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## **NET RMA Announces Fifth Annual Linda Thomas Safe Driving Scholarships Winners**

*\$2,000 awards go to 10 high school seniors in Northeast Texas*

**(Tyler, TX)** – The North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority (NET RMA) announced the recipients for its 5th annual Linda Thomas Safe Driving Scholarship. The scholarship awarded \$2,000 each to 10 high school seniors in NET RMA counties throughout Northeast Texas.

Linda Thomas Safe Driving Scholarship winners include:

### **Gregg County**

- Carolyn Purdum – Longview High School
- Omika Patel – Longview High School
- Joe Ray – Sabine High School

### **Smith County**

- Sydney Hines – Lindale High School
- Parker Pierce – Bullard High School

### **Wood County**

- Daniel Kernes – Quitman High School
- Emilee Reed – Winnsboro High School

### **Cass County**

- Vincent Wong – Queen City High School

### **Kaufman County**

- MaKennah Duncan – Forney High School

### **Bowie County**

- Tristan Carter – Pleasant Grove High School

The scholarship encourages area high school students to understand and discuss the importance of safe driving practices to local communities. Winners were selected based on safe driving-themed essays along with academic and extracurricular achievements. Each application was evaluated by the NET RMA Scholarship Committee made up of board members on the Community Relations Committee. Recipients will be able to use scholarship funds for tuition, fees, books, room, board or other expenses required by their college or university.

This year's winners include a diverse group of high school seniors from six counties in Northeast Texas. The students' planned college majors include a wide array of interests from kinesiology to avionics to journalism to biology.

"The Linda Thomas Safe Driving Scholarship Program showcases the very best Northeast Texas has to offer," said Andrea Williams McCoy, NET RMA Community Relations Chair. "We are honored to play a small part in these exceptional students' educational journeys and look forward to following their successes through college, trade school and beyond."

Student essays included perspectives on driving laws, technological innovations to prevent accidents and drivers' education. You can meet the winners and find their essays at [netrma.org/scholarship](http://netrma.org/scholarship).

### **About the North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority (NET RMA)**

The NET RMA is an independent government agency created to accelerate the development of transportation projects in Northeast Texas. The agency's mission is, in cooperation with its regional partners, to provide solutions to expedite infrastructure and mobility projects that will improve the quality of life, enhance the regional economy and assure efficient mobility in the North East Texas Region. The NET RMA is governed by a 21-member board of directors that represents each of the 14-member counties: Bowie, Camp, Cass, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Kaufman, Panola, Rusk, Smith, Titus, Upshur, Van Zandt and Wood. Texas RMAs were made possible through an initiative passed by the State Legislature in 2001. The NET RMA was established in October 2004. For more information visit, [NETRMA.org](http://NETRMA.org).

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