

For Immediate Release



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The GVTC Foundation Awards \$40,000 in Scholarships

SMITHSON VALLEY, May 8, 2015 — Two Hill Country high school students earned college scholarships worth \$20,000 each from [The GVTC Foundation](#).

Robert Emmett Donnelly, from Smithson Valley High School, was awarded the 2015 Ritchie T. Sorrells Scholarship for Leaders. The Sorrells Scholarship is given to the high school student who demonstrates exceptional leadership at school and in the community.

Emmett credits his involvement with [Boy Scouts of America](#) for honing his leadership skills. To help achieve his Eagle Scout status, Emmett led a project to renovate the nursery school playground at his church. He planned the project, raised funds, gathered the materials and led his fellow scouts to complete the mission.

He also led two food drives to benefit [Provisions Outreach](#) in Bulverde and generated attention on how the organization helps the community.

Emmett plans to attend the University of Texas at San Antonio this fall majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

In addition, The GVTC Foundation presented the \$20,000, 2015 Ola Armstrong Scholarship to Matthew Michels, from Boerne High School.

The Armstrong Scholarship focuses on community involvement and Matthew has a list of impressive credentials. Among them includes performing the Heimlich maneuver on a man who was severely choking. Due to Matthew's decisive action, the man survived. Matthew was honored by the Boerne community for his bravery.

Matthew's spirit of volunteerism includes mentoring and tutoring young students. He also organized a fundraising effort to benefit [Hill Country Family Services](#), which provides essential medical care for low-income residents in Kendall County.

Matthew has a passion for healthcare and will major in Medical Administration when he attends Texas State University this fall.

In 2015, The GVTC Foundation increased the Sorrells and Armstrong Scholarships from \$10,000 to \$20,000 each. The Foundation partnered with the [New Braunfels Area Community Foundation](#) (NBACF) to accept the applications and then score to determine the winning candidates. Brit King, NBACF president and CEO, said 74 students applied for the Sorrells Scholarship and 94 for the Armstrong Scholarship.

The GVTC Foundation wishes Robert Emmett Donnelly and Matthew Michels the best in their college careers and would like to thank all students for taking the time to apply for the Sorrells and Armstrong Scholarships.

About GVTC:

GVTC is a full-service communications provider offering high-speed Internet, digital cable TV, phone and interactive home security monitoring to residential and business customers. GVTC is the first to deliver 1 Gbps Internet speeds to more than 40,000 customers in areas of far north San Antonio, the Texas Hill Country and South Central Texas. In June 2014, the company formed the GVTC GigaRegion® with the cities of Boerne, Bulverde and Gonzales. Through this unique partnership, GVTC and the GigaRegion® cities will proactively market gigabit availability, along with the attributes of each city, to generate economic development for the area.

GVTC has received numerous awards for business excellence which include being selected a *Broadband Communities Magazine*, Top 100 Broadband Provider, seven consecutive years. The company was also selected as the winner of the 2014 Broadband Vision Awards as a service provider. The *San Antonio Express-News* and *San Antonio Business Journal* have recognized GVTC as an exemplary employer, on multiple occasions. The company's charitable arm, The GVTC Foundation, has donated more than \$1.8 million dollars to worthy causes, since its establishment in 2006. Learn more at [GVTC.com](#)