



Pueblo County Sheriff's Office

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News Release

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Sheriff Taylor Awards Scholarships to Two Outstanding High School Seniors

Pueblo, CO: Pueblo County Sheriff Kirk M. Taylor awarded two local high school seniors with the 2021 County Sheriffs of Colorado Scholarship during a presentation today at the Sheriff's Office. Brooklyn Phillips of Pueblo West High School and Richard Lane of Centennial High School were each awarded a \$1,000 scholarship by Sheriff Taylor.

The County Sheriffs of Colorado, the state's sheriff's association, offers 31 scholarships of \$500 each to deserving high school and college students in Colorado to fund higher education. However, Sheriff Taylor, a strong proponent of higher education, has traditionally awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to a deserving student in Pueblo County. This year, Taylor opted once again to award two, \$1,000 scholarships due to the level of competition among the applicants.

"Brooklyn and Richard are examples of the exceptional students we have in Pueblo County," said Taylor. "Both are very dedicated and talented students. It's an honor for me to support them and their educational endeavors by awarding them each a \$1,000 scholarship."

A citizen's committee, designated by each county, selects the recipient from their respective county based on criteria established by CSOC, including leadership, merit, character, involvement, purpose and need. Taylor praised the work of the local citizen's committee in selecting this year's recipients.

"I was very impressed with the quality of the candidates that applied for this year's scholarship. I want to thank our citizen's committee for their diligent work in reviewing all the applications and helping to select our recipients," Taylor said.

Brooklyn, 18, has a 4.72 GPA and is currently ranked in the Top 10 of her class at Pueblo West. She plans to attend the University of Colorado in the fall to study speech, language and hearing sciences with a goal of becoming a licensed speech language pathologist. Brooklyn has been involved in the National Honor Society, student council, Key Club and has been a four-year academic award recipient. She was a four-year member of the dance team and swim team and is a two-time state swim qualifier. Brooklyn has been involved in several volunteer service projects from a summer reading program for middle school students, instructing/coaching members of the unified swim team and working on several local food drives. Brooklyn is the daughter of Mark and Jennifer Phillips.



Richard, 18, has a 4.4 GPA and is currently ranked in the Top 20 at Centennial. He plans to attend the University of Denver to study business and finance. He also plans to apply for the juris doctorate program that will allow him to obtain a bachelor's and law degree in six years. His career goal is to practice business law. Richard has been a member of the National Honor Society, the World Language Honor Society, Newman Club, speech and debate, Future Business Leaders of America and a member of the School District 60 Student Stakeholder group. He was a four-year letter winner and three-time state qualifier in golf and swam one year with the Bulldog swim team. Richard also has been involved in several community service projects, most noteworthy is him having established the Arianne Creative Arts Scholarship in honor of his sister. He serves as the chairman of the scholarship program and has actively been involved in organizing fundraisers for the program. He has participated in 4-H and is an active member of the Holy Family Church youth group and has volunteered with the Congressional Medal of Honor Society and several projects to benefit students and the elderly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Richard is the son of Matthew and Geri Lane.

This is the 42nd year for the County Sheriffs of Colorado scholarship program, which is funded in part, from the CSOC honorary membership fund which consists of contributions from citizens and businesses. CSOC considers the scholarship program an investment in the future and one that helps provide deserving students with an opportunity to make a positive contribution to society.

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