



Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority  
933 E. Court Street, Seguin TX 78155  
www.gbra.org

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May 24, 2012

## GBRA Awards Five Academic Scholarships

### For more information

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SEGUIN – Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) officials have awarded five \$2,000 academic scholarships to five area students within GBRA's 10-county district. The scholarships, presented annually, are part of GBRA's Employee Volunteer Program.

The scholarship recipients and details are listed below by city:

### SEGUIN

**Ana Laura Gonzales** graduates from Seguin High School in Guadalupe County. Gonzales plans to attend Abilene Christian University at Abilene. Her major is undecided. While in high school, Gonzales was a member of varsity volleyball, varsity soccer, varsity band, National Honor Society, Interact, Student Leadership Initiative, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Students Taking a New Stand and Seguin Area Youth Leadership Academy. Her community service consisted of car washes, fund-raisers, Vacation Bible School, Harvest Fest, Seguin Outdoor Learning Center cleanup, Seguin Streets Revitalization, Annual Rotary Shrimp Fry, AJB Teacher Help Day and Blue Santa. Samuel Ramos, Co-Founder of Seguin Leadership Initiative and Latinoversity, says the best definition for Gonzales is "infectious leader." Her willingness to assist others and give for the betterment of the greater good of community is what lifts Ana Laura above other outstanding students.

**Haley Imhoff** graduates from Seguin High School. She graduates from Seguin High School in Guadalupe County. Imhoff will attend Baylor University at Waco and plans to major in nutrition. In high school, she was a member of band, Interact Club, National Honor Society, Business Professionals of America, Seguin Area Youth Leadership Academy, Rotary Youth Leadership Assembly and basketball. For community service Imhoff taught Vacation Bible School. She says of herself, "I have grown not only as a leader, but as an individual as well. I have become confident in my decisions and I have learned many skills that I am able to use throughout every day in class and interacting with my peers."

**Christopher Sestak** graduates from Navarro High School in Guadalupe County. Sestak plans to attend Texas A&M University at College Station, and major in aerospace and petroleum engineering. In high school he was a member of National Honor Society, Class of 2012 Vice-President, varsity football, varsity basketball, varsity baseball, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Drug Awareness Council. Sestak's community service includes Texas Ramp Project, Mission Arlington Trips, vacation Bible school, Recreation Leader, Shattered Dreams Participant and NHS Christmas and Easter parties for elementary, Christian Mentoring and Tutoring, and Relay for Life. He says about himself, "Throughout high school, I continually go back to what my parents have taught me preparing for life. Working hard, maintaining discipline, being kind, loyal, honest, and willing to take chances are just a few of the characteristics I try to employ every day. Although it is not always easy, I have always tried my best with the understanding they have always been right, and I am thankful for those lessons."

### CANYON LAKE

**Matthew Clark** graduates from Canyon Lake High School in Comal County. Clark plans to attend Texas A&M at College Station to major in electrical engineering. While in high school, he was a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, Interact Club, Junior Statesmen of America, PTSA, Soccer, PALS and band. Clark's community service consisted of coaching a youth soccer team for two years, helping with Vacation Bible School, planting trees and assisting with the Christmas Village at the Community Resource and Recreation Center. Michael Collyer, Senior Army Instructor, says Clark is great at defusing situations and has all the best employee traits. He is punctual, reliable, trustworthy, and dedicated. Clark is always working hard to improve himself, and can communicate with all age levels effectively. He is the type of young adult who will do the right things even when no one is watching.



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### **SAN MARCOS**

**Marshal Hanzel** graduates from San Marcos High School in Hays County. Hanzel plans to attend Texas A&M at College Station where he will major in business and finance. While in high school Hanzel was a member of the National Honor Society, varsity baseball team, Baseball Leadership Council, math tutor, and assistant to history and math department instructors and assistant to the AVID program advisor. His community service consisted of tutoring other students, canned food drive, book drive, Angel Tree Program, blanket drive and Christmas decor for the elderly. Teacher, Carolyn Coburn, says she has seen Hanzel find comfort in standing up for others when most would not. He leads others in activities in the classroom and urges them to step up and be active in community service through NHS.

The GBRA Employee Volunteer Program was founded in December of 2000 and is led by a committee with a chairperson responsible for the overall program. The program's purpose is to improve the quality of life in area communities through the commitment of GBRA employees and the use of their time, energy, talents and skills. Employee volunteerism is strictly voluntary, unpaid work performed by employees for non-profit or government organizations engaged in civic, health, education, social services and other charitable pursuits.

The GBRA was established by the Texas Legislature in 1933 as a water conservation and reclamation district. GBRA provides stewardship for the water resources in its 10-county statutory district, which begins near the headwaters of the Guadalupe and Blanco rivers, ends at San Antonio Bay, and includes Kendall, Comal, Hays, Caldwell, Guadalupe, Gonzales, DeWitt, Victoria, Calhoun and Refugio counties. The Mission of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority is to protect, conserve, reclaim and steward the resources of the 10-county district in order to ensure and promote quality of life for those served.