

## Concern for community

### Scholarship recipient graduating early

Del Norte High School graduate Bailey Jones never wavered in her dream of going to school to be a teacher. The 2017 SLVREC four-year scholarship recipient will finish up her degree program at Adams State in December and graduate a semester earlier than anticipated.

Coming from a family of educators, Bailey's degree path was chosen immediately making it easier to jump right in and take the necessary courses to graduate early. Taking college classes during high school was a big help as well.

Bailey studied Teacher Education with an emphasis in literacy, where she loved all of her classes. Observing teachers from throughout the Valley was a huge advantage; she was able to shadow educators in Antonito, Alamosa, Monte Vista, Center and Del Norte. Bailey is grateful to the multiple professors that taught her the value of education. One that made a huge impact on her was Kelly Ozawa, "her love for kids and education was contagious, and she had every trick in the book for how to be an amazing teacher."

The Teacher Education Department at Adams State has a partnership with Center Consolidated School District; Bailey was fortunate enough to shadow a teacher in

Center last spring. There she fell in love with the kids, the administration and the teaching staff. She said, "It was clear that Center had all their priorities in line, and I appreciated that."

Following a short semester, due to COVID-19, Bailey had a sense of unfinished business in Center. The district had a full-time teaching job open for the fall of 2020. Working with Adams State, the state of Colorado and Center Consolidated School District, she was granted a temporary teaching license to carry out the duties of a full-time teacher during her student teaching semester.

Bailey commented, "It is our ninth week of classes in Center where we have a hybrid schedule (half online, half in-person learning), and I am putting to use the skills and teaching philosophy that I learned in my 3½ years at

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Bailey Jones

### The time is now to apply

San Luis Valley REC makes secondary education a priority when giving back to the Valley. With just over \$205,000 given in the past six years, REC annually awards up to 12 scholarships to local students.

The awards are primarily reserved for REC members, although a few of the scholarships are available to other Valley students as well.

"My experience so far at Adams has been different than most years due to COVID-19. My major is GeoSciences, which is the study of the earth, so I am taking geology and chemistry. By being a GeoScience major I am able to work in the museum that the department has," said Adams State freshman Alyssa Mortensen.

Alyssa was awarded the 2020 SLV REC Adams State University Four-Year Scholarship, which is renewable for

up to a maximum of four years. The value of the scholarship equals the total of in-state tuition, some fees and a book allowance for the a w a r d year.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

Alyssa hopes to become a hydrologist after completing her degree. She wants to leave Colorado and discover the rest of the world.

"By receiving the REC

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Statement of ownership

Loren Howard

Meet your co-op

Recipes/Historical happenings

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# Statement of ownership

## APPLY

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four-year scholarship, I am able to focus on my schooling and not have to stress about money. I am able to spend my free time studying for my classes," she commented.

In addition to the four-year scholarship, REC awards an **Electric Lineworker Scholarship**, which may be used at any accredited lineworker school. The value of the scholarship is \$4,000 and may be used to cover tuition costs, required textbooks or minimal basic tools for the program. Although first consideration will be given to graduating high school seniors, this scholarship is open to all individuals.

Isaias Minchaca, 2020 lineworker scholarship recipient, is currently pursuing his lineman career at Rocky Mountain Lineman School in Colorado Springs. He plans to graduate in November and already has a job offer to start working on his apprentice lineman certificate. Minchaca stated, "the REC scholarship will help pay for most of my tools and books needed, allowing me to focus on my academic pursuits. Without REC, I wouldn't be able to focus and achieve the grades necessary to fulfill my professional ambition of becoming a lineman. Thank you for your continued support and investment in my future."

### Other scholarships include the following:

The **\$1,000 Robert Wolfe Scholarship** was established for students furthering their education in an agricultural or engineering field and may be used at any trade school, college or university.

A student looking to further their education at any trade school, college or university should apply for the **SLVREC Past Director Scholarship** and the **SLVREC Past Retired GM Ray Villyard & CEO John Villyard Scholarship**, both of which are valued at \$1,000/each.

The **\$1,000 Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship** is available to dependents of members. In addition, six **Tri-State G&T Scholarships** are offered at \$500 each. Dependents of employees and directors of SLVREC are eligible for one of these scholarships, as are members.

For full requirements and details, see the application online at [slvrec.com/scholarships](http://slvrec.com/scholarships)

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