** Media Advisory – Photo Opportunity **

Kansas students to be recognized at Westar Energy banquet.

Twenty-four high school seniors awarded Westar Energy/Haines-Weber Scholarship.

Topeka, Kan., May 31, 2018 – This evening at 5:30 p.m. Westar Energy will award 24 area high school graduates a college scholarship at a banquet in their honor at Top of the Tower restaurant, downtown Bank of America building, 534 S. Kansas Ave. Media are invited.

The event will celebrate the 24 high school seniors awarded the Westar Energy/Haines-Weber Scholarship this year. The program, started more than a half-century ago, has helped hundreds of Kansas students fund their educational journeys.

“Westar provides students in our communities with opportunities, knowledge and skills to succeed, which we hope sparks interest in careers at Westar, too,” said Patrick Woods, Westar Energy, Director, Talent Management and Diversity. “Most of us can look back and recognize how others helped us get where we are today.”

Westar Energy partners with Jim and Cynthia Haines and the Ellis Foundation to make these scholarships possible. Former Westar Energy CEO Jim Haines and his wife, Cindy, were the first in their families to graduate from college. Both credit their parents for making great personal and economic sacrifices to make that possible. To honor their parents, Jim and Cindy created a scholarship fund at the Topeka Community Foundation. The scholarship funds are combined to form these scholarships and distributed by the Ellis Foundation.

The Ellis Foundation provides high school graduates with limited resources access to higher education. They offer resources and opportunities to recipients including mentoring programs, social networking opportunities, financial guidance, volunteer opportunities and post-graduation career placement assistance.
Scholarship recipients are:

Josh Begnoche
- Clay Center Community High School
- Attending Cloud County Community College
- Seeking a degree in wind energy technology

Caden Churchman
- Graduate of Rock Creek High School
- Attending Kansas State University
- Seeking a degree in computer science

Evan Fox
- Graduate of Jackson Heights High School
- Attending Kansas State University
- Seeking a degree in engineering

Nate Gainer
- Graduate of Anderson County High School
- Attending the University of Kansas
- Seeking a degree in mechanical engineering

Victoria Harper
- Graduate of Prairie View High School
- Attending Johnson County Community College and Kansas State University
- Seeking a degree in accounting

Columba Herrera-Gonzalez
- Graduate of Topeka West High School
- Attending Kansas State University
- Seeking a degree in computer science

Huy Thai Vinh Ho
- Graduate of Wichita East High School
- Attending Wichita Area Technical College
- Seeking a degree in computer science

Kyle Krehbiel
- Graduate of Central Christian High School
- Attending Cloud County Community College
- Seeking a degree in wind energy technology

Elliott Kobiskie
- Graduate of Abilene High School
- Attending Emporia State University
- Seeking a degree in accounting
Aden Lee
- Graduate of Maize High School
- Attending Pratt Community College
- Seeking a degree in electrical power technology

Hunter Metcalf
- Graduate of Parsons High School
- Attending Pratt Community College
- Seeking a degree in electrical power technology

Luke Nichols
- Graduate of Santa Fe Trail High School
- Attending Flint Hills Technical College
- Seeking a degree in power plant technology

Caleb Perry
- Graduate of St. Marys High School
- Attending Cloud County Community College
- Seeking a degree in wind energy technology

Jacob Quick
- Graduate of Wichita Northwest High School
- Attending Pratt Community College
- Seeking a degree in electrical power technology

Parker Ramirez
- Graduate of Hayden High School
- Attending the University of Kansas
- Seeking a degree in mechanical engineering

Derek Martinez Reynaga
- Graduate of Highland Park High School
- Attending Washburn University
- Seeking a degree in business and finance

Kathy Martinez Reynaga
- Graduate of Highland Park High School
- Attending the University of Kansas
- Seeking a degree in chemical engineering

Derek Shaheen
- Rock Creek High School
- Attending Kansas State University
- Seeking a degree in business and finance
Korbin Smith
- Graduate of Marmaton Valley High School
- Attending Pratt Community College
- Seeking a degree in electrical power technology

Caleb Stephens
- Graduate of Colony-Crest High School
- Attending Pratt Community College
- Seeking a degree in electrical power technology

Joshua Villanueva
- Topeka West High School
- Attending Wichita State University
- Seeking a degree in engineering

Morgan Wright
- Lawrence Free State High School
- Attending the University of Kansas
- Seeking a degree in computer science

Raisa YapMoreno
- Graduate of Fort Scott High School
- Attending Pittsburg State University
- Seeking a degree in computer science

Wynter Ziegler
- Graduate of Santa Fe Trail High School
- Attending Flint Hills Technical College
- Seeking a degree in power plant technology

As Kansas’ largest electric utility, Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE:WR) provides customers the safe, reliable electricity needed to power their businesses and homes. We have 7,800 MW of electric generation capacity that includes renewables and traditional power sources with half the electricity supplied to our more than 700,000 customers from emissions free sources: nuclear, wind and solar, with a third coming from renewables. We are a leader in electric transmission in Kansas coordinating a network of lines and substations that supports one of the largest consolidations of wind energy in the nation. Our employees live, volunteer and work in the communities we serve.


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