

# MINING FOUNDATION

*for Lowry High School*

An annual report from the Mining Industry Foundation for Lowry High School

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**Twin Creeks Mine**  
Jerry Pfarr, Director of  
Environmental Permitting  
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**Foundation Officers**  
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Marie-Jeanne Dawson,  
Tanya Grady, Kelly Novi  
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Waddell & Reed, Inc.

Sharon Allred, Personal Banker  
Wells Fargo Bank, Winnemucca



The Mining Industry Foundation for Lowry High School has been in existence for 19 years. Over the past four years, the Foundation has helped facilitate "An Assembly of Excellence" program each May as well as the "Senior Choice Awards," which recognizes teachers who have influenced LHS students.

## LHS student recognition at heart of Mining Foundation

Nineteen years ago, Dan Harper, the-then General Manager of the Pinson Mine, suggested creating a way to recognize the achievements of students at Lowry High School.

Harper's suggestion, which was patterned after several academic and vocational incentive programs at Battle Mountain High School, seemed like a good idea.

But it was also a big idea—an idea that would require a significant financial commitment from area mines and associated businesses.

Harper was undeterred by the magnitude of the project, though, and simply pressed on in what he knew would eventually bless the lives of local students.

And the Mining Industry Foundation for Lowry High School has done just that.

Nearly two decades later, a total of \$605,000 has been donated by area mining companies to Lowry High School and, last year for instance, the hard work of dozens upon dozens of students was rewarded with everything from cash money and savings bonds to medallions and certificates.

Big names like Coeur Rochester, Barrick Gold, Hycroft, Marigold, Florida Canyon, Newmont, Great Basin Gold and Pershing's Relief Canyon Mine have all stepped up to the plate in the past years.

Additionally, since 2009, over \$9,000 has come in from vendors like Arnold Machinery, Western Nevada Supply, Black Rock Machinery, Carwil, Humboldt Printers, Hydro Resources Nevada, Inland Supply Company, Carquest, Kimball Equipment and Boart Longyear Nevada.

Over those same 19 years, the nonprofit corporation has paid out approximately \$296,000 in academic and vocational incentive awards or savings bonds, while letterman jackets have been given out to the top 10 students in each of the freshman, sophomore,

junior and senior classes. If students prefer, they can choose a \$400 savings bond instead.

Along with the traditional awards for high achievers in Lowry High School's eight academic and seven vocational departments, with leadership classes added this year, students with perfect and exemplary attendance have also been recognized.

The awards are announced annually as part of an "Assembly of Excellence," held each May in the school's gymnasium.

Lowry High School Principal Debbie Watts said it has to be held in the gymnasium because there are so many students, parents and guests who attend.

For many students, it's the first time they've ever been recognized in an academic setting.

"I've seen a few parents cry when their son or daughter's name has been called," she said. "For them, seeing their child honored for increasing their effort in a certain class is a landmark experience."

Mining Foundation President Jerry Pfarr said that's the purpose behind the nonprofit, not only to recognize those students who routinely top the charts, but also to shine light on those who are progressing at their own speed—but who are progressing nonetheless.

"It's an exciting thing to watch," he said of the assembly. "As a Foundation we do our part throughout the year so that those few hours can take place, and it's amazing to watch as each student is called up and recognized among his or her peers."

He continued, "The students seem to like that experience and we think it helps motivate them to reach a little higher in their own academic and vocational efforts."

Students aren't the only ones who reap the benefits of the Foundation's work, however. Since 2007, the mining group has also

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## INCENTIVES

Since 1992, the Mining Industry Foundation for Lowry High School has given out incentive and recognition awards to:

- The top 2 graduating seniors
- The top 2 students in eight academic subjects including math, science, English/humanities, social studies, fine arts/music, foreign language, special education, physical education, and seven vocational subjects including business, auto repair, welding, drafting/auto-CAD, agriculture, woods and family consumer science.
- The top 10 seniors, juniors, sophomores and freshmen
- Each student with one year perfect or exemplary attendance
- Each student with four years perfect attendance

### MINE INCENTIVE EXPLANATIONS

**Top Ten.** This award is presented to each grade based on student performance during the current school year only regardless of past successes or struggles. The first criteria used to determine eligible students is the total number of A's earned in all classes for the first, second and third quarters of the current school year. Any class taken as Pass/Fail does not count as no letter grade is received. In the event that more than 10 students are eligible, further tie-breaking procedures are used including total number of A's and B's, number of honors courses and finally, the mean of the total class averages for the first three quarters will determine the top 10. Grade Point Average is not used to calculate who is awarded the Top Ten.

**Top Two Seniors.** This award is presented to the top two seniors based on Weighted Grade Point Average for the first seven semesters of high school. In the event there are ties, the following procedures are used: Total number of honors courses followed by the mean of the total class averages for the first seven semesters of high school. The top two seniors should not be confused with the Valedictorian and Salutatorian, as these awards are based on the complete eight semesters of high school.

**Perfect Attendance.** Perfect attendance is 100 percent attendance in all class periods (excluding school-approved activities). To be eligible, a student must be absent for three or fewer class periods in a year.

## SENIOR CHOICE AWARDS

Since 2007, the Mining Industry Foundation for Lowry High School recognized those teachers in kindergarten through 12th grade who have had the greatest impact or exerted the most influence on each year's graduating seniors.

The awardees are nominated by the graduating seniors and chosen by a committee with no administration or teacher participation.

These awards are given out during the Senior Choice Award banquet, which is held each spring at the Winnemucca Convention Center.

The awardees, their spouses, school officials and the students who served on the selection and awarding committees are invited to attend the banquet.

Following are the award recipients from 2009-2010:

- Mr. John Aberasturi, Lowry High School
- Mr. Andy Anderson, Lowry High School
- Mr. Ron Beck, Lowry High School
- Mr. John Brooks, formerly Sonoma Heights Elementary School
- Mrs. Lisa Conn, Sonoma Heights Elementary School
- Mrs. Vera deArrieta, formerly McDermit Combined School
- Mrs. Dolores Detweiler, Winnemucca Junior High School
- Mrs. Michele Doyle, Lowry High School
- Mr. Ron Espinola, Lowry High School
- Mr. James Gilboy, Grass Valley Elementary School
- Mrs. Corrine James, Lowry High School
- Mrs. Dorene Kitras, formerly French Ford Middle School
- Mr. K.C. Kracaw, Winnemucca Junior High School
- Mrs. Kathi Kuretech, French Ford Middle School
- Mrs. Lynn Ludlow, Lowry High School
- Mrs. Amorita Maher, McDermit Combined School
- Mrs. Keeli McClintick, Sonoma Heights Elementary School
- Mrs. Vicki Meissner, Lowry High School
- Mrs. Char Owen, Winnemucca Grammar School
- Mrs. Juanita Pardovich, French Ford Middle School
- Mrs. Nancy Plummer, Grass Valley Elementary School
- Mrs. Courtney Rorex, Lowry High School
- Mrs. Teri Stein (retired), French Ford Middle School
- Mr. Mark Westmoreland (retired), Winnemucca Grammar School

## 'Mining Foundation' (cont)

recognized teachers from kindergarten through 12th grade who have significantly impacted each year's graduating seniors.

The awardees are nominated by the students and chosen by a committee who have no administration or teacher participation.

The awards are then given out during an annual Senior Choice Awards banquet for award recipients, their spouses, school officials and students who served on the selection and awarding committees.

The Foundation foots the bill for the annual celebration, which all trustees agree is one of the highlights of the donation year.

One of the reasons the Foundation has been so financially successful is because members have been careful to take at least half of each year's contributions and earmark them as a permanent endowment for the academic and vocational incentive program.

Some years, those contributions have soared to \$50,000; this past year, \$38,000 came in from eight mines. Regardless of the actual dollar amount, that fund has been growing steadily. Currently, it stands at about \$450,000.

President Pfarr said with that kind of investment, the program will stand as a perpetual memorial to this area's rich mining history.

"And if the local mining industry were to cease some day," he said, "mining would still continue to support these students in helping them prepare for whatever academic or vocational opportunities their world might offer."

All trustees and officers associated with the Foundation donate their time to the cause as do those who provide consulting, accounting, legal or administrative services.

There are no administrative fees associated with the group, with the exception of a \$25 annual fee to the Secretary of State, which keeps the group's nonprofit corporate status in good standing.

The fifth annual Assembly of Excellence program has been scheduled for 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, May 18, in the Lowry High School gymnasium.

## 2010 Mine Incentive Awards

**Top 2 Senior  
\$1,000**  
Giovan Cholico  
Courtney  
Hammond

**Top 10 Freshmen  
Savings Bond  
or Jacket**  
Tyler Brumm  
Mary Castaneda  
Sarah Custer  
Carli Evatz  
Marion House  
Riata Kull  
Daniel Pollock  
Ashley Principle  
Matthew Ruehl  
Paige Thiede

**Top 10  
Sophomore  
Savings Bond  
or Jacket**  
Jace Billingsley  
Brandon Eastman  
Betsy Guerrero  
Angie Herrera  
Marie-Elise Kitras  
Bryan Noble  
Quinn Norcutt  
Olivia Snow  
Melanie Vance  
Jessica Villarreal

**Top 10  
Junior  
Savings Bond  
or Jacket**  
Shane Bell  
Dillon Bryan  
Miranda Buttram  
Tyler Cox  
Jacob Gibson  
Luis Gutierrez  
Emelia Legarza  
Anders Pace  
Rachel Yates  
Patrick York

**Top 10  
Senior  
Savings Bond  
or Jacket**  
Giovan Cholico  
Tyler Cooper  
Amaya Drake  
Mary Granath  
Courtney  
Hammond  
Rebecca Monroe  
Trenten Montero  
Timothy Palmer  
Brad Pearce  
Alex Schumacher

**Exemplary  
Attendance  
Savings Bond**  
Cintia Aguilar  
Tyler Cox  
Angie Herrera

Juaquin Lopez  
Eva Mercado  
Chase Young  
Cesar Moreno  
Joel Mendoza  
Juan Zepeda  
Timothy Palmer

**Perfect  
Attendance  
Savings Bond**  
Maria Acevedo  
Cheyenne Betz  
Daniel Hales  
Taylor Hatfield  
Robert Hoenck  
Amardip Mall  
MaElena Sanchez  
William Thacker  
Thomas Collins  
Dustin Kraft  
Winter Coulter  
Whitney Hatfield  
Berenice Sanchez

**Top 2 Academic  
and Vocational  
Students  
Savings Bond**  
Lance Thompson  
Rachael Studebaker  
Amaya Drake  
Kristen Fisher  
Blaine Case  
Ashley Buckingham  
Mark Kenison  
Jordan Martin  
Madeline Mitch  
Daniel Pollock  
Juan Garcia  
Cameron Keele  
Ryan Nelson  
Brad Pearce  
Andrea Vaca  
Chelsea Lujan  
Nestor Ruiz  
Ashley Dennis  
Angie Herrera  
Justin Rice  
Giovan Cholico  
David Eastman (2)  
Nick Spriet  
Eric Orlando  
Brandon Eldodt  
Juan Zepeda  
Courtney  
Hammond (2)  
Mary Granath

**Honorable  
Mention  
Academic and  
Vocational  
Students  
Certificate**  
Stephanie Zeiger  
Brandon  
Eastman (2)  
Vanessa Juanes  
Silver Nichols  
Robyn Shafer  
Quinn Norcutt (2)  
Sarah Custer  
Jaimi Cloud (2)

Dax Kemp  
Donald LeGrand  
Whitney Walker  
Daisy Clark  
Cody Cook-Green  
Angie Herrera  
Kyrstin Hori  
Bryan Noble (2)  
Amaya Drake  
Jessica Lindsay (2)  
Lainey Barta  
Tyler Cooper  
Brad Pearce  
Wendy Kemp  
MaElena Sanchez  
Kennia Ochoa  
Dillon Bryan  
Daniel Arnold  
Martin Iroz (2)  
John Lesley  
McKenzie Gray  
Jazmyn Ward  
Jessica Villarreal (4)  
Jesus Herrera  
Tyler Cox (3)  
Riata Kull (2)  
Savannah McDade  
Mary Granath (2)  
Giovan Cholico (3)  
Sydney Sundahl  
Maria Diaz  
Maria Lovelace  
Mark Langston  
Ryan Romo  
Olivia Snow (2)  
Jessie Whitmore  
Carli Evatz (3)  
Brooklyn Thomas  
Alyssa Parks  
Lainey Barta  
Joey Lester  
Brenda Ramirez-  
Caracoza  
Tamora McCre  
Mary Castaneda  
Osiris Loyola  
Donovan Tuck  
Megan Guild (2)  
Colton Milholland  
Tyler Duran  
Nadia Hernandez  
Kelsey Lambert  
Anders Pace (2)  
Stephanie  
Shelley (2)  
Lacy Villarreal (2)  
Jordan Martin  
Daniel Guzman  
Anthony Leal  
Katie Hillyer  
Jennae Johnson  
Laurel Clayson  
Carlos Esparza  
Brooke Stevenson  
Josh Yost  
Jessica Wadley  
Betsy Guerrero  
Marion House  
Daniel Pollock  
Jason Luybourn  
Luis Cruz  
David Eastman  
Matt Ruehl  
Brendan Kilcourse  
Maria-Elise Kitras (2)  
Pedro Castaneda  
Jesse Studebaker

Tyler Brumm (2)  
Rebecca Mastin  
Jose Castaneda (3)  
Steven Madrid  
Brisa Ochoa  
Dulce Heredia  
Marie Linares  
Jovi Garcia  
Michael Murchison  
Ryan Corbari  
Nicos Avalos  
Marion House  
Adriana Fernandez  
Jayna Hill  
Cameron Carrica  
Adrianna Silva  
Jennifer Barajas  
Kim Garcia  
Chris Spiers  
Susan Tobler  
Alex Schumacher  
Trevor Belanger  
Jennica Herrera-  
Cassar  
Alexander Lovelace  
Pat York (2)  
Mary Vasser  
Corbin Crouch  
Angel Ward  
Deidra Berg  
Ana Aguilar  
Kinzie McClintick  
Luisa Fregoso  
Ashley Principe  
Chelsie Hammond  
Rachael Yates  
Tessa Nolan  
James Christison  
Amy Balagna  
Chelsea Lujan  
Patrick Rehberg  
Mary Granath  
Shane Bell  
Miranda Buttram  
Johnathan  
Hernandez  
Lynnsey Johnson  
Leland Miller  
Dukota O'Reilly  
Jesus Montes-Ayula  
Bryce Brumley  
Chase Orr  
Paeden Underwood  
Jeremiah  
Maestrujuan  
Stevie Macdonald

**Honorable  
Mention  
Academic and  
Vocational  
Students  
Medallion**  
Chelsea Robinson  
Courtney Hammond  
Lance Thompson  
Mary Granath  
Cintia Aguilar  
Berenice Sanchez  
Jacob Gibson  
Andrea Vaca  
David Eastman  
Eric Orlando  
William Thacker  
Courtney Hammond  
Amy Balagna

