



# *Pueblo County Sheriff's Office*

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## News Release

For Immediate Release  
Contact: Gayle Perez 719 924 5471  
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### **Sheriff Taylor Awards Scholarships to Two Outstanding High School Seniors**

**Pueblo, CO:** Pueblo County Sheriff Kirk M. Taylor today announced the recipients of the 2020 County Sheriffs of Colorado Scholarship. Pueblo West High School Senior Cierra Dobney and Centennial High School Senior Luke VanBuskirk have each been awarded a \$1,000 college scholarship through the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office.

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, who is a strong proponent of higher education, has traditionally awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to a deserving student. This year, Taylor opted to once again award two, \$1,000 scholarships due to the level of competition among the applicants.

"Luke and Cierra are both examples of the talented, hard-working students we have in our community and both are most deserving of this scholarship," said Pueblo County Sheriff Kirk M. Taylor. "My office is proud to be able support them as they further their education by awarding each of these fine students with a \$1,000 scholarship."

Cierra, 17, has a 4.4 GPA and is ranked in the top 20 of her class at Pueblo West. She plans to attend Colorado State University and major in biochemistry with the goal of eventually becoming a veterinarian. She has been involved in marching band, concert band, National Honor Society, Conservation Club, Key Club, Knowledge Bowl, Festival of Winds, Southern Colorado Honor Band, Jazz Band and Pueblo Youth Symphony. Cierra helped co-found the Conservation Club at Pueblo West with the goal of reducing the amount of waste in the school and continue environmental efforts at the school.

Luke, 18, has a 4.73 GPA and is ranked third in his class at Centennial High School. He plans to attend Colorado Christian University where he plans to major in health sciences to become a certified diabetic educator. Luke is a member of the National Honor Society, Science Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Centennial Drumline, marching band, Spanish Club, Centennial Ambassador, Future Business Leaders of America, varsity golf, advanced mixed choir, Schola Cantorum, Jazz Band, All-City Band and Choir and participated in the Fiddler on the Roof musical. He has been actively involved with the American Diabetes Association, served as counselor in training for the American Diabetes Association's "Camp Kick Start", where he

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gained experience in helping children manage their diabetes.

This is the 40<sup>th</sup> 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. 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.

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