

Eve's Fund awards scholarships to Navajo Prep students

By Elizabeth Hardin-Burrola
Independent correspondent

FARMINGTON — Thirteen Navajo Preparatory School students were awarded \$12,000 in scholarships from the Eve's Fund for Native American Health Initiatives, according to a news release from the scholarship program Monday.

Ten of the students are receiving the scholarship for the first time, and three

students are continuing recipients from previous years.

This year's recipients include Navajo Prep students from Arizona and New Mexico.

The Arizona students are Sky Harper, a senior from Indian Wells; Isaiah Morris, a junior from Window Rock; Kenny Sloan, a junior from Tonalea; and Natalyn Yazzie, a freshman from Fort Defiance.

The New Mexico scholarship recipients are Joshua Begay, a sophomore from White Rock; Uriel Benally, a freshman from Upper Fruitland; Keonna Hosteen, a senior from Standing Rock; Lance Gilbert Morris, a senior from Sheep Springs; Jaden Shirley, a junior from Sanostee; Alana Smith, a sophomore from Farmington; Kalani Williams, a sophomore from Shiprock; Isaac Yazzie, a junior from Farmington; and Kimberlynnibah Yazzie, a sophomore from Standing Rock.

Student change-makers

"We are thrilled for the continued support of Eve's Fund at Navajo Preparatory School," Shawna Becenti, Navajo Prep's head of school, said in the news release. "The Eve's Fund scholarships will benefit 13 exceptional Navajo Prep students, and we are confident that these scholars will continue to take advantage of the opportunities that Navajo Prep provides and become change-makers in their communities."

According to Eve's Fund officials, the students were selected based on their financial need, scholastic potential and leadership skills. Each recipient's award covers Navajo Prep's required student fees. Since Eve's Fund was established in 2011, the scholarship program has awarded \$60,500 to 44 Navajo Prep students, some of whom received the scholarship each of their four years at the school.

Robert Crowell and Barbara Crowell Roy, the founders of Eve's Fund for Native

American Health Initiatives, established the scholarship to honor the memory of their daughter Eve Erin Crowell, and to address the significant educational needs of high school students on the Navajo Nation.

Monday marked the 15th anniversary of Eve Crowell's death and the 10th year scholarships have been awarded in her memory.

In addition to the scholarship program, Eve's Fund for Native American Health Initiatives has created literacy, injury prevention and education programs impacting almost 60,000 Native children and young adults.

Passion for education

"We remember Eve's passion for education and her desire to lead through service to others," Roy, president of Eve's Fund, said of her daughter. "The talented students of Navajo Prep, with their motto of 'Yideeskággóó Naat' áanii – Leaders Now and Into the Future,' are truly living out Eve's legacy, and we

wish them much continued success."

Founded in 1991 and located in Farmington, Navajo Prep is a residential college-preparatory high school for Native Americans. The school recruits some of the best and brightest students from the Navajo Nation and immerses them into a rigorous academic program.

"The ongoing support of Eve's Fund has allowed our students to thrive," Becenti said. "Ahéhee' Eve's Fund for believing in our students and providing support as they strive to graduate from Navajo Prep and pursue higher education."

To learn more about the life of Eve Erin Crowell and the work of Eve's Fund for Native American Health Initiatives, visit www.evecrowellsfund.org.

The individual biographies of the students who are this year's scholarship recipients can be found at evecrowellsfund.org/2020/02/meet-our-2019-2020-navajo-prep-scholarleaders-now-and-into-the-future/.

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