

WTS CONNECTION/Friona/Bovina

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ASPEN FLEMING



WILL SCHUELER



LAUREN BAKER



KAITLYN HACKER



KIEVAN HACKER



SUSAN CORREA



ISAIAH VALDEZ

One Friona, six Hereford grads get \$500 scholarships

One May graduate from Friona High School and six from Hereford High School, including the Valedictorian and Salutatorian, are recipients of \$500 scholarships from WT Services for 2016.

WT Services launched a scholarship program in 2014 offering scholarships to graduating seniors from Hereford, Friona, Bovina, and Bushland high schools.

The seven scholarships presented this spring mean WT Services has now awarded \$7,000 in grants to 14 students in its scholarship program.

The Friona High recipient is Aspen Fleming, daughter of Bruce and Shana Fleming of Friona.

Hereford High recipients include Will Schueler, son of Mike and Amy Schueler, Lauren Baker, daughter of Bobby and Angela Baker, Kaitlyn and Kievan Hacker, the twin daughter and son of Keith and Karen Hacker, Susan Correa, daughter of Aldo and Aida Correa, and Isaiah Valdez, son of Freddie and Lorie Valdez. All are from Hereford.

Aspen Fleming graduated a year early from Friona High School, taking college classes from South Plains College during high school, accumulating

38 hours of college credit and making the Dean's Honor Roll. Aspen plans to attend McMurry University where she will major in Premedical Sciences. She received the 4-H Gold Star award and served in leadership roles in 4-H in Friona and Bovina. She served as a volunteer for blood and canned food drives, and worked as a dietary aid at Prairie Acres nursing home in Friona.

"I have a twin brother who will graduate in 2017. I have taken advantage of my high school offering dual credit courses and elected to graduate a year early to help with the financial strain that twins in college can put on a family. I have an older brother who is currently in college. My family will have two children in college at once for a while," says Aspen.

Will Schueler, Valedictorian of the Class of 2016 at Hereford High, plans to study Business at Southern Methodist University.

Though he has juvenile diabetes Schueler did not let it deter him from becoming top student in a class of 243, and he founded a Hereford walk and raised \$25,000 to help fight juvenile diabetes. He has been active in Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Snack Pack 4 Kids, varsity

tennis, UIL accounting, Student Council, Anchor Club, Key Club and Spanish Club.

"I am motivated to attend college and graduate with a Business degree because of my passion for business and success. My goal is to one day be the CEO of a major company, and without an education that won't be possible," says Schueler.

Lauren Baker, Salutatorian of the Class of 2016 at Hereford High, plans to attend Texas A&M University to major in Biology with the eventual goal of becoming a pediatrician.

Ranked in the top 5% of her class she was Academic All State in volleyball and basketball, a member of the National Honor Society, and the Certified Nurses Assistant program most valuable team member. She received three year letters in volleyball and basketball, was volleyball team captain, and had a two year letter in golf.

"My ultimate dream is to one day become a pediatrician. I have always loved children and the medical field, and I want to dedicate my life to keeping the children of our community healthy. I truly believe this path will allow me to give back to the community and support the future generation," says Lauren.

Twins Kaitlyn and Kievan Hacker are both headed to Texas A&M University this fall, Kaitlyn to study Early Childhood Education and Kievan to major in Electrical Engineering.

Kaitlyn ranked in the top 5% of her class, was a member of the National Honor Society, and participated in varsity softball, basketball and tennis. She was a member of Anchor Club, Key Club, and worked with Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Snack Pack 4 Kids, as well as serving as a volunteer coach for Kids, Inc.

"I hope to one day open a Montessori School and plan on becoming a preschool teacher. I hope to obtain a Bachelors degree in Business and to get my Masters in Early Education. My early goal was to be accepted to Texas A&M and a college education will benefit me tremendously in the future," says Kaitlyn.

(See SCHOLARS, Page 2)

**PAGE 1
SEVEN RECEIVE
WTS SCHOLARSHIPS**

**PAGE 2
RURAL BROADBAND
SHOWS GREAT
ECONOMIC IMPACT**

Friona/Bovina: Smart Communities with Fiber to the Premise—by WT Services

Rural Broadband has pronounced economic impact

By Hanns Kuttner
Senior Fellow
The Hudson Institute

A Hudson Institute and Foundation for Rural Service study on the economic impact of rural Broadband in the United States estimates the direct and indirect economic effects of the rural telecommunications industry on Gross Domestic Product and the economic impact of rural broadband on other industries.

Study findings show that rural Broadband services are a necessary input in an economy where the ability to complete a transaction electronically has become indispensable. In fact, the economic impact would be even greater if Broadband was more widespread and as available in rural areas as in urban areas. Another economic impact is the economic activity foregone because telecommunications capability in some rural areas is below that in urban areas.

The study quantifies the amount that the rural telecommunications industry contributes to final consumption as measured by the GDP, both directly and indirectly.

An executive summary of the study shows that rural Broadband companies contributed \$24.2 billion to the economies of the states where they operated in 2015. Of this, \$17.2 billion was through their own operations and \$7 billion was through the follow-on impact of their operations. The total represents the amount added to the Gross Domestic Product by this set of firms.

While the industry produces a range of telecommunications services in rural areas, the economic activity accrues both to the rural areas served and to urban areas as well. That said, more

benefit accrues to urban than to rural areas. Only \$8.3 billion or 34 percent of the \$24.2 billion final economic demand generated by rural telecom companies accrues to rural areas. The other 66 percent or \$16 billion accrues to the benefit of urban areas.

The rural Broadband industry supported 69,600 jobs in 2015, both through its own employment and the employment that its purchases of goods and services generated.

Jobs supported by economic activity created by rural Broadband companies are shared between rural and urban areas. A total of 46% are in rural areas while 54 percent are in urban areas. A combination of higher wages in the Broadband industry and the specialized nature of the inputs used by the industry that are more likely to be found in urban than rural areas drives this result.

Rural Broadband supported over \$100 billion in e-commerce in 2015.

The largest share was in manufacturing, where a majority of transactions now involve electronic data exchange over Broadband networks.

Nearly \$10 billion was involved in retail sales. If Broadband had the same reach in rural areas as it does in urban areas, sales would have been at least \$1 billion higher.

Based on Universal Service Fund data, Texas showed one of the highest direct economic impacts of rural telecommunications in 2015 measured in millions of dollars at 1,336.6, a rural economic impact in millions of \$671.8 an urban impact in millions of \$2,761.7 and a combined impact in millions of \$3,433.4.

The U.S. has widely variable

population density, averaging 87.4 Americans per square mile. New Jersey is the most densely populated state at 1,196 residents per square mile, 1,000 times more densely populated than Alaska, the least densely populated state at 1.2 residents per square mile, and 200 times more densely populated than Wyoming, the second least

densely populated state at 5.8 residents per square mile.

(Parts of the WTRT service area are populated at a density of .6 residents per square mile.)

The Universal Service Fund has made it possible for rural carriers to serve areas of low population density.

Scholars get \$500 grants...from Page 1

Kievan has been active in Boy Scouts and became a Life Scout with Troop 52. He was active in the HHS band drum line, Honors Band, Anchor Club, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Snack Pack 4 Kids. He received numerous awards in high school for Architecture, Engineering, Construction and Construction Management, and was a member of National Honor Society. He also worked as an apprentice for a local heating and air conditioning firm. He was lauded by teachers for his ability in Physics.

"I enjoy working with electricity and I hope to become a successful electrical engineer. My plans for the future are dependent on what I accomplish in college. I'm dedicated and a hard worker, and will strive for my goals," says Kievan.

Susan Correa plans to attend West Texas A&M University, where she hopes to major in Psychology and Social Work.

A member of the National Honor Society while at HHS, Susan was involved in theater throughout high school, participated in one-act play three years, and was named to the best crew in one-act play in 2014.

"I want to be the first in my family to finish college, and hope to receive a Masters in Psychology. My parents are both hard

working and they are taking classes to become proficient English speakers. They work 8-12 hours a day, then spend another three hours in classes. I want to make my parents proud, and to be a good role model for my 11 year old sister, to show her that working hard and keeping your grades high will help you to follow your dreams and be successful," says Susan.

Isaiah Valdez plans to attend the University of North Texas in Denton, where he plans to study Business and Education.

He received the Amarillo Academic Spotlight Award in 2013, and Spanish and Law I awards. He was a member of the HHS Student Council, Key Club and Anchor Club and president of the Class of 2016. Isaiah served as a volunteer with Big Brothers/Big Sisters. He was second team All-District in football in 2014 and 2015 and was team captain in 2015, and manager for the varsity softball and basketball teams.

"I know the value of higher education, and with that help I can have a successful career. Neither of my parents attended college and I have seen the struggles they have faced because of it. They have instilled in me the importance of going to college," says Isaiah.