

For Immediate Release



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The GVTC Foundation awards \$40,000 in scholarships to aspiring Aggies

SMITHSON VALLEY, April 22, 2016 — Two Hill Country high school students, with hopes of attending Texas A&M University, are the recipients of scholarships worth \$20,000 each from The GVTC Foundation.

The Ritchie T. Sorrells Scholarship is named after GVTC's president and CEO and recognizes students who exhibit outstanding leadership qualities and have used innovation or technology to make a positive change in our community. Garrett Maletk of New Braunfels High School offered a long list of leadership credentials that made him a standout candidate for the Sorrells Scholarship. According to his application, Malatek is an Eagle Scout, whose service project led to the Roger Dolle Award from the city of New Braunfels for, "exemplifying leadership and professionalism."

His application states the high school senior was selected as a team leader on his school's First Tech Challenge Robotics Team, which also promotes interest among fellow students in science, technology and engineering. Malatek was selected as an intern for MicroPower Global Corporation, participating in a research project on the integration of thermoelectric chips into solar ovens for power generation. He plans to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering.

Vanessa Skillman from Blanco High School was awarded the Ola Armstrong Scholarship, designated for students exemplifying extraordinary service, volunteer work and involvement in their local community. Her scholarship application shows Skillman has an impressive record in volunteerism giving her time to help the Elf Louise organization, Special Olympics and as a vacation bible school volunteer.

According to Skillman, she earned school and state honors for her skill as a student athletic trainer for the football and track teams. She's also a member of the National Honor Society. Her career goal is to become an orthopedic surgeon.

"These students are outstanding examples of the awesome young talent in our service area that we are happy to help achieve success in their college careers and beyond," Paula White, president, The GVTC Foundation. "It is exciting to see these young people embark on the next adventure in their lives and to anticipate all the great things they will accomplish."

The New Braunfels Area Community Foundation conducted independent screening of all scholarship applications and selection of the scholarship recipients, on behalf of The GVTC Foundation.

"The New Braunfels Area Community Foundation is proud to partner and assist The GVTC Foundation with their scholarship program," Brit King, president and CEO, New Braunfels Area Community Foundation, said. "It's essential the evaluation process be transparent, objective, and nondiscriminatory and we can ensure our process meets these expectations with our volunteer Scholarship Evaluation Committee, which has a combined education experience of more than 400 years. We would like to congratulate this year's recipients and The GVTC Foundation for being such a wonderful example of corporate philanthropy."

About GVTC:

GVTC is an award winning fiber optics communications provider delivering high-speed Internet, digital cable TV, phone and interactive home security monitoring to residential and business customers to customers in far north San Antonio, the Texas Hill Country and South Central Texas. Through its fiber network GVTC offers broadband speeds up to 1 Gbps and symmetrical broadband connections, up to 100 Mbps.

GVTC offers wholesale carrier transport between San Antonio, Austin, Dallas and Houston, with unique access to remote Texas markets. The company organized the GVTC GigaRegion®, a unique private-public partnership, with the cities of Boerne, Bulverde and Gonzales. The GVTC GigaRegion® markets the benefits of a fiber network, along with economic incentives, to compete for jobs and improve quality of life.

The company's philanthropic arm, The GVTC Foundation, is celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2016. The Foundation has donated over \$2 million dollars to charitable organizations throughout the GVTC service area.