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Contact Michael Santistevan, Public Relations Coordinator Telephone 575.758.2258 Email msantistevan@kitcarson.com Website www.kitcarson.com

Guzman Energy Foundation and Kit Carson Electric Cooperative Partner on Scholarship Program for Northern New Mexico Students

Taos, N.M. (Tues., Dec. 18, 2018) -- Guzman Energy and Kit Carson Electric Cooperative (KCEC) have awarded \$20,000 in scholarship funds for students in rural northern New Mexico, marking the second straight year the organizations have partnered to help students throughout the state.

Guzman and KCEC announced an exclusive energy partnership in February 2017 that will bring summer solar energy independence to Taos, Colfax and Rio Arriba counties by 2022. The partnership aims to save KCEC's 30,000 co-op members \$50-\$70 million over the next ten years. The partnership also led to Guzman's enhancement of the KCEC Foundation's scholarship program. Since its inception in 1997, the KCEC Foundation has awarded approximately \$502,500 in scholarships to students in the communities it serves, providing them with the finances needed to facilitate their transition into higher education.

In the last two years, Guzman Energy has given \$40,000 in scholarships to 40 students in rural northern New Mexico.

"From the beginning, we promised to be a different kind of energy provider and we feel very fortunate to have been welcomed in to the Taos community," said Jeff Heit, Guzman Energy managing director. "We want to pave the way toward a better future for generations to come, both on and off the energy grid. One really strong way to accomplish that is to provide educational support that strengthens communities through academics and to invest in the education of local youth."

Aimed at implementing multiple initiatives to benefit northern New Mexico communities served by KCEC, the Guzman Foundation works to foster competitiveness and spur greater opportunity in the communities it serves through academic scholarships and school-support initiatives that develop critical thinking and inspire creativity.

"We are very pleased with the generosity and commitment Guzman Energy is making to our community's future with the awarding of 20 scholarships to deserving students," said Kit Carson

CEO Luis A. Reyes, Jr. "Guzman is joining KCEC in helping our best and brightest youth attain their career goals, and hopefully come back to the area to be our next generation of leaders."

At a joint dinner in Taos on Dec. 13, Guzman and KCEC distributed the scholarships to 20 students hailing from five KCEC districts. Each student received \$1,000 in educational stipends for the 2019 spring semester.

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About Kit Carson

Formed in 1944, Kit Carson is a member owned electric distribution cooperative in northern New Mexico and is the second largest cooperative in the state. Kit Carson is one of sixteen distribution electric cooperatives that serve rural New Mexico communities, serving nearly 30,000 members in Taos, Colfax and Rio Arriba counties. To learn more about Kit Carson, visit www.kitcarson.com

About Guzman Energy

Guzman Energy is a wholesale power provider that supplies and trades power across North America. Guzman Energy created a new type of energy model, one designed specifically to help transition an outdated energy economy into the renewable age. We enable customers principally rural electric cooperatives and municipal power companies — to achieve lower rates and price-stability from renewable, sustainable energy. Headquartered in Denver, Colo., Guzman Energy has unique expertise in serving customers in the bilateral power markets of the Western United States and conducts its business through two practice areas: Energy & Environmental Trading and Energy Hedging & Risk Management. To learn more, visit <u>www.GuzmanEnergy.com</u>.