

Rachel has been very involved on campus at Kansas State University. She has been a mentor in the Women in Engineering program for the past two years, currently serves on the Engineering Student Council, and is an active member in Christian Challenge. While attending Kansas State University, Rachel has been employed part time, working 20-30 hours a week. She is currently working as the office assistant of Goodnow Residence Hall. She also does research with Dr. Wu for the Department of Transportation.

Rachel has been successful because she was raised to have an admirable work ethic, a positive mindset, a heart for others, and has developed a strong faith. These qualities are what make her stand out as a student, employee, and a Christian.

*Rachel is the daughter of Richard and Mary Kamm (Kansas City Power & Light)*



## Aubrianna Ansell

### West Virginia University | Criminal Justice/Psychology

Aubrianna was born in Bogota, Colombia and currently resides in Parkersburg, West Virginia with her family. She is the first of twelve children and has always strived to be an outstanding and loving role model for each of her younger siblings and those around her. Aubrianna is currently attending West Virginia State University and majoring in Criminal Justice and Psychology. Upon receiving her bachelor's degree, she intends on pursuing her masters and doctorate degrees in both disciplines. Having always had a desire to work in a field that permitted her to help others, her ultimate career goal is to work with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Aubrianna is very involved with her church. She signed for a deaf population in her congregation for several years and is currently a group leader for her church's Bible school. She also helps organize and play in the "Praise Band" ministry in her church. Aubrianna is an accomplished pianist and has competed in state, national, and international piano competitions. She placed first in state and nationals and second in international competitions.

Being involved with her community is also very important to her. She has helped with the organization and fundraising for the "Light the Night" walk for those with leukemia. For the past three years she's served as an organizer and team player for the annual fundraising 5K run for a local homeless shelter in Pennsylvania. She also volunteers and participates for a week each year with Franklin Graham's "Samaritan's Purse" project held in North Carolina.

*Aubrianna is the daughter of Tim and Carla Ansell (Dynegy)*



## Grant Lindblom

### University of Wyoming | Electrical Engineering

Grant Lindblom was born and raised in Gillette Wyoming. His father's background in civil engineering and coal mining provided him with a very close connection to the coal industry. He is currently a senior in the Electrical Engineering program at the University of Wyoming.

During his summer breaks from college, Grant has held two internships in Gillette. He worked as a field engineer for Morrison-Mairele, Inc. where he spent the summer at a rural airport overseeing a runway and electrical rehabilitation project. This past summer, he worked as an electrical engineering intern for Cloud Peak Energy at their Cordero Rojo mine. Grant worked on several projects including a dragline rebuild, shovel motivator, and a new main substation plan. This is where he discovered that his passion lies in power engineering.

Currently at the University of Wyoming, he is working on the UW Microgravity project for NASA as his senior design project. The goal of the project is to replace the current earth based microgravity testing platforms with one that is more affordable. Grant likes to keep busy and always have something to do, but when he has free time he likes to hike, snowshoe, and fish around Laramie, Wyoming.

*Grant is the son of Owen and Reba Lindblom (Cloud Peak Energy)*



## McKenna McCreary

### Black Hills State University | Math and History Education

Scholarship recipient, McKenna McCreary is a senior enrolled at Black Hills State University located in Spearfish, South Dakota. She is majoring in Math Education with a minor in History. McKenna played high school volleyball in Gillette, Wyoming where she graduated as a Salutatorian. Facing a big decision between engineering and math education, McKenna found her heart was truly in the classroom.

McKenna is a "coal miner's daughter" and worked for a summer at a large surface coal mine where she enhanced her appreciation for coal in the energy industry. With this background she plans to share the need for coal in her future classrooms.

McKenna worked at a local tourist site called the Vore Buffalo Jump giving tours on the unique history of the location. She also tutored students who were struggling with math at the Math Assistance Center on campus. She is currently in her final semester student teaching Algebra, Algebra II, and Pre-Calculus in a high school classroom.

As a lover of the outdoors, McKenna's free time is spent skiing, biking, hiking, and camping. McKenna loves lifting weights and running outdoors, weather permitting. After graduation, she plans to live in Wyoming.

*McKenna is the daughter of Tim and Lori McCreary (Arch Coal)*



# 2015 Scholarship Recipients

The NCTA awarded four scholarships to children of the employees of NCTA member companies at its annual fall conference in Denver. These are the talented and hard-working recipients.



**Recipient of the 2015 David Laffere Scholarship Award**

## Zachary Jensen

### Michigan Technological University | Electrical Engineering

Zachary Jensen is currently a second year student with junior status at Michigan Technological University studying Electrical Engineering with a minor in Enterprise and a certificate in Power Systems. He plans to pursue a Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering after completing his Bachelor's Degree. Having grown up around Wisconsin Public Service and the power industry, he is interested in working in the power generation field after graduation.

At Michigan Tech, Zachary participates in varsity track and field and is a part of the St. Albert's campus ministry. He is also the president of Green Campus Enterprise where he is working on a project to determine the feasibility of installing a wind turbine to help provide power to the campus ski hill. His team is currently working to determine which turbine would be best suited for their site and situation. The decision to select a larger or smaller sized turbine for the project ties back, as most decisions of this type do, to the economic benefits derived from any excess generation and whether a monetary sell back or credit sell back would be better.

*Zach is the son of Brian Jensen (Wisconsin Public Service, now WEC Energy Group)*



## Patrick Keep

### Iowa State University | Mechanical Engineering

Patrick Keep is originally from Columbus, Nebraska and graduated from Columbus High School in 2013. He is currently attending Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa pursuing a Bachelor's of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering with a Spanish Minor. He is on track to graduate with Honors in May 2017.

Patrick has kept busy in during his summers with internships. In 2014, he interned with Vishay Dale Electronics as a Process Engineering Intern, creating and revising drawings, models, and various documents for parts, fixtures, and packaging material. In 2015, he interned with BD Pharmaceutical Systems as an Engineer Intern, where he designed a more accurate fixture to align tooling on forming machines to eliminate any unintentional variations in dimensions.

This summer he hopes to study abroad for two or three weeks before starting an internship with a large electric utility company.

At Iowa State, Patrick is involved in a research project to determine the cause of failure in drive trains. Upon graduation, he plans to pursue a Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Master's Degree in Business Administration. His primary long-term goal is to design and develop clean, environmentally-friendly fuel sources for the generation of electricity.

Scouting has been a large part in Patrick's life. He started out as a little Tiger Cub and worked his way up to Eagle Scout. While a scout, he has explored the country and abroad as well by participating in high adventure camp, National Jamboree, and World Jamboree. He remains active in scouting, as Assistant Scoutmaster for the Ames, Iowa area.

*Patrick is the son of Charles Keep (Nebraska Public Power District)*



## Austin Diericx

### Southern Illinois University | Mining Engineering

Austin Diericx of Troy, Illinois, is a senior at Southern Illinois University. In spring 2016 he will graduate from SIU's Engineering Department with a B.S. in Mining Engineering and a minor in Business and Administration.

A Dean's List student with a 3.6 GPA, Austin has worked under the guidance of Dr. Yoginder Chugh doing research to reduce coal dust. Specifically, he conducted research in micro emulsion technologies which could be applied in coal mines to reduce the amount of fine dust particles entering a person's respiratory system and causing health issues. Also at SIU, Austin has been an active member of the local SME chapter, Saluki Miners, and is an active member of the Beta Chi chapter of Phi Kappa Tau.

In his free time, Austin enjoys playing golf, soccer, and being active. His father is employed by Dynegy in their Environmental Compliance group.

*Austin is the son of Rick Diericx (Dynegy)*



## Bailey Wynn

### Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville | Nursing

Bailey Wynn is a 20-year-old Junior in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Program at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. Her educational goals include completing her BSN in May 2017 and then completing her Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) advanced degree. She would like to work in a hospital or clinic while concurrently working on her advanced degree.

Bailey was born and raised in Southern Illinois, in an extremely rural and poverty-stricken area. She would like to give back to the area by working there, providing quality service to an area that desperately needs it. Bailey was valedictorian of her high school graduating class and graduated with over 22 college credit hours already behind her. She was raised in a household that believes in hard work and going the extra mile. She is working to help pay her college expenses and in doing so has gained valuable hands-on experience in two different assisted-living settings. Her time management skills must be excellent as she has maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA through 3 years of college coursework and has been on the Dean's List every semester of her college career.

Bailey has been actively involved in her home church and also the Trailhead Church which she attends while at school. In 2015, she spent two weeks on a mission trip to Uganda. She believes her faith will provide a good foundation for her career in healthcare, helping her make sometimes difficult decisions, and dealing empathically with patients and their families. She is actively involved in the SIUE Student Nurse Association, Campus Crusade for Christ, and the Cougar Fellowship.

*Bailey is the daughter of Matt & Trudy Wynn (Peabody Energy)*



# 2014 Scholarship Recipients

The NCTA awarded four scholarships to children of the employees of NCTA member companies at its annual fall conference in Denver. These are the talented and hard-working recipients.



Recipient of the **2014 David Laffere Scholarship Award**

## Thomas Cameron Sego

### Utah State University | Electrical Engineering

Thomas Cameron Sego grew up in the small town of Mount Pleasant, Utah with an avid interest in sports and the outdoors. In high school he played football, basketball, and tennis, serving as the captain of both the football and tennis teams. Spare moments were spent hunting and fishing with his dad. A student leader, he served as Junior Class President and Student Body President as a senior and is a member of the National Honor Society.

With a GPA of 3.95 in the Professional Program for Electrical Engineering at Utah State, Cameron was recently nominated as a candidate for outstanding pre-professional and was offered an undergraduate research assistant position in the USU Bridge Lab. Starting this year, he is serving as the administrative assistant in the school's chapter of the Engineering Council and is one of the University's three electrical engineering ambassadors. These positions have helped him reach out to students in more ways than he could have imagined.

Cameron served an internship at Bowie Resource Partner's Skyline Coal Mine where he worked underground with the maintenance crews. This exposure to mining processes and the use of coal for affordable energy has piqued an interested energy production in general. He believes that many of the processes used in mining today could be optimized, and plans to do some research during his senior year on this topic.

*Cameron is the son of Jeff & Janiel Sego (Bowie Resource Partners)*



## Laura Poletti

### Purdue University | Accounting and Management

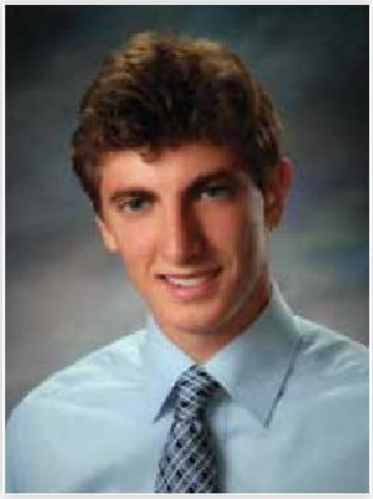
Laura Poletti is a junior at Purdue University studying Accounting and Management with concentrations in International Business and Spanish. She grew up near Roanoke, Virginia, but moved to Kenosha, Wisconsin a few years ago. Laura plans on obtaining her Masters of Accountancy and then taking the CPA exam. She hopes to gain internship experience in both public and corporate accounting to aid her in determining which area she would like to focus on in the future.

She has loved her experience at Purdue where she is involved in campus activities, holds a part-time job and maintains a high GPA. She is the CFO of her sorority, the Finance Director for Women in Business, a Promotional Officer for a professional organization on campus called Old Masters, and is active in the community, helping teach English to Spanish speakers and volunteering at service events.

Last summer, Laura had the unique opportunity to study and intern in London, England. Along with gaining some direct experience in corporate accounting and taking a class, she enjoyed summertime in the UK by embracing the culture, attending plays, going to Wimbledon, seeing the Royal family, taking side trips to Scotland and Wales, and so much more! Next semester, she attend school in Seville, Spain, taking business classes taught in Spanish and several other classes to fulfill her Spanish minor requirements.

The coal industry has been a large part of Laura's family for several generations. Her parents met when they were both working in the industry and her grandfather and uncle both spent some of their careers working in the coal industry as well.

*Laura is the daughter of Phil and Mary Poletti (Crown Products and Services)*



## Alexander Rookey

### University at Buffalo | Computer Science

Alexander Rookey grew up in the village of Sackets Harbor, NY. He graduated salutatorian from Sackets Harbor Central School with a graduating class size of thirty-seven students. He is currently in his junior year at the University at Buffalo studying for a degree in Computer Science. He was recently offered a returning internship at Google for the summer of 2015.

Alexander enjoys the outdoors which is easy to do when one lives only a mile away from Lake Ontario. His favorite summer activities are water skiing and camping. In the winter, he enjoys snowboarding and snowmobiling with his dad and his friends. The family has a cat, Sport, who Alexander affectionately calls Fat Cat. His younger sister, Amanda, is also in college. She is in her freshman year at State University of New York at Plattsburgh.

"I am looking forward to graduating next year and taking the skills I've learned during my time in college and using them to make the world a safer place."

*Alexander is the son of Thomas Rookey (Dynegy)*



## Kortney Hujet

### University of Wisconsin-Madison | Mechanical Engineering

Kortney Hujet grew up in De Pere, Wisconsin, where she attended De Pere High School. Throughout high school she participated in various activities including varsity soccer, cross country, National Honor Society, Key Club, and Ski & Snowboard Club. Kortney balanced her extra-curricular activities with her studies and graduated at the top of her class with a 4.0 GPA.

Kortney is currently a junior in the Mechanical Engineering department at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Engineering is a good fit for her since she has always been interested in how things work and how products can be improved. On schedule to graduate in the spring of 2016, she would like to work in the energy industry, specifically at a power generation plant of some type. Following in her father's footsteps into the field of energy generation has been an interest of hers for as long as she can remember. She believes that the significant changes the energy industry is going through now will continue for many years to come. She is looking forward to the opportunity of being part of this time in the industry.

*Kortney is the daughter of Kevin and Penny Hujet (Wisconsin Public Service)*



# 2013 Scholarship Recipients

The NCTA awarded four scholarships to children of the employees of NCTA member companies at its annual fall conference in Denver. These are the talented and hard-working recipients.



## Melina Mercier - 2013 David Laffere Scholarship Award Winner

### Virginia Tech | Engineering Science and Mechanics

Melina is currently a senior at Virginia Tech majoring in Engineering Science and Mechanics with a minor in Biomedical Engineering. She is also a first year graduate student in Mechanical Engineering pursuing her Master's Degree. Melina's current field of research is in prosthetic liners where she is working to design a more comfortable lower limb liner for amputees. The goal is to help the hundreds of thousands of amputees who suffer lower limb amputations. She has been involved in the development of this project since 2012, and will continue work into her second year of graduate school.

In her free time, Melina is heavily involved in the Catholic community at Virginia Tech and has participated in several service trips with them. She was one of the founders of an undergraduate biomedical engineering organization that provides service, professional, and academic resources to undergraduates interested in the field of biomedical engineering. She currently serves as President for the organization and has overseen a tripling of membership in the past year. She enjoys photography and goes scuba diving whenever she gets a chance.

*Melina is the daughter of Mike and Theresa Mercier (Appalachian Power)*



## Matthew Palmer

### West Virginia University | Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering

Matthew Palmer is from Moundsville, West Virginia. He is currently attending West Virginia University majoring in Petroleum and Natural Gas engineering with a minor in Geology. During high school he was involved in many activities including: Jazz Band, Marching Band, Concert Band, Percussion Ensemble, World Drumming Ensemble, Steel Drum Band, Academic Team, National Honor Society, and Peer Leadership. During this time Matthew was also active with the Boy Scouts and earned the Eagle Scout Award. To culminate his high school career, he was three year Class President and Valedictorian of the graduating class.

Upon attending WVU he has been involved with the Mini-Baja Senior Design Project, Engineers without Borders, Honors Tutoring, and two different church bands in town. As an Honors College student he is a Presidential Scholar and prides himself in his work ethic. In his spare time he enjoys the outdoor activities including camping, fishing, hiking, and biking. Matthew is looking forward to working in the energy industry after graduation and hopes to find employment as a Drilling Engineer.

*Matthew is the son of Jeffrey & Debbie Palmer (American Electric Power)*



## Adam Metzger

### Kansas State | Mechanical Engineering

Adam Metzger is currently a senior in Mechanical Engineering at Kansas State. Born in Morris Council Grove, Kansas, his family moved to Rock Port, Missouri when he was young. Adam attended Rock Port High School where he played football, ran track, and competed on the Academic Bowl team. Adam's parents both attended Kansas State and Adam knew he was going to be a Wildcat too on the day he watched his first Wildcat football game. Along with one older brother, every member of the family is a huge K-State fan and they all love their K-State football. Interested in math and science, he also elected to follow his father's footsteps into Mechanical Engineering.

While at Kansas State, Adam has been involved in design team activities for his Introduction to Mechanical Engineering class and for the University's Mini Baja SAE Design Team (2011/12). Last spring, Adam became a member of Tau Beta Pi, the national engineering honor society. Adam enjoys competitive sports, participating as a member of the Kansas State Club Baseball team and in multiple intramural athletics during the year.

*Adam is the son of Mark and Deanne Metzger (Nebraska Public Power District)*



## Timothy Voss

### Auburn University | Accounting/Finance

Timothy Voss, a senior at Auburn University, has challenging career aspirations. Just 3 ½ years ago, he set out to graduate with degrees in Accounting and Finance. He intends to graduate a semester early, intern this spring, and obtain a Masters of Accountancy degree and a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) license by 2015.

Tim thrives in challenging, collaborative, client-focused environments; he thoroughly enjoyed his internship with Deloitte in New York City where he worked with several project teams to analyze and implement tax strategies for one of the firm's largest clients. He is intrigued by the energy industry and believes there may be significant opportunities whereby he could utilize his tax and finance skills to develop creative business solutions in today's dynamic environment.

He has found that he can blend his passions for learning and serving by actively participating in organizations such as the College of Business Executive Society and Beta Alpha Psi. Tim is an avid sportsman and a member of the Auburn Bass Fishing Team.

*Timothy is the son of Lisa & Jeffrey Voss (WE Energies)*



# 2012 Scholarship Recipients

The NCTA awarded four scholarships to children of the employees of NCTA member companies at its annual fall conference in Denver. This year it was just so close that we added a fifth scholarship! These are the talented and hard-working recipients

**By Emily Regis, Arizona Electric Power Cooperative**
**NCTA Treasurer and former Chairman of the Education Committee**



## Michelle Hummel - David Laffere Scholarship Winner

Case Western Reserve University | Civil Engineering

Michelle Hummel is a junior at Case Western Reserve University. She plans to complete her bachelor's degree in civil engineering with a focus in environmental engineering in May of 2014. After graduation, Michelle plans to attend graduate school to earn a master's degree in environmental or water resources engineering. Michelle then hopes to work as a water resources engineer. She is interested in designing water and wastewater systems or working to rehabilitate streams and other waterways. She became interested in water resources engineering after she joined the Engineers Without Borders (EWB) chapter at her university in her first semester of college. Through this organization, she has been able to use engineering methods that she learned in the classroom and apply them to real world situations. During her first year as a member of EWB, she helped design the supply line of a water system for a rural community in the Dominican Republic and then later traveled there to take charge of the installation of one line of the system. This challenging experience has helped to shape her career goals. Michelle is extremely grateful for the NCTA scholarship that will help her continue to pursue her passion for water system design.

*Michelle is the daughter of David Hummel, an employee of American Electric Power in Canton, Ohio.*



## Laura Blunk

Truman State University | Chemistry

Laura Blunk is a senior attending Truman State University. After completing her bachelor's degree in chemistry in the spring 2013, Laura will be looking for an opportunity to do research with materials that can improve the efficiency and environmental impact of using the nation's natural resources, such as coal, for energy. Laura has already begun to work towards her goals and research interests. She recently was involved in a professor's research project on synthesizing an effective and reusable carbon dioxide scrubber for power plant smoke stacks. She has also participated in two summer internships that have given her many effective lab skills. She was a Summer Scholar at the Stowers Institute for Medical Research in Kansas City, MO in 2010. During the summer of 2012, she was part of a Stevens' Fellowship Program at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Laura is already on her way toward a career in researching answers to today's energy-related challenges.

*Laura is the daughter of Ed Blunk, an employee of Kansas City Power and Light, Kansas City, Missouri.*



## Jacob Leigh

### University of Wisconsin | Biology and Environmental Science

Jacob Leigh is a senior at University of Wisconsin, Green Bay working towards a double major in Biology and Environmental Science. Jacob would like to work for a utility company in an environmental related field after graduation, and also become involved in promoting public awareness of environmental issues such as clean water initiatives and waste disposal efforts. As a student worker in the Environmental Department at Integrys, Jacob's responsibilities included a variety of field studies, lab work and analytical data entry. The field work included sampling wells, monitoring invasive species and stream quality and leading stranded organism surveys during draw-downs at reservoirs. Another aspect of this job was the research and compilation of information on threatened bats, larger birds and invasive plants at substation and transformer sites owned by the utility. Jacob is strongly committed to serving his community and volunteers his time as an assistant Boy Scout Master. Jacob has also trained as a lifeguard where he has gained valuable emergency lifesaving and instructional skills, and has also worked as a student ambassador for the University of Wisconsin—Green Bay. Jacob is also involved with Cru, a Christian organization for college students, and is a member of Phi Eta Sigma. After graduation from University of Wisconsin—Green Bay, Jacob eventually plans on obtaining a graduate degree in Environmental Science.

*Jacob is the son of Robert Leigh, an employee of Integrys Business Support, LLC – Wisconsin Public Service, Green Bay, Wisconsin.*



## Meghan Mullins

### University of Virginia's College at Wise
### Biology with a minor in Psychology

Scholarship winner Meghan Mullins is pursing both a major in Biology and a minor in Psychology at University of Virginia's College at Wise, VA. These education goals will help Meghan to pursue a career as a Physician's Assistant after enrolling in a graduate degree program in medical science. After obtaining these degrees, Meghan would like to return to her home town in Dickenson County, VA to practice medicine. Growing up in rural Virginia, Meghan observed that the region lacked a large number of health care providers. This region of Virginia is a designated medically under-served area where community members must often travel long distances to obtain emergent treatment or to see a specialist. Meghan was drawn towards a career as a Physician's Assistant after speaking with a local PA in her community. In June 2012, she began to shadow a local physician and his Nurse Practitioner in order to expand the scope of her medical experience. In March 2012, Meghan was selected as a summer student fellow for the Healthy Appalachia Institute. Meghan focused her research in this program on the effects of tobacco use on the pulmonary function of coal miners diagnosed with Coal Worker's Pneumoconiosis. Being chosen for one of the NCTA scholarships has allowed Meghan to focus on her educational and professional goals of returning to her hometown and helping the members of her community with a trustworthy option for healthcare close to home.

*Meghan is the daughter of Carroll Wayne McCoy, an employee of Alpha Natural Resources, Paramount Coal Company Deep Mine # 41, McClure, Virginia.*



## Hannah Varel

University of Missouri

Accounting

Hannah Varel is on track to graduate from the University of Missouri with a Master's in Accounting. Hannah is currently a junior and has very challenging, yet reachable career aspirations. Hannah loves sports and hopes to be hired full-time out of college by a Big 4 Accounting firm and establish herself as an accountant in the professional sports industry. At "Mizzou", Hannah is a member of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners and is also on the women's basketball team and hopes to be accepted into the Beta Alpha Si Accounting Fraternity. Along with Hannah's challenging academic and extra-curricular schedule, Hannah is also an intern at Ameren in the strategic sourcing department. At Ameren, Hannah finds that she is required to think outside of the box and analyze data for both financial and risk analysis. Teamwork has also been a necessity in this position as she must communicate on multiple projects; specifically while in assisting with an internal process development project. Hannah is a diligent worker and strives for perfection at school and in the workplace. Hannah comes from a large family and is very grateful to the NCTA for awarding her with this scholarship that has enabled her to continue to pursue her degree at University of Missouri.

*Hannah is the daughter of Ken Varel, an employee of Ameren, St. Louis, Missouri.*

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# 2011 Scholarship Recipients

The NCTA awarded four scholarships to children of the employees of NCTA member companies at its annual fall conference. These are the talented and hard-working recipients.

**By Emily Regis, Arizona Electric Power Cooperative**
**Chairman, NCTA Education Committee**



*Recipient of the 2011 David Laffere Scholarship Award*

## Andrew Hamann

University of Texas at Austin
Electrical Engineering

Andrew Hamann is a senior at University of Texas majoring in electrical engineering and is admittedly captivated by the electric power industry. During his summer internship at LCRA, Andrew was convinced that the electric power industry held great potential and a wealth of interest for him and he is very excited about working in the industry some day. After graduation from University of Texas in May 2012, Andrew plans to go to graduate school and focus on electrical power systems as part of his degree program. Ultimately, Andrew would like to work in system modeling or electric power market operations after completing his education. Andrew tries to maintain a balance between school and work and is involved in the Tau Beta Pi engineering honor society at University of Texas. He enjoys playing sports in his free time and is an avid Texas Longhorn football and basketball fan. Andrew says he enjoys the utility industry and sees now as an excellent time to get involved in this field. With all of the challenges facing the industry today, Andrew sees opportunity for new ways of thinking and different approaches to evolving problems, such as ensuring clean, sustainable and reliable energy for years to come.

*Andrew is the son of James Hamann, an employee of the Lower Colorado River Authority in Austin, Texas.*



## Brandon L. Yuill

South Dakota School of Mines.
Electrical Engineering

Brandon Yuill is a junior at South Dakota School of Mines majoring in electrical engineering and plans to graduate with a BS in the fall of 2013. Brandon is well rounded individual who plays first chair trumpet in the South Dakota Symphonic band and also in a community brass ensemble. He also plays bass for his church. While working towards his degree with a busy academic schedule, Brandon is employed part-time with SDSMT campus safety. Brandon is very serious about his studies and was on the Dean's list at SDSMT in 2011, and is currently placed in the 99th percentile for math and science in the collegiate assessment of academic proficiency scores. In addition to the demanding workload required for obtaining his degree, Brandon is seeking an internship at a coal fired power plant where he can obtain hands-on experience in the production of energy. With Brandon's leadership skills and sincerity about his academic goals, he has the potential to become a great leader in the electrical industry after graduation.

*Brandon is the son of Violet Yuill, an employee of American Electric Power in Alliance, Nebraska.*



## Daniel D. Morton

### Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
### Electrical Engineering

Daniel Morton is an electrical engineering major at Virginia Tech and expects to graduate in May 2012 with a BS in Electrical Engineering with a concentration in power systems. Daniel recently was accepted into a combined bachelors and masters degree program at Virginia Tech. After graduation, Daniel plans to begin working full-time and will continue with the MSEE program at Virginia Tech's satellite campus. As part of this program, it is Daniel's goal to perform research in the area of power system analysis, protection and control. After graduation, Daniel hopes to work in the electric power industry and then return to a local university to obtain a PhD or MBA. In addition to his demanding work load as an electrical engineering major, Daniel volunteers his spare time to community service organizations. Daniel is an Eagle Scout and stays involved with his hometown Boy Scout troop whenever he returns home for breaks. Daniel has also served 4 years on the executive board of the Student Engineer's Council at Virginia Tech, a nonprofit registered student organization that strives to improve the education of all engineering students at Virginia Tech. With these service and leadership accomplishments, Daniel hopes to achieve his educational and career goals and become a strong leader and engineer.

*Daniel is the son of David Morton, an employee of FirstEnergy in Greensburg, Pennsylvania.*



## Elias Heard

### Georgia Institute of Technology
### Mathematics and Electrical Engineering Dual Degree

Elias Heard is on his way to completing the electrical engineering portion of his degree in May 2013 at Georgia Tech, having already completed his mathematics degree within in just six semesters at Fort Valley State University under the Cooperative Developmental Energy Program. After completing his BSEE, Elias will be participating in the electrical engineering masters curriculum in 2013-2014 at Georgia Tech. Elias would like to work in the energy industry after graduation. He is honored to be able to participate in this program that is sponsored by several companies in the electric industry where so many successful leaders got their start and inspiration. Elias had an active role in his chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers and has remained on the dean's list throughout his academic career. He has also worked professionally at EBay as and Operational Excellence intern.

*Elias is the son of Mindy Watson-Ward, an employee of Cloud Peak Energy Resources, LLC in Broomfield, Colorado.*



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## Kelsey J. Kotur

University of Missouri

Industrial & Manufacturing Systems Engineering

Kelsey Kotur is a two-time winner of one of NCTA's four annual scholarships. With only one year left in her undergraduate degree, Kelsey is still pursuing multiple educational goals. First, she intends to capitalize on her past experiences as a packaging engineer co-op at Anheuser-Busch Inc., and a towel converting intern at Procter and Gamble's Family Care Plant by working at Procter and Gamble's corporate office in Global Supply Network Operations during the summer of 2011. Kelsey intends to work in manufacturing, supply chain design, or transportation logistics when she graduates from the University of Missouri Crosby MBA program in May 2012. Kelsey has discovered through her internships that she enjoys learning new technology, solving problems and focusing on results, all of which are fundamental engineering skills. With her hard work and determination, Kelsey hopes to combine her leadership skills and work ethic to successfully interact with people and technology to solve problems and deliver results. ▲



## Joseph Zimmerman

North Dakota State University

Industrial Engineering and Management

Joseph Zimmerman is an Engineering undergraduate at North Dakota State University who is interested in the movement of goods and materials within the energy industry. Joseph has already gained experience in logistics and industry during his internship at Case New Holland during the summer of 2010. Joseph's education goals include graduating in four years with a GPA of 3.9 or higher and then to continue his education by taking night classes until he receives his MBA. Joseph not only has excelled in the class room, but is also active within his school and community. Joseph is a member of the men's golf team, intramural basketball and men's bible study and also attends Industrial Engineering Institutional meetings and events. Joseph also volunteers by teaching junior golf lessons at Fargo Country Club. Joseph expects to obtain his engineering license after obtaining the necessary work experience after graduation. ▲



## Nicholas D. Molzahn

University of Wisconsin
Chemical and Biological Engineering

Nicholas Molzahn is an undergraduate at University of Wisconsin pursuing a bachelor's degree in Chemical and Biological Engineering. Nicholas' goal after graduation is to obtain a postgraduate degree in Chemical Engineering or a related field. Nicholas intends to focus his educational goals on development of future fuels, including fuels derived from coal gasification, with his primary career aspiration being to work in an area that involves our nation's energy supply. Nicholas has already had the experience of working for an electric power utility during the summer 2009 and the winter break of 2009-2010 at Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (WPSC). During the summer of 2010 Nicholas worked at WPSC in the Energy Supply-Operations department performing various jobs in support of the fossil plant operations. Nicholas also plans to intern at Electro –Motive Diesel, Inc. during the summer of 2011. Nicholas believes that in order for the nation to get past the problems posed by reliance on foreign oil, we need to dedicate ourselves to finding a practical solution from domestic resources. Since coal is the most prevalent domestic energy source, it must play a key role in solving our future energy needs. In addition to his outstanding academic record, Nicholas also spends many hours devoted to volunteering in his community. Nicholas' interests also include outdoor sports and spending time with friends and family. ▲



## Megan E. Reece

Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame
Political Science and Social Work

Megan Reece is a junior at Saint Mary's college in Notre Dame, Indiana where she is pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Political Science with a minor in Sociology. Megan would eventually like to earn a Master's Degree in Public Policy or Administration and perhaps earn a PhD or a law degree. Megan has decided she is very interested in the political connection that companies have with government, and would like to pursue a career as a lobbyist lawyer or government liaison for energy companies. This decision came about after she spent time shadowing the head lobbyist lawyer for American Electric Power in Washington D.C. and also the lobbyist lawyer for Indiana Michigan Power Company in Indianapolis. Megan was very interested in the level of knowledge and expertise needed by a lobbyist lawyer to successfully execute his or her job. Megan believes that with the rapidly growing field of energy, competent and passionate people are needed to get behind the new laws of the country and move it in the right direction. Megan hopes to be one of those people. ▲

