

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATES OF 2022!

Bennett, Byers & Deer Trail

Bennett senior wins Daniels Fund Scholarship



KATHY SMILEY/The I-70 Scout

Bennett High School senior Jack Faczak has earned a full-ride Daniels Scholarship. He plans to attend Adams State University.

by Kathy Smiley
Staff Writer

BENNETT — The same grit and determination that made Bennett High School senior Jack Faczak a champion wrestler has earned him a full ride to college.

Faczak was named a 2022 Daniels Scholar. The Daniels Scholarship program annually awards students from the four-state region of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming four-year scholarships of up to \$25,000 a year to any accredited nonprofit college or university in the United States. Daniels Scholars must demonstrate academic excellence, exceptional character, leadership, and a commitment to serving their communities. Thousands of students apply for the highly competitive scholarship every year out of which 240 Daniels Scholars are selected.

Jack is the son of John Faczak, the head wrestling coach at Bennett High School. The oldest of four siblings, Jack has attended Bennett Schools since fifth grade and wrestled in Bennett programs since age 6.

Faczak will attend Adams State University in Alamosa, where he has already been accepted on the wrestling team.

“I want to continue my wrestling career in college,” he said.

Jack placed third in the state wrestling tournaments his junior and senior years. He also participated in other sports in elementary, middle and high school.

“I played football in middle school and did soccer before that,” he told *The I-70 Scout* April 25. “I like wrestling the best.”

Faczak’s career path isn’t completely mapped out.

“I’m thinking of majoring in fi-

nance,” he said. “I like the leadership aspect of things, so I’ll probably go out in a management position or an entrepreneurial sense, or work into sales management or logistics or somewhere in that realm.”

Jack, who has a 4.3 grade point average, will capitalize on his strengths as he builds his career, and he has a clear sense of what he will need to improve upon.

“I like math; it comes really easy to me,” he said, adding that he enjoys other subjects including science and history. “My weak point is definitely writing and English. Not glaringly weak, but I have more struggles in writing than anything else — getting everything the exact way I want it.”

Faczak demonstrates leadership daily. He is the president of the school’s FFA chapter, a leader in the

FACZAK
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Field trip to DIA opens Byers students’ eyes to job opportunities

by Kathy Smiley
Staff Writer

BYERS — A group of Byers High School students learned about sky-high career possibilities on a field trip to Denver International Airport.

Twenty-nine students and staff members spent April 29 on a behind-the-scenes DIA tour — meeting with airport personnel and learning firsthand about some of the inner workings and career paths the airport offers. The trip was arranged by the I-70 Corridor Regional Economic Advancement Partnership (REAP).

The group boarded a DIA shuttle bus at school and arrived at DIA in time for a pizza lunch provided by REAP in the terminal press room. There they heard

speakers about job and career opportunities followed by a bus tour of the tarmac.

For one participant, senior Payton Nail, the trip evoked memories of her great-grandfather Tommy R. Nail.

“He just passed away last October,” she said. “He had private airplanes and he flew until he couldn’t pass his physical anymore.”

Payton signed on for the trip to explore career options.

“I thought it would be a cool opportunity, and I’ve been looking around for some good jobs,” she said, adding that she’s considering going into welding — particularly aviation welding.

“Those are two things I love a lot.”

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KATHY SMILEY/The I-70 Scout

Byers High School students pose in front of a DIA shuttle bus for a day at the airport April 29. Accompanying the students are principal Kelly Boren (far right), senior seminar teacher Carolyn Worrell (front row left), and counselor Jessica Fournier (not pictured).

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DIA **FROM PAGE 1**

Payton enjoyed hearing facts about DIA, including the number of passengers who travel through it yearly (69 million in 2019), when it opened (1995), and what the tent roof is made of (a Teflon-coated fiberglass material as thin as a credit card.)

Approximately 35,000 people work in different industries and professions at DIA.



“I didn’t know there were so many jobs within the airport. We got to see where the snowplows and other equipment is, and we got to see the people who deal with the wildlife,” Payton said.

DIA partners with the U.S. Department of Agriculture wildlife services, which provides a full-time staff at the airport.

A wildlife manager told the students that –large birds of prey pose a danger to aviation, so they are humanely trapped and relocated.

“They release them 75 to 100 miles away and put trackers on them before they release them, so they know if they come back,” Payton said.

Byers junior Michael Husted was also a participant in the field trip.

“I grew up around aviation and I wanted to see the ins and outs of DIA,” he said.

Michael’s grandparents own two planes and have an airstrip on their property 10 miles south of Byers. His grandfather is a Designated Airworthiness Representative for the Federal Aviation Administration. His father is an airline mechanic at DIA.

Michael is currently working on pilot licensure and is considering a career in aeronautical engineering. He is very familiar with airports from a pilot and passenger perspective, but he enjoyed learning about the business side of the operation.

“The scale of it all is really cool,” he said. “We went out onto the runway and it’s amazing to see how big it is. They talked about everything it takes to get the airplanes to the runway and take off. It’s really interesting.”

REAP Executive Director Kip Cheroutes said he sees workforce development for high school students as an economic development priority.

“A few months back I heard (DIA CEO) Phil Washington at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce talking about Vision 100, the goal of the airport to grow to accommodate 100 million passengers a year,” Cheroutes told *The I-70 Scout* May 13. “He talked about the importance of developing a work force for the fu-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Junior Libby Packard gets a close look at a red-tailed hawk held by a wildlife manager at DIA.

ture. My ears perked up.” Cheroutes met with Byers High School Principal Kelly Boren and counselor Jessica Fournier to discuss involving students in economic development, then contacted DIA Manager of Regional Affairs Rachel Gruber, who was enthusiastic about a field trip.

“REAP was the connector to all this,” he added.

Cheroutes met the Byers group at DIA and joined them for the tour. He believes the trip accomplished its purpose.

“Eyes were most definitely opened,” he said, adding he had an “interesting interaction” with a student who asked about IT (information technology) opportunities at the airport. “While we were on the bus driving around the runways, the tour guide, who was the DIA director of operations, talked about the decisions an airline has to make whether or not to cancel a flight due to bad weather or some other circumstances. The airline has to weigh all the different costs involved in going or not going, like deicing fluid and the extra fuel you expend if you’re in a long line on a wintry day.”

Cheroutes recalled he turned to the student and said, “That’s an algorithm. Some airline employee had to write code and come up with a computer program the airline could use to analyze the costs and quickly give an answer.”

Cheroutes envisioned a light bulb going off in the student’s head.

“He realized how you apply IT to a specific an airline situation,” he said. “It was an aha moment for him and a cool thing for me.”

Cheroutes said he has approached the other Corridor high schools to discuss career development and will continue those efforts next school year.

“I’m also hoping to help arrange field trips to other job centers, such as CORE Electric, which has already indicated willingness to host students,” he added. “This will be an ongoing priority for REAP.”

Congratulations Shane!

**You Got This.
Go See THE WORLD!
WE LOVE YOU!**

— Ryan (Dad), Kim, Hunter, Avery & Ryleigh, Lester & Wendy (Nana), Ashley (Aunty), Les, Amaiya, Ilo & Leiani.

