



# CAPROCK ACADEMY

CHARACTER. ACCOUNTABILITY. ACADEMICS.

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Caprock Academy Seniors Zoey Polson and Alaina Starnes Selected as 2026 Daniels Scholars

**Grand Junction, CO — April 7, 2026**

Caprock Academy proudly announces that seniors Zoey Polson and Alaina Starnes have been selected as recipients of the 2026 Daniels Scholarship Program. Zoey and Alaina are among 205 high school seniors from Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming chosen for this prestigious honor, with 150 scholars from Colorado. Notably, they are also among just three students from Mesa County to receive this distinguished scholarship this year.

Caprock Academy is especially proud to share that Zoey and Alaina are the 12th and 13th students from Caprock Academy to receive the Daniels Scholarship since 2014.

*“We are so proud of Zoey and Alaina for this well-deserved recognition,”* said Matt Diers, Head of School at Caprock Academy. *“They have each worked incredibly hard, led with character, and taken full advantage of the opportunities before them. They truly represent the kind of students we hope to develop at Caprock Academy, and we are excited to see all that lies ahead for them.”*

### **About the Daniels Scholarship Program**

The Daniels Scholarship Program provides a four-year college scholarship for graduating high school seniors with great potential, strong character, and big dreams. Daniels Scholars receive full cost of attendance at partner schools, or up to \$100,000 at other schools across the United States.

More than just a financial resource making college possible, the Daniels Scholarship gives recipients access to intensive development, coaching, and engagement opportunities to prepare them as highly sought-after employees and leaders ready to give back to their communities and positively influence American life. Through the scholarship, Daniels scholars receive the tools and support to achieve their highest goals, resulting in generationally transformative impacts for their families and communities. The Daniels Scholarship is one of the most selective and sought-after scholarships in the United States.

Zoey and Alaina were chosen as Daniels Scholars for exemplifying the values upheld by Bill Daniels, including outstanding character, leadership potential, academic excellence, and a strong commitment to community service. Their selection highlights their dedication to making a meaningful impact both in the classroom and in the community.

*“Winning the Daniels Fund Scholarship is a major achievement,”* said Howard Butcher, Caprock Academy High School Dean, *“The process is rigorous and competitive. The scholarship has the power to dramatically change the trajectory of these amazing students’ lives.”*



# CAPROCK ACADEMY

CHARACTER. ACCOUNTABILITY. ACADEMICS.

*“It’s an honor to award four-year college scholarships to young men and women who are excellent students and who demonstrated their ambition to lead successful lives of character and service,”* said Hanna Skandera, Daniels Fund President & CEO. *“All of us who had the pleasure of interviewing these new Daniels Scholars were inspired by this rising generation of Americans.”*

Motivated high school seniors graduating in 2027 are encouraged to apply online for the Daniels Scholarship Program at [DanielsFund.org](https://DanielsFund.org) starting this September.

## **About the Daniels Fund**

The Daniels Fund, established by cable television pioneer Bill Daniels, is a private charitable foundation committed to improving the lives of individuals in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming through its grants program, scholarship program, and ethics initiative. For more information, visit [DanielsFund.org](https://DanielsFund.org).

## **Caprock Academy Contacts**

Tisha Moore  
Director of Communications  
970-243-1771 Ext. 1115  
[t.moore@caprockacademy.org](mailto:t.moore@caprockacademy.org)

For interview requests, please contact Tisha Moore. Interviews may be arranged with Mr. Matt Diers, Head of School, and/or Mr. Howard Butcher, High School Dean of Students.