



# ***MEDIA RELEASE***

— For Immediate Release —

## **132 Arizona High School Students Receive Scholarships from College Success Arizona**

Awards include financial support and intensive mentoring services for students to attend Arizona colleges and universities.

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*Phoenix, AZ* – 132 highly successful Arizona High School students received a notification recently that they will be receiving a scholarship to help them attend one of Arizona's colleges or universities.

Hundreds of students applied for the scholarships, which includes up to \$6,000 per year in financial assistance and an intensive set of Success Services, that includes professional mentoring, that complement the scholarship. Out of the initial applicant pool, 180 students were invited for personal interviews. From those interviews, 132 promising high school seniors, with high financial need, will be awarded scholarships. "The students that apply for our program continue to amaze me," said Marjorie DeRubeis, College Success Arizona's Director of Partnership Development and Success Services. "It broke my heart to have to tell some of these great students that they weren't being awarded a scholarship from us, but there's only so much funding to go around."

"This is our 13<sup>th</sup> year of awarding scholarships," said Rich Nickel, President and CEO of College Success Arizona. "With this year's group of scholars, we'll have been able to help over 1,400 high potential, low-income Arizona students with mentoring and scholarship awards to attend Arizona's colleges and universities. We've been supporting Arizona students, Arizona institutions, and Arizona communities since 2005. We're very proud of the services we provide, and the successes our scholars have had."

“It has been widely reported that by the year 2020, nearly 70 percent of all jobs in Arizona will require a career certificate or college degree. Right now, just 44% of our working age adults have that qualification. Just attending college is not enough. To get the full benefit, students need to graduate with a certificate or degree. Still, just over 50 percent of the full-time students seeking bachelor’s degrees at Arizona universities will graduate within six years. If a student is from a low-income background, or is a minority; or if the student is a first-generation college student, or attends college part-time, the chances of success are even lower. College Success Arizona specializes in helping students stay on track and graduate, by providing valuable mentoring and other success enhancing services. 70 percent of our students are the first in their families to attend college, and to date, our diverse, highly motivated students have a six year graduation rate of nearly 70 percent — a significantly higher average than their peers across the country.”

This year’s scholarship recipients come from across the state, and include the communities of Casa Grande, Holbrook, Winslow, Bullhead City, Avondale, Tucson, Gilbert, Cottonwood, Prescott, San Luis, Mohave Valley, Scottsdale, Kingman, Douglas, and Phoenix.

College Success Arizona works with educational partners, such as Arizona GEAR UP, from across state to identify potential scholars, whose graduation from a four-year university will increase Arizona’s competitiveness, and economy in the years ahead. College Success Arizona enjoys strong relationships with other organizations such as Education Talent Search, Upward Bound Four Corners, Be A Leader Foundation, Jobs for Arizona Graduates, Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement, MEC Regional College Access Center, College Bound Arizona, Yuma Educational Talent Search/Upward Bound, and many others. These organizations work closely with all of Arizona’s institutions of higher learning to ensure that Arizona can compete for high paying jobs in the decades to come.

This group of College Success Arizona Scholars will begin their college journeys in June with an in-depth orientation.

The 2018 Scholarship Recipients are:

**Alhambra High School**

- America Carrion

**ASU Preparatory High School**

- Rhiannon Lewis

**Bradshaw Mountain High School**

- Alondra Bugarin
- Berlin Cormey
- Carmen DeAlba Cardenas

- Martin Felix Olivarria
- Thaddeus Martin
- Brooklyn Merrill
- Kayre Meza
- Bryan Mitchell
- Kevin Moore
- Mica Nellis
- Sarah Nisse
- Liseth Olvera-Cruz
- Hakem Ruiz Ramirez
- Airam Valenzuela

### **Casa Grande Union High School**

- Fernanda Damian Melchor
- Victoria Diaz
- Joseph Lara
- Gabriela Lopez
- Melissa Lopez
- Kelly Pearson
- Daniel Romero
- Lanese Stewart
- Briana Valeriano Caldera
- Cassity Wellington
- Royal Whitehead

### **Central High School**

- Huong Dang
- Monica Lam

### **Desert View High School**

- Harun Abdi

### **Douglas High School**

- Jatniel Acosta
- Ana Barrios
- Yasmine Flores
- Francisco Lamadrid
- Gisela Laprada
- Sergio Navarro
- Jade Peterson

- Evelyn Rosales
- Brian Varela

### **Gateway Early College High School**

- Maryam Abdulle

### **Highland High School**

- Nicholas Quintana\*

### **Holbrook High School**

- Crystal Plucker

### **Kingman High School**

- Juan Herrera, Jr.
- Nancy Suarez-Castro
- Kimberly Rodriguez

### **La Joya Community High School**

- Yasmin Silva

### **Lee Williams High School**

- Daryl Bland
- Haley Cieszko
- Porsche Fellers
- Caitlin Gilbert-Kroen
- Anthony Margules
- Tyrus Nelson
- Ashleigh Quintana
- Ashley Shire
- Hunter Vines
- Chase Walther

### **Metro Tech High School**

- Gisselee Beltran
- Daniel Cruz
- Yuliana Lopez
- Cecy Mendoza
- Luis Pena Espinoza
- Ismael Rios

### **Mingus Union High School**

- Noemy Cervantes

- Christyana Fletcher
- Alyssa Manion
- Soria Rocha
- Gunner Tillemans

### **Mohave High School**

- Dylan Boyd
- Rachel Cooper
- Madiana Duarte
- Elizabeth Hall
- Jennifer Jaimes
- Chloe Keller
- Nicole LaBance
- Saylor McKee
- Cindy Mojica
- Daniel Padilla
- Breanna Ramos
- Edwin Rodriguez
- Citlally Salazar
- Eduardo Teodosio Campuzano
- Daniel Vega
- Dawson Williams
- Jacob Williams

### **Pueblo High School**

- Iram Arce

### **River Valley High School**

- Dustin Bright
- Christian Burger
- Zowie McShane
- Christopher Palfi

### **Saguaro High School**

- Molly McIntyre

### **San Luis High School**

- Eduardo Barraza
- Alejandra Becerra Linares
- Carlos Bernal Gonzalez
- Jonathan Contreras

- Jesus Cortez Meza
- Ivan Del Rio
- Nina Estrella
- Kevin Evaristo
- Jesus Franco Yescas
- Getsemany Garcia
- Abigail Garcia Barron
- Lesley Gonzalez Andrade
- Ashley Hernandez
- Jose Martinez
- Alexis Morales
- Denisse Moreno
- Leobardo Moreno
- Augustin Padilla Mejia
- Lui Napoles
- Erwin Panuco Gamez
- Carlos Rivas
- Jakelline Rodriguez
- Adriana Sanchez
- Airam Sanchez
- Zul Santiago
- Griselda Tizcareno
- Letsy Valencia

### **Vista Grande High School**

- Diana Arellano Barajas
- Sanny Cortes Nery
- Ackela Eldridge
- Garrett Haskett
- Kolbie Jacobson
- Valentino Mejia
- Juan Anjel Montiel
- Jake Morin
- Jasmine Nava
- Michelle Ramirez
- Daysia Voss
- Megan Weaver

### **Winslow High School**

- Gabriella Muse
- Reyna Perez

### **Xavier College Preparatory**

- Selena Teran

\* - Scholarship provided directly from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona

**About College Success Arizona:** College Success Arizona is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization working to significantly increase the post secondary attainment rate of students in Arizona, particularly for those who otherwise would not be able to attend or graduate. The organization was started as the Arizona College Scholarship Foundation in 2005. For more information about College Success Arizona and its partners, visit [www.collegesuccessarizona.org](http://www.collegesuccessarizona.org).

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