

Congratulations to the 2017 Spike Jorgensen Scholarship Winners!

- Lucero Belen Nelson-Loya of Kotzebue
- Shila Marie Rivas of Anchorage

Each will receive \$1000 toward their post-secondary education during the 2017-2018 academic year, renewable for up to a total of four years.

The scholarship committee carefully reviewed 33 applications to choose the two winners. All agreed that it was an honor and opportunity to read each and every application. Committee members noted how this experience gives them greater insight into the strength, intelligence, dedication and kindness of Alaskan students and continues to inspire each of them.

Award Recipients:



Lucero is a high school senior from Kotzebue who has worked very hard on her academic career culminating in her acceptance into the National Honor Society as a Sophomore. Lucero credits her success to her mother’s support and continual encouragement to push herself. Lucero plans to attend UAA and study Criminal Justice while working full-time at non-profit organization. She believes her experience attending a boarding school will assist her in a successful transition to college.



Shila, a high school senior from Anchorage became passionate about entrepreneurship after enrolling in an Enterprise class at the King Career Center. During her senior year, Shila managed three school related businesses which taught her leadership, product development, and finance skills. Shila plans to attend UAA and major in Business Administration. She is also interested in UAA’s exchange programs and hopes to inspire other young women along the way.

A special thank you to the 2017 Scholarship Review Committee: Barbara Adams, Jerry Covey, and Lora Jorgensen, for their time and dedication to this effort. The Spike Jorgensen Scholarship honors the work of Dr. Jorgensen’s long career of teaching and advocating for young people in rural Alaska.

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