

Introducing this year's Eve's Fund scholars

Scholarship recipients at Navajo Prep express gratitude and dedication to education

By Independent staff

GALLUP — Eve's Fund awarded \$15,000 in scholarships to 15 Navajo students attending Navajo Preparatory School in Farmington for the current academic year. Seven of the students are receiving the scholarship for the first time, and eight students are continuing from previous years, according to a Jan. 29 news release.

Students were selected based on demonstrated financial need, scholastic potential, and leadership skills. Each recipient's award fully covers the school's required academic and residential fees.

Since Eve's Fund established this scholarship program in 2011 with an initial funding of \$3,000, it has awarded \$116,500 to 72 individual Navajo Prep students, some of whom received the scholarship in each of their four years at the school. To qualify for the scholarship, students

must write a short essay on how they plan to apply their education to achieve their goals.

According to their website, Eve's Fund is a non-profit organization that aims to promote

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This combination of photos shows recipients of the Eve's Fund scholarship, from top, left to right: Kierra Antonio, Laci Antonio, Thomacita Begay, Leannabah Cly, Luke Damon; middle row: Wallen Descheeny, Kamyra Goldtooth, Jerald Hardy, Dominique Henderson, Orion King; and bottom row: Nevaeh Lewis, Brooke Martin, Madilynn Mora, Winnie Morgan, and Luke Smith.

Courtesy photo

Eve's Fund scholars

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hope and wellness for young Native Americans living on the Navajo Nation. The fund seeks to accomplish

Education plays a pivotal role in my future aspirations, as I believe it to be the key to achieving success.”

Damon said he hopes to serve as an example to his community. He said he is grateful to Eve's Fund for providing him the opportunity to attend Navajo Prep School again this year.

this through its injury prevention, literacy, and educational scholarship programs.

Eve's parents, Dr. Bob Crowell and Barbara Crowell Roy, started Eve's Fund for Native American Health Initiatives in 2005 as a way to honor the memory of their daughter, Eve Erin Crowell. Since that time, we have developed a strong community presence and our programs have had a positive impact on over 50,000 Navajo children and teens. The organization is based in Newport, Rhode Island.

Navajo Prep thanks Eve's Fund

"On behalf of the Navajo Prep community, I am proud to congratulate our fifteen bright, hardworking students who have been awarded the 2023-2024 Eve's Fund Scholarship!" Head of School at Navajo Prep Shawna Becenti stated.

Becenti expressed pride in students' accomplishments and for living up to the school's motto, "Leaders Now and Into the Future."

"We are grateful that Eve's Fund has partnered with Navajo Prep for the past 13 years," said Becenti. "During this time, Eve's Fund has supported the vision and mission of our school by funding our students with scholarships to attend Navajo Prep. We are thankful for the continued collaboration and support of our students and communities."

Eve's Fund Scholarship Program

The founders of Eve's Fund for Native American Health Initiatives, the late Dr. Robert Crowell and Barbara Crowell Roy, established the scholarship program to honor the memory of their daughter, Eve Erin Crowell, who died in February 2005. By partnering with Navajo Preparatory School, Eve's Fund helps address the significant financial needs of talented high school students served by the only Navajo-sanctioned college-preparatory high school for Native Americans. Through their hard work and with financial support, approximately 90% of Navajo Prep students graduate successfully, and of these, over 90% go on to matriculate at a four-year college or to serve in the military, including some accepted to the highly competitive military academies.

Meet these committed Navajo Prep Scholars

Thanks to the growing generosity of the Friends of Eve's Fund, with special acknowledgement to the Andrew Delaney Foundation for its ongoing, generous support of this educational initiative, we are excited to

Wallen Descheeny, senior

Descheeny is a third-time awardee of Eve's Fund Scholarship Program. He is from Klagetoh, Arizona, on the Navajo Nation.

"My family and I are so grateful for the scholarship grant for my senior year. The area where I live is a very sad setting as there is alcohol and drug addiction and homelessness. Dropping out of school and teenage pregnancies are also common. Seeing these problems in my community, I do not want to add to the problem, so my goal is to obtain my education and someday help my community heal in any way I can."

Descheeny said education is essential because it opens doors to success.

"I look forward to another challenging academic school year as a senior," he said. "I find it important not to give up and give it my all at one of the best high schools in the Four Corners area."

Orion King, senior

King, from Rock Point, Arizona, said he has thoroughly enjoyed his challenging years at Navajo Prep and looks forward to finishing strong. King is a fourth-time recipient of Eve's Fund Scholarship Program.

"My years at Navajo Prep have been challenging because I come from a small community where the standards in education don't compare to the vigorous academics here at Navajo Prep," stated King. "I have enjoyed my four years at Navajo Prep, all the wonderful experiences, and the awesome educators who truly helped and guided me. Eve's Fund has been a blessing to me and my family. Being a recipient of an Eve's Fund scholarship makes me want to do my best because I want to make the donors and Eve very proud of me. I want to make my family proud, reach my highest potential and goals, and enjoy my last year at Navajo Prep. Thank you, Eve's Fund, for your support these last four years. Receiving this prestigious scholarship and the affirmation that comes with it will continue to motivate me to reach my goals in life."

Winni Morgan, senior

Morgan, of Crownpoint, said she hopes to further her education so she can improve her hometown.

"In the middle of town is Navajo Technical University, which provides numerous opportunities to increase

introduce the following impressive young men and women scholars for the 2023-2024 academic year.

Among the recipients are Kierra Antonio, Laci Antonio, Leannabah Cly, Kamyra Goldtooth, Jerald Hardy, Dominique Henderson, Nevaeh Lewis, Brooke Martin, Madilynn Mora, and Luke Smith.

Graduating seniors and repeat recipients of Eve's Fund Scholarship Program are Thomacita Begay, Orion King, Wallen Descheeny, Luke Damon, and Winnie Morgan. Here are a few words these exceptional scholars who hail from all corners of the Navajo reservation said about their time at Navajo Prep.

Thomacita Begay, senior

Begay, of Tuba City, Arizona, is determined to help create positive change within the family law system.

"I want to be able to help those who need it, but cannot stand up for themselves," stated Begay. "I want to help those who feel they cannot speak for themselves. I hope that my education will take me a long way and enable me to bring support to my community and the people who struggle with issues they are facing."

"I am very thankful that I have received the Eve's Fund scholarship to allow me to continue attending Navajo Preparatory School," she said.

Luke Damon, senior

Damon, from Albuquerque, looks forward to a career in business.

"Where I am from, many individuals seem to lack ambition and self-confidence, with many not believing in themselves or setting goals for their lives," state Damon. "This has inspired me to do my very best in my high school career. I am determined to pursue a degree in business and marketing, with the ultimate objective of owning and operating my own company someday.

my knowledge about my Native heritage. Even though my community is small, it has brought me big opportunities to gain knowledge. I would like to use my education to help increase the chances of future generations obtaining their high school and college degrees, to help businesses grow in Crownpoint, or even to be able to help the people within my community."

"I thank the Eve's Fund Scholarship for providing me with financial assistance to attend Navajo Prep and more opportunities in life," stated Morgan.

Information:

<https://evcrowellsfund.org/about/>



Thomacita Begay



Luke Damon



Wallen Descheeny



Orion King



Winni Morgan

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