



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

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June 20, 2016

Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority Awards 12 Academic Scholarships

For more information

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SEGUIN – Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) officials have awarded three \$2,000 academic scholarships and nine \$1,000 academic scholarships to 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:

Christopher Velasquez graduates from San Marcos High School in Hays County. He will be attending the University of Texas at Austin, working toward a degree in business and social work. In high school, he was a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, Interact Club, Rural Talent Search, and varsity tennis team. He has volunteered with the Southside Community Center, Greater San Marcos Youth Council, Pet Fest, Food Stock, Salvation Army, Operation Blue Santa, Travis County Sheriff's Brown Santa, river clean-ups, Fall Family Ball, and worked in modeling for local cosmetologists and fashion designers. He also received a Rotary Youth Leadership Award.

Madison Hesse graduates from Samuel Clemens High School in Guadalupe County. She will be attending the University of Texas at Austin, where her goal is to transfer into the business program. In high school, she was the team captain of the varsity tennis team, Vice President of Finance for the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America, and a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, student council, Mu Alpha Theta, National Honor Society, and an AP Scholar. She was also a volunteer with the adapted P.E. class, YMCA Summer Kids Camp, Feed My Starving Children, HEB Feast of Sharing, Oktoberfest with her local church, Universal City Snow Fest, and a Texas Association Family, Career and Community Leaders of America Competition Room Consultant.

Bernadette Flehmer graduates from Smithson Valley High School in Comal County. She plans to attend the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry to study environmental resource engineering. In high school, she founded Humans of Smithson Valley, was a member of the Energy and Environment Committee of Student Council, and a member of the National Honor Society. She has logged over 350 service hours working as a volunteer with the Guadalupe River State Park, San Antonio Bexar Grotto, and Bulverde Park Association.

Addie Blinder graduates from Seguin High School in Guadalupe County. She plans to attend Southwestern University to study music education. In high school, she was a member of Interact, National Honor Society, band, Business Professionals of America, and National Technical Honor Society. She has been a volunteer with Hacienda Oaks nursing home, A.W.A.R.E., and local river and community clean-ups.

Joseph Freeman graduates from Seguin High School in Guadalupe County. He plans to attend the University of Texas at San Antonio to study business. While in high school, Joseph participated in student council, Future Farmers of America, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, varsity football, and varsity track. He was the Most Valuable Player for the track team and given an honorable mention for football. He has volunteered with the Methodist Church Pumpkin Patch and is a junior deacon at the New Birth Baptist Church.

Ileana Gonzales graduates from Lockhart High School in Caldwell County. She plans to attend Texas Christian University to study speech-language pathology. In high school, Ileana has participated in National Honor Society, Distributive Education Clubs of America, Texas Association of Future Educators, varsity volleyball (Academic All-District three years in a row), varsity softball, powerlifting and the Lionette drill team. She has volunteered with Keep Lockhart Beautiful, Community Education League, St. Mary's Catholic Church Youth Group, Life Unlimited Church (LUC) Youth Group, and LUC Youth Camp.

Shelby Mann graduates from Luling High School in Caldwell County. She plans to attend The Travel Academy in Eagen,



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Minnesota. While in high school, Shelby participated in theatre, agricultural education, and cheerleading. She has volunteered with her local church, Luling I.S.D., Geronimo Creek Clean-Up, and GBRA's Our Day To Shine.

Hannah Shelly graduates from Calhoun High School in Calhoun County. She plans to attend Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, where she will study business administration. In high school, she participated in student council as the district president, Youth Advisory Council as mayor, National Honor Society, speech, debate, UIL Academics as the accounting team captain, musical theatre, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Interact. She has volunteered with Christmas at the Bayfront, local Rotary club, Blue Santa, food drives, and school clothing drives.

Patrick Urrutia graduates from Central Catholic High School in Bexar County. He plans to attend the United States Naval Academy to study mathematics. In high school, Patrick served as the Brigade Commander in Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC). He was also a member of the National Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society, academic team, Red Cross Club, and Marianist LIFE team. He was awarded the National Merit Commended Scholar, National Hispanic Scholar, AP Scholar, National Spanish Exam Gold Award (three years in a row), Harvard Book Award, Principal's list, Superior Cadet Decoration, and Eagle Scout Award.

Chico Wagner graduates from Canyon High School in Comal County. He plans to attend either Texas State University to study journalism and political science. In high school, his activities include cross country track, student council, and his position as the captain of the varsity tennis team. He has also worked at Schlitterbahn for two years.

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.