



The
Climate Change Leadership Institute

November 12, 2019

Dear Aspen, Jonathon, Lilith and Sierra,

There may be no greater challenge and purpose today than dedicating ourselves and marshaling our resources to justly solve the climate crisis. In concert with fellow youth locally and worldwide, you four young people are becoming a formidable force in the growing movement to phase out greenhouse house gasses, restore ecological balance and build up thriving sustainable communities.

Every year the Climate Change Leadership Institute (CCLI) gives out the Climate Courage Award to honor people who make an outstanding impact in addressing climate change by bravely overcoming the entrenched interests resisting change and helping achieving a bright future for all of us.

This year it gives us great pleasure and pride to present the 2019 Climate Courage Award to the four of you young people for your stellar participation in the September 20th 2019 Climate Strike and for your on-going activism. This is the first time the Climate Courage Award has gone to youth and it is wholly appropriate to do so because you and your fellow young people are so rightly, powerfully and poetically spearheading change while not tolerating the status quo. This is also the first year that the award is going to a group of people and this is also fitting because you are working in collaboration with your fellow youth and it is through unparalleled teamwork that we will solve the climate crisis.

This year's Award, which comes with a plaque and check, goes to Aspen Coriz, Jonathon Juarez, Lilith Clark and Sierra Soboleski, all youth leaders from around New Mexico. A seed grant in your names will also be provided to relevant community based non profits you select. Aspen from Espanola High School selects Earth Care which is in direct coordination with YUCCA / Youth United for Climate Crisis Action. Jonathon from the Native American Community Academy selects the Southwest Organizing Project. Lilith from Albuquerque High School selects Planned Parenthood of New Mexico. Sierra, a 10 year old from Santa Fe who is DeafBlind, selects Global WE to support their access funds for interpreters/disability needs. So this award not only honors youth action but also hopefully has a ripple effect through these organizations.

Our heartfelt congratulations goes out to all of you impressive youth. We hope you continue to flourish and want you to know you have our enduring support.

With appreciation,

Robb Hirsch

Executive Director & Founder