

**Majdolene Khweis**, 2011 Taos High School graduate

A \$30,000 Platinum Scholarship is helping Majdolene realize her dream to attend M.I.T. to study environmental science.



## LOS ALAMOS EMPLOYEES' SCHOLARSHIP FUND

# Helping You Realize Your College Dreams

The Los Alamos Employees' Scholarship Fund is a program supporting the students of Northern New Mexico, made possible by the generous contributions of Los Alamos National Laboratory employees, retirees, contractors, and business partners.



**David Salazar**, 2011 Santa Fe High School graduate

A \$10,000 Domenici Scholarship is helping David realize his dream to attend Columbia University to study political science.





# Each year, the Los Alamos Employees' Scholarship Fund (LAESF) provides meaningful scholarships to Northern New Mexico students to help them realize their dreams of attending college.

LAESF was started by a group of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) employees together with the LANL Foundation. They understood the value of our local students and the financial need that often stands in the way of their pursuit of higher education. In the past 12 years, LANL employees, contractors, and retirees, along with Northern New Mexico businesses and community members, have contributed over \$3 million to the fund. This has made possible more than 650 scholarships worth over \$2.5 million for local students attending accredited institutions across the country.

**These scholarships truly help create new opportunities and change lives.**

**Patricia Garcia, 2011 Robertson High School graduate**  
A \$10,000 Domenici Scholarship is helping Patricia realize her dream to attend the University of New Mexico to study pre-med.

## Scholarship Eligibility

**Any permanent resident of Northern New Mexico\* with at least a 3.25 cumulative unweighted grade point average (GPA), and scores of 19 ACT or 930 SAT (combined Math plus Critical Reading only), who is enrolling in or currently attending an accredited post-secondary educational institution is eligible to apply.**

## LAESF Scholarship Criteria

Student applications are evaluated by an advisory committee that considers academic achievement, leadership potential, and the ability to apply critical thinking skills. Student applicants with a desire to pursue a degree in a science-related field or other fields important to the future success of Northern New Mexico will be given priority consideration for Platinum and Gold awards.

### Academic Achievement and Potential

Students are expected to have challenged themselves as fully as their school allows in both quantity and quality of courses selected. We encourage high school seniors to continue taking a full and rigorous academic load through to completion of their senior year to maintain a competitive edge in both college and scholarship programs. Academic transcripts and standardized test scores will provide the basis for evaluation of applicants.

### Leadership Potential

The applicant's leadership potential, based on demonstrated initiative and responsibility, is evaluated on the basis of letters of recommendation, a personal interview, and other components of the application. Evaluation of the applicant's leadership potential will consider participation in extracurricular activities at school and/or in the community. Preference will be given to applicants with demonstrated leadership experience.

### Ability to Apply Critical Thinking Skills

The applicant's ability to apply critical thinking skills, including demonstrated problem solving, is evaluated based on two letters of recommendation, an essay, and other components of the application. Letters of recommendation should include one addressing community service/extracurricular activities, and the other addressing academic achievement.

### Financial Need

LAESF provides merit-based scholarships, however, to gain a true gauge of a student's ability, the Advisory Committee does take into consideration the financial background and life challenges of each applicant. It is strongly recommended that all applicants address the financial need and special circumstances questions in the application.



**Joshua Garcia, 2011 Mora High School graduate**  
A \$10,000 Domenici Scholarship is helping Joshua realize his dream to attend the University of New Mexico to study biology.

\* For the purpose of these scholarships, Northern New Mexico includes Los Alamos, Mora, Rio Arriba, San Miguel, Sandoval, Santa Fe, and Taos counties. A permanent resident of Northern New Mexico is defined as someone whose official residence has been established within the counties identified above for 366 consecutive days.



**Stephen Lujan**, 2011 Bernalillo High School graduate  
A \$10,000 Domenici Scholarship is helping Stephen realize his dream to attend the University of New Mexico to study civil engineering.

## Funds & Awards

LAESF includes several different funds that support a variety of scholarship awards. The number and value of 2011 scholarships will be determined by available funds.

### The Los Alamos Employees' Scholarship Fund

In 1998, Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and its employees, retirees, and contractors partnered with the LANL Foundation to create the Los Alamos Employees' Scholarship Fund. The Fund's goal is to provide scholarships that support the students of Northern New Mexico who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in fields that will serve the region. Awards are based on academic performance (academic rigor, GPA, and standardized test scores), leadership potential (extracurricular and community service activities), critical thinking skills, and career goals (relevant to LANL or local community needs). Financial need, diversity, and regional representation are integral components of the selections process.

### The Endowed Leadership Scholarship Fund

Former Laboratory Director John Browne established the Endowed Leadership Scholarship Fund in 2000. The goal of this scholarship fund is to create lasting scholarship opportunities for Northern New Mexico students who have demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities and achievements in their home, school, or community.

### The Senator Pete Domenici Endowed Scholarship Fund

In 2008, the LANL Foundation established the Senator Pete Domenici Endowed Scholarship Fund to honor the Senator's outstanding public service to New Mexico and the Nation. LAESF awards scholarships to students who exemplify "Pete's spirit" of leadership and community service. Financial need is also a consideration. This fund annually supports a \$10,000 scholarship (four-year \$2,500 award) in each of the seven Northern New Mexico counties served by the Foundation.

## Scholarships Awarded

The number and value of scholarships awarded each year is determined by funds available.

### Science-Related Studies

- **Platinum:** \$7,500 per year for four years
- **Gold:** \$4,000 per year for four years

### Science or Other Studies

- **Silver:** \$2,500 per year for four years
- **Bronze:** \$1,000 per year for four years

### Leadership

- **Endowed Leadership:** \$2,500 per year for four years

### Named Scholarships

Several named scholarships have been established over the years. These scholarships have been established to commemorate people with a strong interest in the education of Northern New Mexico students.

- **Allan Johnston Memorial Scholarship:** \$1,000 for one year
- **NNM American Society of Mechanical Engineers Scholarship:** \$1,000 for one year
- **Philip P. Barker Memorial Scholarship:** \$1,000 for one year
- **Rae Lee Siporin Scholarship:** \$1,000 for one year
- **Tim Martin Memorial Scholarship** (Mesa Vista High School applicants only): \$1,000 for one year
- **William and Gertrude Fradkin Memorial Scholarship:** \$1,000 for one year

**Santana Shorty**, 2011 Santa Fe Indian School graduate  
A \$10,000 Domenici Scholarship is helping Santana realize her dream to attend the Stanford University to study international studies and education.





**Santana Garcia-Chang**, 2011 Questa High School graduate  
A \$10,000 Domenici Scholarship and \$1,000 William & Gertrude Fradkin Memorial Scholarship are helping Santana realize her dream to attend the University of New Mexico, Taos to study environmental science.

## How to Apply

Students interested in seeking a Los Alamos Employees' Scholarship must submit a complete application form and supporting materials by the **January 17, 2012 deadline**.

### Application Portfolio Requirements

- The application form available online at [www.lanlfoundation.org/scholarships](http://www.lanlfoundation.org/scholarships) after October 1, 2011\*\*
- Official academic transcript(s), covering at least two most recent years (high school students should also include transcripts from post-secondary institutions from which concurrent credits have been earned)
- A copy of ACT or SAT I scores
- A copy of SAT II scores, if available
- Two letters of recommendation
- An essay of approximately 250 words
- A wallet-size photograph for publication purposes (not used during applicant assessment)

**\*\*Applicants are strongly encouraged to complete the online application form at [www.lanlfoundation.org/scholarships](http://www.lanlfoundation.org/scholarships). Detailed instructions and application form in PDF format may also be obtained from the address above and submitted by mail to: LANL Foundation, Scholarship Coordinator 1112 Plaza del Norte, Española, NM 87532**

### Deadlines and Awards Process

**Applications must be submitted online or postmarked by January 17, 2012**, and awards for the 2011-2012 academic year will be announced in March, 2012. The LAESF Advisory Committee reviews all applications, conducts interviews, and makes award recommendations to the LANL Foundation Board of Directors. Personal interviews will be conducted for finalists being considered for Platinum and Gold awards. LANL Foundation Board makes all final decisions.

### Scholarship Expectations

Students who are awarded multi-year scholarships must be enrolled full-time with a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester/quarter. Recipients must maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA and are required to submit an annual copy of current academic transcripts to the LANL Foundation in order to continue receiving scholarship funds.

**Contact Tony Fox, Scholarship Program Officer for the LANL Foundation, at (505) 753-8890 ext. 16 or [tony@lanlfoundation.org](mailto:tony@lanlfoundation.org) with questions.**

### Summer Internship Opportunities

Scholarship recipients may have the opportunity to apply for summer internships at LANL. The Lab makes every effort to match students with a mentor in their field of interest. However, due to the limited number of available positions, students may work in other areas with future opportunities to move to divisions more closely aligned with their career goals. For more information visit [www.hr.lanl.gov/findjob](http://www.hr.lanl.gov/findjob). LANL is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Employment is not guaranteed.

### The LANL Foundation

The LAESF is administered by LANL Foundation, a tax-exempt public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Foundation was created in early 1997 in recognition of the interdependence of LANL and Northern New Mexico communities, and exists to enhance the vitality of the region by investing in education, learning, and community development.

For more information about the LANL Foundation, visit [www.lanlfoundation.org](http://www.lanlfoundation.org).



**Keanna Cohen**, 2011 Los Alamos High School graduate  
A \$10,000 Domenici Scholarship is helping Keanna realize her dream to attend the University of California, Santa Barbara to study pre-law, political science, and international studies.



**Maria Alvarado, 2001 McCurdy High School graduate**  
A \$4,000 Bronze Scholarship helped Maria realize her dream to attend the University of Denver and continue her education at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government to become a Consular Officer for the U.S. Embassy in Quito, Ecuador.

**Maria Alvarado** still has the small pieces of barbed wire and brick from the Berlin Wall sent to her by a friend in Germany where she lived for three years as a child. For Maria, remnants are reminders of a time when communism was losing its stronghold in Russia and Eastern Europe, the end of a long, cold war. They are also hallmarks of her young career, devoted to building bridges, not walls, between former adversaries of the Cold War.

Born and raised for most of her life in Española, Maria had hoped to someday work as a foreign ambassador for the United States in another country, possibly Russia. Her interest in studying Russian began as a junior in high school. She and some fellow classmates from McCurdy High School traveled to Sarov, Russia, a former nuclear weapons facility and current sister city of Los Alamos, NM, for an ecology project through a student exchange program. While in Sarov, she attended school and learned how the city functioned similarly to Los Alamos over the past 60 years. "My experience in Sarov really piqued my interest in different cultures and languages," said Maria. "I also became very interested in nuclear non-proliferation and how former communist block countries were handling the transition from communism to free-market societies."

Upon her arrival back in Española, she took immediate steps that would shape the course of her future. "When I got back from Russia, I set a goal to learn to speak Russian, and began teaching myself the language." After her high school graduation, she returned to Russia on a sightseeing trip and solidified her plans to pursue a future in the Foreign Service. She decided to attend the University of Denver to pursue degrees in International Studies and Russian.

Alvarado's dream got an important boost when she was awarded a scholarship from the Los Alamos Employees' Scholarship Fund (LAESF). "As a LAESF scholarship recipient, I was not only able to attend DU but was also eligible to

get a job at LANL during the summers, working alongside a mentor in my chosen field of study." Each summer as an undergraduate student, Alvarado worked at LANL. Her primary job was to find scientific reviewers for proposals submitted by former weapons scientists in Russia, who were trying to secure funding from the U.S. State Department for projects with commercial potential. "This way, their (soviet nuclear scientists') knowledge was being used on projects that had economic value for struggling former communist block countries."

Alvarado credits her LANL mentor, Steven Gitomer, for steering her down the right path and for providing her with plenty of "real" work experience. "Steve was absolutely wonderful to work for. I would not be where I am today if it was not for Steve's patience and guidance – I'm very lucky!"

Alvarado's hard work and perseverance paid off when she was notified that she was selected to receive the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship, a three-year, all-expenses-paid scholarship that provides special training and internships at the State Department in Washington, D.C. and at a U.S. Embassy somewhere in the world. One of 20 students selected nationwide, Alvarado acknowledged, "the fellowship was really a fast-track training program for students seeking a career in the Foreign Service." This suited her perfectly. Through this fellowship, Alvarado then attended Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, where she studied for her Masters Degree in Public Policy with a special emphasis in Political and Economic Development. While there, she became editor-in-chief of the *Harvard Journal of Hispanic Policy*, a journal that focuses on domestic issues facing Hispanic communities in the U.S. (i.e. health care, immigration reform, education, etc.).

Maria spent one summer as an intern in the Public Affairs office at the U.S. Embassy in Quito, Ecuador and now serves there as a Consular Officer.