



Contact: Amy Schutte  
Phone: (208) 320-0564  
Email: [amy@hudsonandco.co](mailto:amy@hudsonandco.co)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Two College of Southern Idaho Students Receive Magic Valley Energy Scholarships



*Students from the CSI Renewable Energy Program climb a wind tower in Hagerman in early 2023. Schroeder (front, kneeling), Anderson (second from the left)*

**MAY 8, 2023 – TWIN FALLS, ID** – Two College of Southern Idaho students were selected to receive Magic Valley Energy scholarships for the CSI Renewable Energy Systems Technology Program.

Zach Schroeder will receive \$1,000 toward completing his degree, and Cougar Anderson, a graduate of Filer High School, will receive \$500.

This is the third round of scholarships Magic Valley Energy has sponsored for CSI students interested in renewable energy careers.

The CSI Renewable Energy Systems Program has grown substantially over the past decade and has a 97% job placement rate for students. The degree is usually completed within two years; however, CSI works with high school students and those already working in the industry that still need to satisfy their degree requirements.

Associate Professor Eli Bowles said his connections in the industry and the substantial demand for clean energy across the country make the transition for his students from the classroom to a career easy.

“All but one of my sophomores have jobs lined up and ready to go. Some of them won’t even walk at graduation because they are on their way to their job,” Bowles said. “We’re looking forward to having a pipeline for more local renewable energy jobs for the students who want to stay in the Magic Valley. Scholarships are a great way for students to connect with industry, and it’s a way for companies to give back and show they want educated employees willing to put in the time to learn and grow.”

Schroeder and Anderson said they chose a career in renewable energy because of seeing wind turbines and solar panels from the road.

“I’ve wanted to climb a wind turbine since I first saw one when I was a little kid,” Schroeder said. “The industry is exploding, and it’s on its way up. Everything tells me it’s on the upward swing, and being on the ground floor is exciting.”

Anderson focused his Senior Project in high school on renewable energy and said his goal after graduation was to get a wind energy job.

The two proposed Magic Valley Energy wind projects, Lava Ridge and Salmon Falls, will bring approximately 40 well-paid, permanent job opportunities to the Magic Valley and have an estimated \$23 million annual economic output after the two-year construction phase.

“Renewable energy is here, it’s a viable career, and it’s a great program at CSI. There’s nothing else like it out there,” Schroeder said. “When you finish, you don’t have to worry about transferring to another school. This career offers you a future.”

Both students said winning the Magic Valley Energy Scholarship was a financial boost.

“Scholarships give the students a helping hand so they don’t have to stress so much about the finances,” Bowles said. “It’s been great to have a relationship with Magic Valley Energy, and my students have benefited from these amazing scholarships.”

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developed, constructed, managed or acquired more than 45,000 MW of power generation, including utility scale solar, wind, hydro, natural gas-fired and battery storage projects, and over 660 miles of transmission, for which it has raised in excess of \$46 billion in debt and equity financing to support North American infrastructure. Additionally, LS Power actively invests in businesses and platforms focused on distributed energy resources and energy efficiency. For more information, please visit [www.LSPower.com](http://www.LSPower.com).