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Two Students Awarded Bjugstad Scholarship

PIERRE, S.D. — Chance Knutson and Laketon McLaughlin have been awarded a \$500 Bjugstad Scholarship for the 2013-14 academic year by the South Dakota Board of Regents.

The Ardell Bjugstad Scholarship Program for Native American Students was established by the family of Ardell Bjugstad of Rapid City. Bjugstad, who died in 1990, served as a range scientist with the U.S. Forest Service for 20 years, and held adjunct professorships at South Dakota State University, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, and Oglala Lakota College. He was a strong advocate for young Native Americans working to educate themselves, and he worked closely with Oglala Lakota College in mentoring Native American students through the U.S. Forest Service.

In order to qualify for the Ardell Bjugstad Scholarship, a student must be an enrolled member of a federally recognized Native American tribe with reservations in North or South Dakota, attend a postsecondary institution, and pursue studies leading to a degree in agribusiness, agricultural production, agricultural sciences, or natural resources.

Knutson is a graduate of Kadoka Area High School and McLaughlin graduated from Wall High School. Knutson plans to major in civil/environmental engineering at South Dakota School of Mines & Technology. McLaughlin plans to attend Black Hills State University and major in business, with the intent to return to Wall and work for McDonnell Farms after graduation.

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Chance Knutson



Laketon McLaughlin

To obtain an electronic copy of this photo, email Tracy Mercer at tracy.mercer@sdbor.edu.