



New Mexico Activities Association 2011 Association Sportsmanship Award Winners

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The New Mexico Activities Association has been giving annual sportsmanship awards to students across New Mexico since 2005. Over the years, part of this award has become the Pursuing Victory With Honor Scholarship which helps aid these students financially while attending college. In 2007, the NMAA began a Corporate Partnership with Farmers Insurance Group which now acts as the presenting sponsor of all New Mexico High School State Championship Athletic and Activity Events. Farmers Insurance has also chosen to designate some of their sponsorship funds directly to the NMAA Foundation, which in turn awards these yearly PVWH Scholarships. In 2011, with the gracious help of Farmers Insurance, the NMAA Foundation was able to give out eight scholarships with this funding. Six of these were for \$1,000 and two were for \$2,500. These scholarships were awarded to these students during the 2011 State Basketball Championships.

Please see the following pages to view the complete list of Sportsmanship Award Winners for 2011.

On behalf of this year's scholarship winners, the NMAA would like to thank Farmers Insurance Group for their support of high school athletics and activities in New Mexico.



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2011 NMAA Foundation Scholarship Recipients

PVWH WINNERS



DeAnna Jerge, Goddard (\$2,500 winner)

Most athletes learn honor through victory. Jerge did so through perseverance. A starting libero on the Rockets' 2009 Class 4A state championship volleyball team, she was benched in favor of another player during the team's three-day run through the state tournament that year. "I became stronger through this and realized what it truly meant to be a leader and a team player from the sidelines," she said. "Although I was humbled and hurt that I did not get to play, the experience created a positive change for me." Jerge said she learned that winning wasn't always the motivating factor. Finishing what you start is. She carried that lesson throughout all of her experiences and, to a large extent, has pushed her beyond anyone's expectations. An exemplary student, she has maintained a 4.5 grade point average while balancing the ever-demanding dual role of academics and extracurricular activities. She has been a member of Goddard's dance team, has been named Roswell's Hispano Chamber of Commerce student of the month and is the reigning Miss Roswell. Through the years she has dabbled in political groups such as student council and Roswell's youth delegation for the All-America City designation. Along the way she has met political luminaries Pres. George W. Bush, former vice president Dick Cheney, Sen. Steve Pearce and Governors Bill Richardson, Gary Johnson and Sarah Palin. She has also started her own recycling program dubbed "Teens Go Green" and participated in volunteer work ranging from the Salvation Army to her local church groups. The key, Jerge said, was learning humility during those emotionally straining days on the bench during the '09 state championships. "There are times when I would like to quit but I persevere," she said. "I enjoy belonging to a team because you are able to work with others toward a common goal and realize we are stronger as a team than individuals."



Amy Rendon, Penasco (\$2,500 winner)

Given the responsibilities this Penasco senior has at home, she could be forgiven if she found herself lagging behind in the classroom and in athletics. Instead, she has become a shining example of determination through some of the most challenging experiences anyone her age can possibly deal with. As a third grader, Rendon had her life permanently sidetracked when her mother nearly passed away from a brain aneurism. Add that to one brother's cancer and another's battle with Scoliosis and it's easy to understand how athletics and extracurricular activities have become a platform for Rendon to express her true inner self. "Since I was 6, every year someone in my family becomes ill," she said. "When life presents a challenge I take it head on." And she has done so with the vigor that has inspired those around her, all the while maintaining the highest level of respect for the game and for the rules of sportsmanship. She has remained active with basketball and volleyball and has been generous with her time in numerous community related projects and, of course, dealt with the adversity at home on a daily basis. "This not only shows a tremendous work ethic, but more importantly shows the dedication, loyalty and selfless attitude that Amy has," said Penasco girls basketball coach David Sanchez. A letter-winner in track and basketball, Rendon has worked with Rocky Mountain Youth Corps to educate local kids on the dangers of alcohol abuse and volunteered her time to tutor fellow students in various subjects. Her next step is a college degree in biology, a degree she hopes to one day use to launch a career as a doctor. "Amy's overall attitude indicates an extreme willingness to learn, along with a high degree of personal motivation," said Penasco teacher Maxine Abeyta. "Her excellent behavior, integrity, honesty and performances are all valuable assets to her personality."



Davis Cantwell, Eldorado (\$1,000 winner)

Old school. That's the best way to describe this senior's demeanor on and off the playing field. In a day and age when touting sportsmanship and turning a blind eye to a controversial setback are a lost art, Cantwell is a throwback to a time when such traits were still important. As a four-year letterwinner in baseball and football, he has had plenty of opportunities to embrace the emotional letdown of defeat. Instead, he was often the one who reminded teammates to adhere to the sportsmanship code by not degrading opponents or officials. Following a football playoff loss his senior season, he led his team onto the field for postgame handshakes. After an opposing team lost one of its players in a tragic accident, he presented a signed game ball to that player's family. "You win with players like that and they show their colors in both victory and defeat," said Eldorado baseball coach Jim Johns. Aside from that he is currently Eldorado's senior class president and is in the top-20 percent of his class in grades.



Briana Chacon, Albuquerque High (\$1,000 winner)

Her first exposure to team sports came way back in second grade when she was part of a co-ed basketball team called the Rugrats. A lot has changed since then for this AHS senior. The one constant is the lesson she learned during those initial days of running around after the ball. "I have learned that it's not all about the 'me', the individual; it's about everyone on the team and working together for a united purpose," she said. Chacon has since gone on to letter in volleyball, basketball and track for the Bulldogs, leading the volleyball team to the state tournament last fall. She ranks in the top 10 in her graduating class, she tutors fellow students, is part of the student senate and is active in her church. She's not too bad at math, either. "She is not necessarily driven by her grades, but rather her curiosity and love of learning," said AHS Math Department chairman James L. Phillips."



Channing Moore, Animas (\$1,000 winner)

The valedictorian of his graduating class, this Animas senior has become a role model by balancing a busy schedule that includes the Future Farmers of America, Big Brothers, his time as a bull rider, his prowess as a multi-sport star for the Panthers and as a tenacious learner in the classroom. He has plans to attend New Mexico State where he will study agriculture business in an attempt to stay true to his rural roots. When he's not in school or representing Animas on the athletic front, he's working on the family ranch raising show steer. If his academic track record is any indication, he's well on his way to becoming a success later in life. He carries a 4.0 GPA and is a member of the student council and National Honor Society. Other notables: He helped a charity drive to donate 150 coats for the impoverished in Mexico and has paid for tickets so elderly locals can attend AHS games. For all that, he is known simply as the soft-spoken kid who puts faith, family and integrity before all else.



Camille Rivera, Taos (\$1,000 winner)

It would be easy to say that this Taos senior has used sports as a springboard to success later in life, but that would be unfair to the work ethic she has established both on and off the athletic front. A part-time waitress who participates in sports, student council and just about everything in between, Rivera clearly established herself as a success story a long time ago by doing what she does best – seeing things through and never backing down. She has been a three-sport letterwinner in volleyball, basketball and softball each of the last four years and has earned all-district honors in softball while serving as team captain. She has been part of the student senate since her freshman year, was the homecoming queen last fall and has been on the honor roll every year since her days as an elementary student. "Camille has always exhibited a rare mental toughness and work ethic that is unmatched," said former Taos coach and current West Mesa teacher Flavio Lopez. "She will always lead by example with great character and charisma."



Erin Scanlan, Texico (\$1,000 winner)

Whether or not anyone in Texico remembers Scanlan's athletic achievements 10 years from now is of little consequence to this three-sport Wolverines star. For now, she enjoys her time wearing the school colors while learning the tough lessons that come from victory and defeat. "I have discovered that if the only thing in life that we strive for is victory, we are not completely fulfilling our duties," she said. Aside from sports, Scanlan has held office in her local Future Farmers of America group, donated her time towards breast cancer awareness drives, been a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and been an honor student since her sophomore year. In sports she has been a mainstay with Texico's volleyball, basketball and golf programs. In the classroom she has carried a 4.33 grade point average into the spring semester, ranking her first in her class. She also mentors area grade-school kids on anti-bullying techniques and is a regular participant in her local church. "She has been an excellent example for the entire school by demonstrating her bedrock of morals and her exceptional character," said Texico principal Keith Durham.



Tori Tucker, Floyd (\$1,000 winner)

Being a five-sport star for the Broncos is something this Floyd senior is proud of. Being a solid student who enjoys the challenges of balancing schoolwork with athletics is something she likes even more. It is that challenge that will carry her into the next phase of life as she pursues a college degree. Through the years Tucker has gained friends and admirers by being the happy, respectful student-athlete so many others hope to become. In grade school she was always a class favorite. In high school she has been elected class president two years in a row while participating in several organizations like Future Farmers, the FCA and various counseling and peer groups. In sports she has stood out in track, basketball, volleyball, karate and even on the Broncos' baseball team. She is believed to be the first female in state history to hit a home run in a varsity game. At the end of the day, however, it's Tucker's entire body of work that gets people's attention. "Her ability to light up a room with her enthusiasm, her wit, her non-judgmental attitude flows forth," said House superintendent Lecil Richards.



Maryrose Montalvo (PVWH Adult Winner)

For those outside the Pojoaque Valley area, Montalvo's name might only be remembered through the untimely death of her son, Chris, in a car accident in 2005. Chris was a star basketball player with the Elks' varsity program when he passed away in a wreck on the way to school. For those within the Pojoaque Valley community, Montalvo is a mainstay in the school's sports programs. Whether is a cold October Saturday during soccer season, a snowy night during basketball or a warm and blustery spring day during baseball, she's always there to cheer on her beloved Elks and Elkettes. Behind the scenes she is always there to support the school's academic endeavors. She frequently purchases books for the school's literacy program and was instrumental in promoting events like Read Across America with Dr. Seuss. Although she no longer has children in school, Montalvo is firmly committed to keeping the spirit alive as her nieces and nephews navigate their way through the school system.



Goddard Dance Team (PVWH Team winner)

The pinnacle for any dance or spirit squad is either the state or national competitions that come at the end of each season. Peppered in between are numerous local and regional events in which those squads dedicate endless hours of volunteer work to make their communities better. Such is the case for the Rockettes, a collection of 24 hard-working young women coached by Judaun Pritchard. These girls have become fixtures at Roswell events like the annual Pinatafest, the Eastern New Mexico State Fair Parade and the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Hero Event. They've also raised money for the Chaves County Cancer fund, volunteered to babysit for parents attending a Roswell Children Youth and Families meeting and done countless routines at halftime of Goddard's football, basketball and volleyball games. Through it all they have strictly adhered to Pritchard's call for sportsmanship and community pride by working as a team and being respectful to those around them.



Judaun Pritchard, Goddard Dance Team (PVWH Coach winner)

It's more than just a dance program to her. If a girl commits to the Rockettes, Pritchard wants that commitment to extend well beyond the halftime routines and state competitions. She wants community involvement, she wants top academic achievement and, above all else, wants pride and honor bestowed upon the school by having her girls embody the six pillars of character embedded in the sportsmanship code. "It is without hesitation that the Rockettes believe that we are leaders and must be people of character," Pritchard said. "We make Roswell a better place by going out into the community and being involved." How so? If there is a community event, the Rockettes will probably be there. Their schedule is a year-round devotion to team, training and school pride. "It is groups such as the Rockettes and coach Pritchard that make Roswell such a great city and our event (the annual Pinatafest) exciting for those that attend every year," said Joe Vargas, who serves on the board of directors for the Roswell Hispano Chamber of Commerce.

DAN & LUCILLE WOOD/GRAY GLADIATOR SCHOLARSHIP



JASON MARTINEZ, SANTA ROSA (\$1,000 WINNER)

As a running back, this Lions senior was as good as it gets at the Class 2A level. He led Santa Rosa to the state championship last fall en route to being named his district's most valuable player and an all-state selection at running back and all-district at outside linebacker. Santa Rosa won each of its final two playoff games on the road as Martinez played an instrumental role in both. The Lions captured the district title each of his final three years, winning state championships as a freshman and a senior. He capped his career as the school's all-time leading rusher. All told, he was a four-year letterwinner in football and a two-time winner in baseball, track and basketball. In the classroom he has carried a 3.98 grade point average, been a regular on the Santa Rosa honor roll and participated in several community events like blood drives and church projects. "Jason Martinez has left a lasting and positive impression on the students and staff at SRHS," said Santa Rosa teacher Andrew Sanchez.



Fallon Scanlan, Texico (\$1,000 winner)

Sports are part of Scanlan's genetic sequencing. Her father was a college basketball coach and her mother coached volleyball. Her earliest memories date to a gym or sporting event of some kind. "I was bouncing a basketball at the age of 2, running at the tack at the age of 4 and hitting the volleyball at age 7," Scanlan said. It is therefore no surprise that this Wolverines' senior has become a standout in virtually every sport she has participated in. She helped Texico win state titles in volleyball, basketball and track and is in line to win another blue trophy at this week's basketball tournament. One of her most memorable moments, however, came during her sophomore season at the state volleyball championships. Down 2-0 to top-ranked Navajo Prep, she rallied the Wolverines to a 3-2 victory. She followed that this past fall by helping Texico, a Class 2A school, beat five 5A programs during the regular season. In the classroom she takes several dual-credit courses and is one of the top students THS.

ACTIVITIES SCHOLARSHIP



Arturo Lozoya, West Mesa (\$1,000 winner)

Being abnormal is what made this Mustangs senior hold true to his mother's advice. Just before he started at West Mesa, Lozoya's mother told him it was time to prove how special she always thought he was. "Don't be like everybody else, enjoy the years you have and make the best of them," she said. Growing up on Albuquerque's southwest mesa, Lozoya wasn't sure what he wanted to do – so he tried just about everything. "I aspired to be unique and while everybody else wanted to be normal, I wanted to be abnormal," he said. So he tried choir, played football, participated in the science Olympiad, and became involved in student government. He even attended camps for law and drama, volunteered at local food banks, studied sports medicine and was voted homecoming king. Such a well-rounded background has given him an expansive perspective on his life as a high school student. It has also given him the satisfaction of knowing he fulfilled his mother's dreams by surpassing her expectations set out for him.



Meilinn Tram, Highland (\$1,000 winner)

She ranks second in her class with a 4.6 grade point average, she has taken honors classes in just about every subject imaginable and she has volunteered her time with more community projects than most people attend over the course of an entire decade. She's spent time helping at canned food drives, Halloween carnivals, Thanksgiving charity meals, trash clean-up days and lent a helping hand at charity walks for diabetes research and marathons that support cancer awareness. At school she has taken part in student senate for the last four years, been a member of the National Honor Society since 2009 and played sports for Highland's soccer, cross country, swimming and tennis programs. She is described by HHS activities director Patrick Arguellas as creative, determined, thoughtful, upbeat and committed, just to name a few. In college she hopes to study nuclear engineering, having spent a summer interning at Sandia National Laboratories.

EL RICHARDS/FRANCIS WALSH SPIRIT SCHOLARSHIP



Taylor Black, Mayfield (\$1,000 winner)

Being a standout at gymnastics taught this Trojans senior a thing or two about cheerleading. Being the appointed leader of her school's cheer squad has taught her a thing or two about succeeding in life. Black has been captain of Mayfield's 25-member cheerleading team this year, a position that requires her to work virtually around the clock to keep pushing those around her to new heights. Spirit coach Natalie Neel said Black has unearthed alternative ways to motivate and mentor her teammates. Among them, hosting dinners at her family home, providing constant reminders of upcoming events and serving as a role model by extending her work beyond the spirit squad. She's involved in student government, track and is recognized as a tenured student leader by her peers. Along with a teammate, she has also spearheaded the cheerleading team's aggressive fundraising effort for the local chapter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. "As a senior, Taylor is still willing to learn, and as a coach, it is difficult to find student athletes of her caliber," Neel said.



Morgan Buie, Alamogordo (\$1,000 winner)

Hiding in plain sight has been the secret to unlocking this senior's self esteem. As the Tigers' mascot, Mo, for the last three years, Buie has blossomed into one of the most well-rounded students at AHS. "I'm not the most athletic person and being the mascot was definitely a good choice for me," she said. "When I have the Tiger suit on I can dance like a crazy person and no one knows it's me. Being the mascot is almost like having two identities." That alter-ego helped Buie excel in other activities. She has been on the swimming team for four years (state meet qualifier as a junior) and student government (she was voted junior class president and is senior class vice president). She was also voted homecoming queen last fall and was a junior class prom princess. The work has paid off in the classroom, as well. Her grades have steadily improved and she is recognized by her teachers as one of the more diligent students in this year's graduating class. She has taken several advanced placement classes to earn 15 hours of college credit.

AT-LARGE SCHOLARSHIP



Joel Ferguson, Carrizozo (\$1,000 winner)

Letting his voice be heard is one of this senior's strong suits. Sure, he has been a natural leader for the school's football and track programs, but it's in other endeavors that have allowed him to truly shine. Ferguson won the Future Farmers of America state title for extemporaneous speaking last year and was a bronze medalist at nationals in 2009. This falls in step with his standout performances in other FFA events and with his time as the team captain for the Grizzlies' football team. He even spent time as a delegate at Boys State while learning the nuances of leadership and government. "I have never known Joel Ferguson to cut a corner," said Carrizozo coach Pam Allen. Said CHS English teacher Sarah Ball: "I can see those wheels constantly turning. In discussing literature he often shows a great deal of insight and is unabashed about voicing his opinion to me or his peers." Ferguson carries a 4.1 grade point average, putting him at the top of his graduating class.

EXTRAORDINARY PARTICIPATION SCHOLARSHIP



DEVIN GALLIGAN, ESPANOLA VALLEY (\$2,500 WINNER)

Allowing himself to be overrun by school-related activities has been a good thing for this Sundevils senior. It's a way, he said, to avoid the pitfalls of a stagnant teenage life, one that can easily lead to drugs, gangs and law-breaking behavior. "Athletics and activities have taken over my life, in a good way though" Galligan said. "I don't think I'd be the same person I am today without them." Galligan describes himself as quiet and timid before joining multiple groups in eighth grade. In middle school he was voted an ambassador to student government, meaning his skills as a public speaker would be put to the test. Although he was quiet back then, he jokes that you can't shut him up now that he's a senior. Along the way he has played soccer and tennis. He has also been part of the Espanola Valley cheer squad. In the classroom he carries a 4.24

GPA and is fourth in his current graduating class. He has demonstrated an exceptional skill in regards to mathematics. One of his math teachers said he is far beyond the level of a typical high school senior. Other interests include videography and the law. He has been a top prosecutor in Espanola's Teen Court and entered several of his video projects in numerous statewide competitions.



Lindsay Redman, McCurdy (\$2,500 winner)

Who says girls are falling behind in science? This Bobcats senior has excelled in that discipline her entire academic career, carting off awards each of the last three years at state and regional competitions. She has also done work with supercomputing, been a member of the student government (class president as a senior) and cultivated a solid background as an accomplished actor and performer. Her time in sports includes volleyball, track and softball. She was named team captain in track and volleyball as a junior, being voted onto the all-district team in the later each of the last two years. The hectic pace of her life has, at times, given Redman a measure of stress. In the end, she said, it was all worth it. "Almost everything I know and all of who I am is because of these experiences," she said. Through sports she learned to trust others and to be an assertive leader. Through student council she learned responsibility by taking on an active role in making decisions that impacted others. Through science she learned that her future is limitless. "My involvement in science fair has taught me the importance of knowledge and hard work," she said. "Science is one of my passions, and I know that my future career will be in the science field. As a woman I am honored to have had the opportunities that science fair has given me, and I know that it will take hard work and dedication."
