

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ruidoso, NM

Ruidoso/Lincoln County Association of REALTORS® Awards \$7,000 in Scholarships to Eight Lincoln County Graduates

The Ruidoso/Lincoln County Association of REALTORS® (RLCAR) is proud to award eight scholarships of \$875 each, totaling \$7,000, to graduating Lincoln County seniors pursuing post-secondary education.

This year, RLCAR's volunteer Scholarship Committee reviewed 18 applications from students across Lincoln County before selecting eight scholarship recipients.

The 2026 scholarship recipients are:

- Rachel Baudo, Ruidoso High School, attending New Mexico State University
- Cassidy Byrd, Ruidoso High School, attending New Mexico State University
- Kaylee Gomez, Hondo High School, attending Clovis Community College
- Cade Holland, Ruidoso High School, attending New Mexico State University
- Viviana Ruelas-Sanchez, Ruidoso High School, attending New Mexico State University
- Gracie Thomas, Capitan High School, attending Texas Tech University
- Kelvin Vega, Carrizozo High School, attending Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell
- Makenzie Wilson, Ruidoso High School, attending New Mexico State University

"We are incredibly proud to support the next generation of leaders, professionals, and skilled tradespeople in our community," said Darien Ross, President of the Ruidoso/Lincoln County Association of REALTORS®. "Whether these students are pursuing a college degree or entering the skilled trades, each scholarship represents an investment in hard work, dedication, and the future of our region. Strong communities are built not only through higher education, but also through the talented men and women who pursue careers in the trades and help keep our communities growing and thriving."

RLCAR's volunteer Scholarship Committee awarded the scholarships after reviewing applications and championing educational opportunities for Lincoln County students. The committee is chaired by Marley Roser, with Kaitlin Brophy, Chad Casson, Rye Richardson, and Julie Rigsby serving as members. The Association appreciates their time and thoughtful consideration of this year's applicants.

For more than 30 years, RLCAR's scholarship program has helped local students pursue their educational goals. Originally established as a scholarship opportunity for children of REALTOR® members, the program was later expanded to serve graduating seniors from high schools across Lincoln County.

In recent years, the program was further broadened to intentionally include students pursuing technical training, trade education, and community college pathways in addition to traditional four-year colleges and universities, reflecting the Association's commitment to supporting workforce development and diverse career paths.

Scholarship recipients are selected based on academic achievement, extracurricular involvement, community service, work experience, references, and future goals, with applications open to graduating Lincoln County seniors pursuing accredited post-secondary education, including colleges, universities, community colleges, and technical or trade schools.

The Ruidoso/Lincoln County Association of REALTORS® remains committed to supporting education, opportunity, and the long-term strength of the communities its members serve.

About the Ruidoso/Lincoln County Association of REALTORS®

The Ruidoso/Lincoln County Association of REALTORS® (RLCAR) represents real estate professionals across Lincoln County and promotes professionalism, ethical standards, property rights, and community involvement. As the Voice for Real Estate™ in Lincoln County, RLCAR supports more than 200 REALTOR® members working in residential and commercial real estate, short- and long-term property management, and real estate appraisal. Beyond serving local real estate needs, RLCAR members are active contributors to communities throughout the county.