



Sarah Beal photos

Academic scholarship recipients, from left, front row: Breann Leighton, Thomas Krenz, Kaylee Supak, Caden Warmke, Rachel Zgabav, Evan Boeker, Alicia Willoughby, Guy Bedford, Eric Rodriguez, Ella Jordan, Daniela Rodriguez and Malyn Parker; back row, Kaye Stapleton, Ashton Kresta, Shawn Matthijetz, McKenzie Miller, Colby Jaeger, Taylor Behrens, Joshua Owens, Rebecca Brady, Daylon Drews and Emily Conner. Not pictured: Hannah Kipp, Gabriel Rodriguez and Jennifer Crosby.



From left, front row: Jorda Mitchell, Kolton Catchings, Austin Grimm, Autumn Purcell, Matthew Conner, Kayla Goerlitz, Trenton Shupak, Sandi Lopez, Jason Kokel, Adriana Alba and Cori Kaminski; back row: Seth Wright, Jerry Beck, Kamrynn Dearman, Malorie Vacha, Madison Hodges, Christopher Contreras, Abby Pennington and Aaron Wellmann. Not pictured: Camryn Lake, Savannah Nevill, Arianna Cunningham, Shianne Sander, Kynslie Meyer and Erick Perez.

50 outstanding students awarded Bluebonnet scholarships

By Lisa Ogle

In his first year of high school, Eric Rodriguez, accidentally ended up in an American Sign Language class. He fell in love with it. Witnessing the struggles of students with hearing disabilities has inspired him to pursue a career as an audiologist, which requires a post-college doctoral degree.

Rodriguez, who will begin his undergraduate studies in communication sciences and disorders at Texas State University next month, is one of the 50 high school seniors who were awarded a Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative Scholarship of Excellence this year. Each recipient receives \$2,500. This year 240 students applied for 25 trade and technical school scholarships and 25 academic scholarships to attend a college or university.

"I am thankful for the resources and recognition that Bluebonnet has given me as a scholarship recipient," Rodriguez said.

The students were honored in April during two receptions at Bluebonnet's headquarters in Bastrop. About 130 people attended the events, during which scholarship recipients announced their post-secondary school choice and area of study. Their wide-ranging interests include diesel/auto mechanics, sonography, marketing, health care and business administration.

Adriana Alba, a recent graduate of Burton High School who will attend Blinn College in Bryan, wants to become a paramedic. Her interest in that career was piqued when an emergency medical technician (EMT) visited the school and invited her on an ambulance ride-along. Her goal is to become an obstetrician.

Malyn Parker, a recent graduate of La Grange High School, plans to be a dental hygienist. She will attend classes at Blinn College in Schulenburg before applying to dental hygiene programs.

Since 2006, Bluebonnet has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships to high school graduates in the co-op's service area. If you know a student who wants to apply for a 2018 Scholarship of Excellence, applications will be available in November at bluebonnet.coop and from area high school counselors.



Come cheer our linemen at annual competition

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative's linemen compete each July against fellow line workers from across Texas to showcase skills they perform on the job. Bluebonnet plans to send three journeyman linemen teams, eight apprentice linemen, seven judges, two barbecue teams and other volunteers to the 21st annual Texas Lineman's Rodeo at Nolte Island Park near Seguin. The competition starts early

July 15 in a Guadalupe River-bottom field studded with utility poles. The competitions include a pole climb with a raw egg in a bag, power line repairs, a pole-top rescue of a mannequin the size of an injured lineman and a barbecue cook-off. Support our teams in person or keep track of their progress via Bluebonnet's social media coverage throughout that day. For more information, visit tra.org.