

All-Arizona Academic Team

Recognition Ceremony
April 22, 2026

**Celebrating Academic Achievement,
Leadership and Service to the Community**



GOVERNOR KATIE HOBBS

ARIZONA COMMENDATION

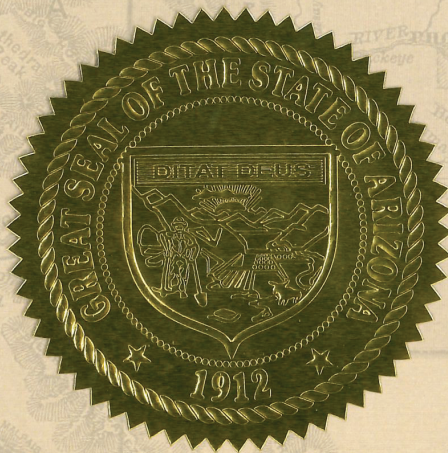
WHEREAS, special commendations are extended to the outstanding scholars who comprise the All Arizona Academic Team, a team of highly successful students nominated by Arizona's ten community college districts and selected by Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for community and junior colleges; and

WHEREAS, to be chosen as a member of the All Arizona Academic Team, these students must demonstrate impressive intellect, outstanding leadership, and a determination to achieve academic excellence; and

WHEREAS, the praiseworthy and devoted efforts of the members of the All Arizona Academic Team have earned the respect and admiration of the citizenry of this State; and

WHEREAS, the following students have been named as members of the All Arizona Academic Team: Mercedes Galaviz, Miranda Reyna, Ahalam Hussein, Brenda Bobadilla Vasquez, Deryn Henry, Diamond Todman, Naya Tapia Chavez, Nneka Ubosi, Janice Smith, Layla Arledge, Cash Pace, Mia Ferguson, Amanda Davis, Jimmy Madrid Lopez, Jacqueline Ramirez, Lily Wadsworth, Isaiah James, Lindsey Destefano, Ricardo Ramirez, Ayla Finch, Dathan Kartchner, Sabrina Nazari, Aaron Jenkins, Elisa Camou Josytewa, Samantha Kapanak, Daniel Telles, Merrick Tipton, Grace Kelley, Pranay Modha, Lena Nape, TonAnn Gardner, A. David Robinson, Tristen Moffett, Tiffany Sauer, Tina Braniger, Micah Ugartechea, Robert Gale, Craig Ruckle, Pamela Bishop, Christyana Serna, Charis Johnson, Micah Salazar, Amber Thompson, Samantha Gonzalez-Zuniga, Dylan Hatch, Ryan Harlan, Ifeyinawa Obladi, Olina Fong, Grace Garcia, Eric Garza, Hunter Gillenkirk, Tatiana Gonzales, Jason Janoski, Sydney Jones, Rachel King, Paloma McKenna, Nora O'Brien, Oscar Riesgo, Hannah Seery, Marielena Aguirre Foster, Goldine Johnson Pompey, Alexia Neal, Simone Bedi, Fardeen Imran, Natalyia Torres, Sarah Khalil, Eric Jackson, Robert Blakeley, Patric Sipes, Tristan Schreiner, Laura Waltrip.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Katie Hobbs, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby congratulate Arizona's community college districts and the members of the All Arizona Academic Team.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katie Hobbs", written over a horizontal line.

GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this eighteenth day of March in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Six and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Fiftieth.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read "Adam P. Giff", written over a horizontal line.

SECRETARY OF STATE

ALL-ARIZONA ACADEMIC TEAM FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Recognition Ceremony

This ceremony celebrates the outstanding academic achievements and distinguished leadership of students enrolled in Arizona's community colleges. All-Arizona students demonstrate academic excellence and intellectual rigor combined with leadership and service that extend their education beyond the classroom to benefit society. Phi Theta Kappa, the American Association of Community Colleges, Arizona Community Colleges, the Arizona Board of Regents and the Follett Higher Education Group help these exceptional students reach their educational goals by awarding scholarships and issuing tuition waivers for any of Arizona's three state universities: Arizona State University, University of Arizona and Northern Arizona University.

Process

Each college may send two student nominations per campus to the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society for judging. This year we honor 71 students who were evaluated on academic performance and service to the college and community. Criteria for selection are:

- GPA of 3.50 or higher (4.0 scale)
- Good academic standing and working toward an associate degree
- Involvement in campus or community volunteerism



Judging is in three rounds. First-round judges consist of business, civic, education and government leaders. The second and third rounds are held in Washington, D.C. and the judges are representatives of federal agencies and national educational associations.

Scores from the national competition are used to rank the students for the state team. First Team members will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship, Second Team members a \$750 scholarship and Third Team members a \$500 scholarship.

National Recognition

All-Arizona Academic Team members are eligible to be selected as one of 22 to be named to the All-USA Community College Academic Team, receiving an additional \$5,000 scholarship, medallion, obelisk and a certificate during the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Annual Convention.

The top scoring student in each of the 50 states will be named a **New Century Workforce Scholar** or a **New Century Transfer Scholar** and will be receiving between \$1,250 - \$2,250 in additional scholarship funds. These programs annually recognize 100 scholars nationwide. New Century Workforce Pathway Scholars receive special recognition by the Association of Community College Trustees Congress and New Century Transfer Pathway Scholars are recognized during an AACC Convention.

Applicants are also considered for the **Coca-Cola Academic Team Scholarship Program** with 50 students to be named Gold Scholars, receiving \$1,500 each; 50 students to be named Silver Scholars, receiving \$1,250 each; and 50 students to be named Bronze Scholars, receiving \$1,000 each. A state may have multiple Gold, Silver and Bronze Scholars and all scholars will also receive special medallions.

Arizona Five Cs: Copper, Cattle, Cotton, Citrus, and Climate





2026 ALL-ARIZONA ACADEMIC TEAM

ARIZONA'S COMMUNITY COLLEGES PRESENT



Mercedes Galaviz
Arizona Western College



Miranda Reyna
Arizona Western College



Aham Hussein
Arizona Western College



Brenda Bobadilla Vasquez
Arizona Western College



Deryn Henry
Central Arizona College



Diamond Todman
Central Arizona College



Naya Tapia Chavez
Central Arizona College



Nneka Ubosi
Central Arizona College



Janice Smith
Central Arizona College



Layla Arledge
Chandler-Gilbert Community College



Cash Pace
Chandler-Gilbert Community College



Mia Ferguson
Chandler-Gilbert Community College



Amanda Davis
Chandler-Gilbert Community College



Jimmy Madrid Lopez
Cochise College



Jacqueline Ramirez
Cochise College



Lily Wadsworth
Cochise College



Isaiah James
Cochise College



Lindsey Destefano
Coconino Community College



Ricardo Ramirez
Coconino Community College



Ayla Finch
Eastern Arizona College



Dathan Kartchner
Eastern Arizona College



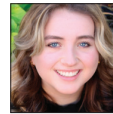
Sabrina Nazari
Estrella Mountain Community College



Aaron Jenkins
Estrella Mountain Community College



Elisa Camou Josytewa
Gateway Community College



Samantha Kapanak
Gateway Community College



Daniel Telles
Glendale Community College



Merrick Tipton
Glendale Community College



Grace Kelley
Glendale Community College



Pranay Modha
Mesa Community College



Lena Nape
Mesa Community College



Toni-Ann Gardner
Mesa Community College



A. David Robinson
Mesa Community College



Tristen Moffett
Mohave Community College



Tiffany Sauer
Mohave Community College



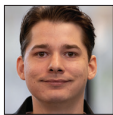
Tina Braniger
Mohave Community College



Micah Ugartechea
Mohave Community College



Robert Gale, II
Mohave Community College



Craig Ruckle
Mohave Community College



Pamela Bishop
Northland Pioneer College



Christyana Serna
Northland Pioneer College



Charis Johnson
Northland Pioneer College



Micah Salazar
Northland Pioneer College



Amber Thompson
Northland Pioneer College



Samantha Gonzalez-Zuniga
Northland Pioneer College



Dylan Hatch
Northland Pioneer College



Ryan Harlan
Paradise Valley Community College



Ifeyinwa Obiadi
Paradise Valley Community College



Olina Fong
Phoenix College



Grace Garcia
Pima Community College



Eric Garza
Pima Community College



Hunter Gillenkirk
Pima Community College



Tatiana Gonzales
Pima Community College



Jason Janoski
Pima Community College



Sydney Jones
Pima Community College



Rachel King
Pima Community College



Paloma McKenna
Pima Community College



Nora O'Brien
Pima Community College



Oscar Riesgo
Pima Community College



Hannah Seery
Pima Community College



Marielena Aguirre Foster
Rio Salado College



Goldine Johnson-Pompey
Rio Salado College



Alexia Neal
Scottsdale Community College



Simone Bedi
Scottsdale Community College



Fardeen Imran
South Mountain Community College



Natalyia Torres
South Mountain Community College



Sarah Khalil
Yavapai College



Eric Jackson
Yavapai College



Robert Blakeley
Yavapai College



Patric Sipes
Yavapai College



Tristan Schreiner
Yavapai College



Laura Waltrip
Yavapai College

These Community College Students are selected for their academic achievement, leadership and service to the community. All receive scholarships from Arizona's community colleges, as well as Arizona Board of Regents tuition waivers for any Arizona public university. Students are eligible for selection to the All-USA Academic Team Scholarship.

For information, contact the local chapter of Phi Theta Kappa national honor society at any Arizona community college.

Presented as a public service by the

East Valley Tribune
EastValleyTribune.com

All-Arizona Academic Team Celebration

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026

Welcome:

Steven R. Gonzales
Chancellor, Maricopa County Community Colleges

Reading of the Governor's Proclamation:

Erin Hart, MPA
*Policy Advisor, Higher Education
Office of Governor Katie Hobbs*

Emcee:

Ian Schwartz
*Morning Meteorologist/Reporter
CBS 5 / 3TV KTVK / AZ FAMILY*

Keynote Speaker:

Cassandra Holcombe

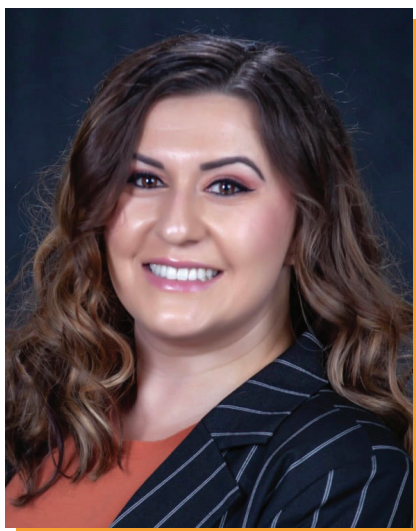
Arizona Board of Regents:

Dr. Larry Penley
Regent

Recognition of Academic Scholars:

Ian Schwartz

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Cassandra Holcombe
Keynote Speaker



Cassandra Holcombe is a student engagement coordinator at Central Arizona College on the Maricopa Campus and a 2016 All-Arizona Academic Team Scholarship honoree. She has spent the last 10 years working in higher education serving as an enrollment and Phi Theta Kappa advisor, student engagement coordinator, TRIO program assistant, English tutor and sustainability assistant.

A role model who has made a lasting impact on students for her experience as a first-generation college student, Ms. Holcombe has guided numerous CAC students through the recruitment, orientation, admissions and scholarship processes, helping them develop their leadership skills, and planning, implementing and evaluating student programming success.

Ms. Holcombe navigated the transition from community college to university and graduated Summa Cum Laude from Arizona State University with a bachelor's degree in communication. While at ASU, she was the recipient of the Alexander and Vivian Gentleman Endowed Scholarship. She is also the recipient of the Phi Theta Kappa Paragon Award for New Advisors.

Growing up in the state of Washington, Ms. Holcombe was determined to make a difference in her community at an early age "because this life is not guaranteed and time is not promised." In her teens, she was selected by Washougal High School staff and faculty to receive the citizenship award for her waste prevention and recycling efforts. Today, her passion for community service is reflected in the many organizations to which she has devoted her free time. These include coaching youth soccer for the City of Maricopa, volunteering with PTK students at Feed My Starving Children activities, and other institutions in need. Her dedication to animal welfare inspires her work with the Pinal County Animal Shelter and Barb's Dog Rescue in Rocky Point, Sonora, Mexico, in addition to fostering stray and abandoned kittens. Ms. Holcombe has also served on the executive board of The Power of 100 Women for Pinal County.

As a past All-Arizona Academic Team scholarship recipient, she took advantage of the opportunities the award provided, knowing she was firmly supported by her parents and the knowledge that higher education was something her late grandparents would have wished her to pursue. But as a first-generation college student and an only child, she and her parents had little guidance on how to start the college admissions process. She only knew that her hard work paid off and that she had a chance to attend ASU. Navigating such new territory inspired her in her present position to ease the process for incoming students.

Today, Ms. Holcombe credits the All-Arizona scholarship with her career success and with reaching many of her life goals. She earned her bachelor's degree without incurring any student debt, enabling her to purchase her first house at age 24. Now 31 years of age, she could not be more thankful for the scholarship. "Overall, it meant the world to me because it gave me an opportunity that I otherwise might not have had. It is an honor to have received such a scholarship that allowed me to get a degree to give back to other students like I was once before."

Ms. Holcombe resides in Gilbert.



Brenda M. Bobadilla

Arizona Western College — Yuma Campus

Major: Engineering

Brenda plans to transfer to Arizona State University to pursue a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering with the goal of becoming a licensed professional engineer leading major infrastructure projects.

College/Community Activities: Math tutor, engineering design team and Special Olympics volunteer

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and Honors Program

Personal Statement: I'm learning to embrace the changes ahead, or as Tame Impala says, "Let it happen." #BelieveInYourself



Mercedes Galaviz

Arizona Western College — South Yuma County Campus

Major: Elementary Education, Early Childhood Emphasis

Mercedes plans to transfer to Northern Arizona University to earn a bachelor's degree in elementary education. Her career goal is to have her own classroom one day and continue helping her students grow.

College/Community Activities: Volunteers at her children's elementary school as an instructional assistant and currently as a substitute teacher

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa member and PTK scholarship recipient

Personal Statement: I am a full-time long-term substitute teacher at an elementary school, a full-time student at Arizona Western College, and a full-time mother and wife. Balancing these three roles has been hard for me, but I am happy to continue preparing to fulfill my dream of becoming a teacher.



Aham Hussein

Arizona Western College — Yuma Campus

Major: Informatics

Aham plans to transfer to the University of Arizona to earn a Bachelor of Applied Science in Cyber Operations with a law and policy emphasis, along with a master's degree in legal studies. She then intends to attend law school. Aham would like to pursue a career in compliance and legal practice. Her ultimate goal is to build a career that bridges technology, compliance and law, such as cybersecurity compliance.

College/Community Activities: Volunteer IT tech and technology assistant, volunteer tutor, volunteer librarian and youth group coordinator

College Honors: Arizona Western College Honors program and Phi Theta Kappa

Personal Statement: My name, Aham, means dreams; I have many dreams and goals I pursue with great drive, determination and gratitude to those who uplift me!



Miranda Reyna

Arizona Western College — South Yuma County Campus

Major: Nursing

Miranda plans to transfer to the University of Arizona College of Nursing, ultimately earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Her career goal is to work as a pediatric oncology nurse with plans to pursue a master's degree and become a pediatric nurse practitioner.

College/Community Activities: Onvida Health Cancer Resource Center volunteer, Mentor Me MD program and Kindness Project

Personal Statement: I advocate for a journey guided by kindness and compassion. #KindnessMatters



CENTRAL ARIZONA COLLEGE



Naya Tapia-Chavez

Central Arizona College — Signal Peak Campus

Major: Graphic Design Emphasis

Naya plans to transfer to Arizona State University to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Graphic Information Technology (Full-Stack Web Development). She also plans to become a part of as many clubs as possible. Her goal is to be accepted into ASU's Barrett, The Honors College and study abroad to ultimately become a digital media planner.

College/Community Activities: Campus Activities Board, TRIO vice president, Common Cultural Connections Club vice president and Phi Theta Kappa public relations officer

College Honors: President's List and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Personal Statement: "If you begin to regret, you'll dull your future decisions and let others make choices for you." – Erwin Smith



CENTRAL ARIZONA COLLEGE



Deryn Henry

Central Arizona College — San Tan Campus

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Deryn plans to transfer to the University of Arizona College of Engineering to earn a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. Her career goal is to create and develop products for communities in need.

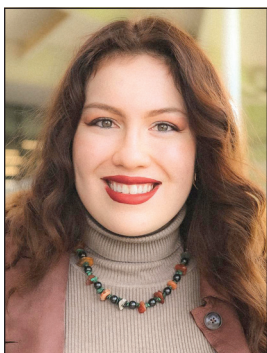
College/Community Activities: Phi Theta Kappa chapter/regional officer, Campus Activities Board vice president, STEM Engine intern and "A Night of Stars" student speaker

College Honors: Dean's List, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and Pinal Promise recipient

Personal Statement: Do not let perception limit you or your dreams #betruetoyourself #shootforthestars



CENTRAL ARIZONA COLLEGE



Janice Smith

Central Arizona College — Superstition Mountain Campus

Major: Biomedical Science

Janice began her studies in biomedical science at Northern Arizona University in Spring 2026 and plans to attend graduate school to become a biomedical scientist and research professor focused on advancing scientific discovery, improving human health and conducting impactful research. She aims to teach, mentor and work at a Hispanic-Serving Institution, expanding access to STEM and inspiring future scientists.

College/Community Activities: Honors Award Banquet speaker, Las Sendas Elementary School volunteer, Food Box Cooking Competition student chef, Phi Theta Kappa officer, student services assistant and founder of LIDER Club across Central Arizona College

College Honors: Presidents List, Dean's List, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, All-Arizona Academic Team, Soroptimist East of the Valley Scholarship and Alumni Library Staff Scholarship recipient

Personal Statement: I believe education can change lives. Science is the pilot of my journey, with purpose and Corazón, from Guaymas, Sonora to the World.



CENTRAL ARIZONA COLLEGE



Diamond Todman

Central Arizona College — San Tan Campus

Major: Early Childhood Education

Diamond plans to transfer to the University of Arizona to earn a bachelor's degree in early childhood education. Her career goal is to become an elementary teacher somewhere out of state.

College/Community Activities: Phi Theta Kappa Chapter co-president, Phi Theta Kappa regional public relations officer, campus activities board president and "A Night of Stars" Pinal Promise Scholarship speaker

College Honors: Dean's List, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Pinal Promise Scholarship recipient and All-Arizona Scholarship recipient

Personal Statement: If you never try, you'll never know. #persistentwoman #thegreatest



CENTRAL ARIZONA COLLEGE



Nneka Ubosi

Central Arizona College — Signal Peak Campus

Major: Nursing

Nneka is grateful for the Phi Theta Kappa scholarship to help her transition from community college to Northern Arizona University to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing while exploring different specialties including obstetrics, women's and infant services and community health.

College/Community Activities: Health fair and mass casualty participant

College Honors: Earn To Learn recipient, Naomi McDonald Nursing Scholarship and PTK recipient

Personal Statement: "You can learn new things at any time in your life if you are willing to be a beginner" - Barbara Sher



CHANDLER-GILBERT COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Layla Arledge

Chandler-Gilbert Community College — Pecos Campus

Major: Political Science

Layla plans to transfer to Arizona State University to pursue a bachelor's degree in political science and philosophy. Following her undergraduate studies, she plans to attend a law school and later obtain her MBA. Her career goal is to become a corporate attorney.

College/Community Activities: Chandler-Gilbert Community College Student Senate representative, Student Public Policy Forum, H.E.L.P. Club cofounder and Collegiate DECA officer

College Honors: President's List, Honors Achievement Scholarship recipient and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Personal Statement: "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." - President Barack Obama



CHANDLER-GILBERT
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CHANDLER-GILBERT COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Amanda Davis

Chandler-Gilbert Community College — Williams Campus

Major: Nursing

Amanda plans to transfer to Arizona State University's Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation to complete her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing and pursue graduate education as a women's health nurse practitioner. Her career goal is to advocate for women's health by providing compassionate, ethical and trauma-informed care.

College/Community Activities: Vice president of Pre-Health Professionals Club, president of Student Nurses in Action, Phi Theta Kappa member and a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) volunteer at her local hospital

College Honors: Honors Program student, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Dean's List honoree and Lila Reuter Memorial Nursing Scholarship recipient

Personal Statement: "Compassion is the catalyst for change. When we lead with empathy, we transform care, community, and each other."



CHANDLER-GILBERT
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CHANDLER-GILBERT COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Mia Ferguson

Chandler-Gilbert Community College — Williams Campus

Major: Applied Biological Sciences

Mia plans to transfer to Arizona State University's pre-dental program to pursue a bachelor's degree in applied biological sciences. Her career goal is to become a dentist and create confident, healthy smiles.

College/Community Activities: Phi Theta Kappa president, Honors in Action and College Project collaborator and Saint Vincent De Paul volunteer

College Honors: President's List and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Personal Statement: "You can't pray to catch the bus and stroll down the street, you pray to catch the bus & then run as fast as you can, it takes all of your faith and all of your effort; and if you miss it, then it's not your bus. But if you don't run or pray, that could've been your bus." - Kerry Washington #DontGiveUp #LockedIn



CHANDLER-GILBERT
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Cash Pace

Chandler-Gilbert Community College — Pecos Campus

Major: Nursing

Cash plans to transfer to Arizona State University's Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation, ultimately earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. His career goal is to become a psychiatric nurse and to work in a behavioral health hospital, helping those in crisis.

College/Community Activities: Chandler-Gilbert Community College student body president, volunteer boxing coach, member of Associated Students of CGCC and member of the President's Leadership Council

College Honors: President's Honors Scholarship recipient, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and President's List

Personal Statement: "Have some fire. Be unstoppable. Be a force of nature." - Christina Yang



**CHANDLER-GILBERT
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COCHISE COLLEGE



Isaiah James

Cochise College — Sierra Vista Campus

Major: Cybersecurity

Isaiah plans to transfer to the University of Arizona to pursue a bachelor's degree. His career goal is to become a cybersecurity professional dedicated to protecting companies, government and consumer information from falling into the wrong hands.

College/Community Activities: Student Government Association treasurer and vice president of student programming, Phi Theta Kappa Southern District vice president and regional officer, Campus Vote Project democracy fellow and Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) Voces Nuevas Leadership Program member

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Alpha Mu Zeta Chapter member, National Society of Leadership and Success member (in progress)

Personal Statement: Building secure systems & empowering communities as a student leader passionate about tech & advocacy. #Cybersecurity #FutureLeader



**COCHISE
COLLEGE**

Creating opportunities...changing lives

COCHISE COLLEGE



Jimmy Madrid Lopez

Cochise College — Douglas Campus

Major: Cybersecurity

Jimmy plans to transfer to Western Governors University to pursue his career goal of becoming a digital forensics specialist.

College and Community Activities: Peer STEM tutor and TRiO SSS member

College Honors: Outstanding High School Senior

Personal Statement: Jimmy Madrid, a cybersecurity student driven by a passion to protect others, aims to specialize in digital forensics to uncover and prevent cyber threats.



**COCHISE
COLLEGE**

Creating opportunities...changing lives

COCHISE COLLEGE



Jacqueline Ramirez

Cochise College — Douglas Campus

Major: General Studies

Jacqueline plans to transfer to Northern Arizona University to pursue her lifelong passion for filmmaking. She is deeply committed to storytelling through film and remains dedicated to achieving this goal.

College and Community Activities: Phi Theta Kappa member, Film and Media Club president, Go Red for Women volunteer and photography workshop participant

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa member

Personal Statement: Every moment becomes a story. I'm alive—creating, dreaming and seeing the world through cinema. #WeAreInfinite #AbsoluteCinema



**COCHISE
COLLEGE**

Creating opportunities...changing lives

COCHISE COLLEGE



Lily Wadsworth

Cochise College — Sierra Vista Campus

Major: Social and Behavioral Sciences (History)

Lily will transfer to Northern Arizona University to earn a Bachelor of Arts in History. She aspires to work in historical preservation as a museum curator or archivist.

College/Community Activities: Phi Theta Kappa Alpha Mu Zeta Chapter vice president, Christian Challenge Club president, Friends of the Sierra Vista Library volunteer and library student aide

College Honors: President's List and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society member

Personal Statement: As an aspiring historian, I believe one of the greatest acts of kindness is to remember someone and preserve their story for future generations.



COCONINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Lindsey Destefano

Coconino Community College — Lone Tree Campus

Major: ASL and Studio Fine Arts

Lindsey will transfer to Northern Arizona University and plans to follow a studio fine arts career path with a focus on ceramics and painting. Her goal is to become an arts teacher or return to Coconino Community College as an advisor. She wishes to return to serve the community that has shown up and supported her.

College/Community Activities: ACCT student advocate (Washington, DC), scholarship breakfast keynote speaker, Heart of Yoga award and CCC Donor Breakfast student speaker

College Honors: President's List, Dean's List, honor roll, PTK Honor Society member and Pell Grant recipient

Personal Statement: #handicapable. Proud PTK Honor Society student and President's List scholar proving that resilience creates results. I'm a single mom chasing excellence, showing my child that hard work, faith, and focus open every door. As a disabled veteran, I've served my country and now serve my future through education and leadership. Discipline, determination, and heart define my journey. I balance books, motherhood, and ambition with grit and grace. Every late night and early morning is building a legacy. I'm not just earning degrees-I'm breaking barriers, rewriting limits, and creating opportunities. #Veteran strong. #Mom motivated. #Scholar driven.



COCONINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Ricky Ramirez

Coconino Community College — Flagstaff Campus

Major: Accounting

Ricky plans to transfer to Northern Arizona University's W.A. Franke College of Business to complete an undergraduate degree in accountancy and further pursue a graduate program to be eligible for the CPA exam. His career goal is to be a financial advisor for athletes, breaking into this specialty field through accounting.

College Activities: Member of Kappa Alpha Order, member of Investment Club and former Phi Theta Kappa officer

College Honors: Three-time President's List, former vice president of leadership of Phi Theta Kappa and affiliate of Beta Alpha Psi Honors Society

Personal Statement: My name is Ricky and I'm an accounting major at NAU. I want to be a CPA and build a strong background in finance to one day be a financial advisor for athletes.



EASTERN ARIZONA COLLEGE



Ayla Finch

Eastern Arizona College — Thatcher Campus

Major: Environmental Sciences

Ayla plans to transfer to the Northern Arizona University College of the Environment, Forestry, and Natural Sciences, eventually earning a master's degree in environmental sciences and policy. Her career goal is to work as a park ranger at Glacier National Park in Montana.

College/Community Activities: Vice president of the Outdoors Club, drum major of the college's marching band, environmental restoration intern and Phi Theta Kappa officer

College Honors: President's List, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and Key Hole Properties Scholarship recipient

Personal Statement: Took a hike, played guitar, and saw a movie today. One slice of pizza and this is the best day ever. #DominosShouldBeScared



EASTERN ARIZONA COLLEGE



Dathan Kartchner

Eastern Arizona College — Thatcher Campus

Major: Business

Dathan will transfer to Arizona State University where he plans to earn a master's degree in business administration. His career aspiration is to become a high school seminary teacher for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

College/Community Activities: Phi Theta Kappa member, institute member, Mount Graham 4th Ward bishopric member and part-time seminary teacher

College Honors: Eastern Arizona Scholastic Scholarship recipient, Phi Theta Kappa president, Dean's List and Stephanie Udall Music Scholarship recipient

Personal Statement: My name is Dathan Kartchner. I currently attend Eastern Arizona College and plan to transfer to ASU in the fall. My career goal is to become a seminary teacher for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Tweet: #outertryingmybest



ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Aaron Jenkins

Estrella Mountain Community College

Major: Psychology

Aaron will transfer to Arizona State University to complete his bachelor's degree in psychology. Ultimately, his educational goal is to receive his doctorate in Clinical Neuropsychology.

College/Community Activities: Presented research at the Western Psychological Association conference, president of Estrella Mountain Community College local Psi Beta chapter, peer leader and panelist on undergraduate research experiences at Estrella Mountain Community College STEM center-hosted event

College Honors: President's List, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Dougherty Honors Scholarship award and president of Psychology Club/Psi Beta chapter

Personal Statement: Excellence is built quietly over time, through effort, curiosity and resilience. Today, we celebrate what commitment and hard work have made possible.



ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Sabrina Nazari

Estrella Mountain Community College

Major: Computer Science

Sabrina plans to transfer to Arizona State University's Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering to earn a bachelor's degree in Computer Systems Engineering. Alongside her academic goals, she will continue her training in the Air Force ROTC program at ASU as she pursues her dream of becoming a pilot in the United States Air Force. Upon completing her degree, Sabrina aims to commission as an Air Force officer and begin her career in military aviation.

College/Community Activities: AFROTC Silver Wings member/volunteer, IT internship with City of Goodyear and private pilots license training from ROTC scholarship

College Honors: Dean's List, Presidential Honors Scholarship recipient, New American University Scholarship recipient and Avondale Police Association Scholarship award recipient

Personal Statement: First-generation student and AFROTC cadet striving to grow, serve and make a meaningful impact. Grateful for every opportunity to become better. It all starts with being a Good Person and striving for Good around you. #AimHigh #STEM #FutureASUGrad



ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

GATEWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Elisa Camou Josytewa

GateWay Community College – Washington Campus

Major: General Business

Elisa plans to transfer to Arizona State University to continue exploring business pathways. Her career goals include ethical leadership in business, community-centered impact and achieving financial security.

College/Community Activities: Student Life & Leadership councilmember, Honors Program participant, FMSC & Champion Schools K-1 Soccer coach volunteer and Year Up United intensive job training & internship experience

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and Honors Achievement Award student

Personal Statement: From foster youth and teen mom to Honors student and leader. I turn my hardships into a pathway for success through grit and empathy. #FirstGen #Resilience #Leadership



**GATEWAY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

GATEWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Samantha Kapanak

GateWay Community College

Major: Biomedical Engineering

Samantha plans to transfer to Arizona State University to finish a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering. Her ultimate goal is to design medical devices for diabetic technology companies, while contributing towards gene therapy research.

College/Community Activities: Phi Theta Kappa president, college athlete, food drive volunteer and Presidential Scholar Orientation speaker

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Presidential Honors Scholarship recipient, STEM scholar and President's List

Personal Statement: An irreplaceable lesson I've learned in these last two years is that rejection is only ever redirection. Remember to take life one step at a time and enjoy the journey.



**GATEWAY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Grace Kelley

Glendale Community College – Main Campus

Major: Illustration, Animation and Character Design

Grace will transfer to Arizona State University where she will continue to pursue her dreams in illustration, animation and character design. With pencil in hand, she hopes to spark wonder and joy by rediscovering and sharing the whimsical magic of childhood.

College/Community Activities: Church Mexico missions leader, children's ministry leader and Community Ultimate Frisbee Team member

College Honors: Outstanding Student Award Spring 2025, Presidents Honor List Spring 2025, Presidents Honors Scholarship and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society member

Personal Statement: So grateful for the support that brought me here! To big dreams, creative excellence and a hopeful tomorrow! #PTKproud



**GLENDALE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Daniel Telles

Glendale Community College – Main Campus

Major: Computer Science

Daniel plans to transfer to Grand Canyon University to earn a bachelor's degree in computer science with emphasis on big data. His career goal is to work in the data science field to extract and use data to solve problems for companies and institutions.

College/Community Activities: Phi Theta Kappa officer, SHO events organizer for honor students, St. Mary's Food Bank volunteer and Made in Arizona Film Festival attendee

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, President's Honor List at GCC, Honors Program student and Alhambra Foundation for the Future Scholarship recipient

Personal Statement: All-Arizona Academic Team Nominee. Aspiring CS improving knowledge accessibility & helping the community. Driven by innovation. #AllAZScholars #STEM



**GLENDALE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Merrick Tipton

Glendale Community College — Main Campus

Major: Psychology

Merrick plans to transfer to Arizona State University to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, then continue on to a doctorate in psychology. He hopes to use this degree to research the silent social forces that govern human contact.

College/Community Activities: Phi Theta Kappa president, Psychology Club co-president, previous research assistant at Arizona State University West and currently doing independent research on how political beliefs change how we react to frightening scientific warnings

College Honors: President's List, Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar, Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society and Psi Beta National Honor Society in Psychology

Personal Statement: PTK president, psych student and relentless encourager focused on lifting others through action and becoming the spark that ignites change.



GLENDALE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Toni-Ann Gardner

Mesa Community College — Southern and Dobson Campus

Major: Graphic Design

Toni-Ann plans to transfer to Arizona State University to earn a bachelor's degree in graphic information technology. Her goal is to become a full-time graphic designer and work with Arizona businesses and organizations to meet their digital needs while engaging with Arizona's local art communities.

College/Community Activities: Student speaker at the 2025 Western Regional Honors Conference, Mesa Public Library Technology Help Desk volunteer, MCC Fall 2025 Art Club vice president and participant in three art exhibits at MCC Art Gallery

College Honors: Presidential Honors scholar, President's Honor List, Honors Program member and Phi Theta Kappa member

Personal Statement: #ArizonaArtist – As a graphic designer, I aim to unite people and create change through community and creativity. You can find my work @tonianngraphics on Instagram.



MESA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Pranay Modha

Mesa Community College — Red Mountain Campus

Major: Computer Science

Pranay plans to transfer to the University of Arizona College of Science to finish his bachelor's degree in computer science. His career goal is to work as a machine learning engineer in the industry, using his knowledge to make a better future for the world.

College/Community Activities: Math Club member, Intertribal Student Organization member, Computer Science Club member and Phi Theta Kappa vice president

College Honors: Presidential Honors scholar, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and Sigma Chi Eta

Personal Statement: #Radiant—Keeping my faith at my core, I harbor my ashen scars, kindling warmth in wake. Emitting my light—solar flare—writing a story in life's constellation, I am—through all its plights—a nascent star burning bright.



MESA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Lena Nape

Mesa Community College — Red Mountain Campus

Major: Fine Arts

Lena plans to transfer to Arizona State University as she works towards a bachelor's in fine arts with an emphasis in painting. Her career goal is to showcase her work in art exhibitions while working as a freelance artist and pursuing a minor in entrepreneurship.

College/Community Activities: Phi Theta Kappa chapter president and graduate of the MCC Honors Program

College Honors: Emerging Artist Scholarship recipient, 250-plus hours of volunteer service recognition, Presidential Scholar and community college transfer scholar

Personal Statement: Committed to leading through service by advancing equity, civic engagement and creating positive change within the community. #ServiceDrivenLeadership



MESA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



David Robinson

Mesa Community College – Southern and Dobson Campus

Major: Biological Sciences

David plans to transfer to Arizona State University to complete his medical school prerequisites, then apply to Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine. His career goal is to become a neurosurgeon focused on improving outcomes for cancer patients.

College/Community Activities: Chandler Regional Hospital Emergency Room volunteer, Pre-Med Club secretary, No Kings Club founder and president and Phi Theta Kappa member

College Honors: Fall 2025 President's List recipient and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society member

Personal Statement: #Transformation - Committed to growth, service and positive change through introspection, discipline and a dedication to improving the lives of others.



**MESA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MOHAVE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Tina Braniger

Mohave Community College – Lake Havasu City Campus

Major: Nursing

Tina is undecided on the university she will attend. Her ultimate career goal is to pursue her nursing practitioner license.

College/Community Activities: Student Nurses Association

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Personal Statement: Determination, Perseverance and a drive to provide better for my family. #FutureNurse #Mom



MOHAVE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Robert Gale, II

Mohave Community College – Neal Campus-Kingman

Major: History

Robert is undecided on which university he will attend and the career he would like to pursue.

College/Community Activities: Phi Theta Kappa chapter president and Student Activities Council president

Personal Statement: "I am free and that is why I am lost." - Franz Kafka



MOHAVE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Tristen Moffett

Mohave Community College – Bullhead City Campus

Major: Nursing

Tristen is currently deciding to attend either Northern Arizona University or Arizona State University with plans to work toward her ultimate goal of earning a Doctor of Nursing Practice.

College/Community Activities: Student Nurses' Association member, Mohave Health Coalition Fair volunteer and community tutor

College Honors: Dean's List, President's List and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Personal Statement: Healthcare professional passionate about leadership, giving back to my community and patient advocacy. I work at a local hospital where I strive to promote equitable care and serve my community with purpose.
#PatientAdvocate #ServiceAboveSelf





Craig Ruckle

Mohave Community College — Neal Campus-Kingman

Major: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Craig plans to transfer to Northern Arizona University. His ultimate goal is to have a career in psychotherapy to help others.

College Community Activities: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society – Alpha Chi Omega chapter and Mohave College Psyched Out Club secretary

College Honors: Dean's List awards and Outstanding Achievement award for English

Personal Statement: Mohave College and PTK have transformed my life, giving me greater motivation in discovering my true interests and reaching future goals. #mohavecollege #ptk #allacademicusa #psychology #mentalhealth



Tiffany Sauer

Mohave Community College — Bullhead City Campus

Major: Liberal Arts

Tiffany plans to transfer to either Arizona State University to study criminology or University of Arizona to study animal science. Her ultimate career goal is to be a criminologist or a veterinarian.

College/Community Activities: Elks Lodge volunteer, highway cleanup volunteer, animal shelter volunteer and American Youth Soccer Organization referee

College Honors: Dean's List and Phi Theta Kappa

Personal Statement: Overachiever, first gen, loving life #classof2026 #multitasking #dualenrollment



Micah Ugartechea

Mohave Community College — Lake Havasu City Campus

Major: Accounting

Micah plans to transfer to Arizona State University to earn his bachelor's degree in accounting. His ultimate career goal is to become a Certified Public Accountant or an auditor focused on ethical financial practices and transparency in the business sector.

College/Community Activities: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Dean's List student and dairy department clerk at Albertsons

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and President's Honor List

Personal Statement: From manual labor to a 4.0 GPA in Accounting, I am proof that resilience and discipline can rewrite any narrative. #PhiThetaKappa #FutureCPA



NORTHLAND PIONEER COLLEGE



Pamela Bishop

Northland Pioneer College — Painted Desert Campus

Major: Psychological Sciences

Pamela plans to transfer to Northern Arizona University to obtain her bachelor's degree in psychological sciences. She plans to continue to work with students and eventually earn a master's degree and practice as a counselor or academic advisor. She is passionate about serving rural Arizona and transforming the lives of those in her community.

College/Community Activities: NPC Student Government Association president, NPC Eagle Club president, St. Mary's Food Bank distribution volunteer and NPC Mental Wellness Club officer

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, NPC President's List, Pres Winslow Memorial Scholarship recipient and Jeanne Swarthout, Ph.D., Presidential Excellence Scholarship recipient

Personal Statement: "I believe life is best spent helping others. My goals are to uplift and encourage others through continual service, consideration and care."



Northland Pioneer College

NORTHLAND PIONEER COLLEGE



Samantha Gonzalez-Zuniga

Northland Pioneer College — White Mountain Campus

Major: Administration of Justice

Samantha is determined to make a meaningful difference in people's lives and contribute positively to the community. She will transfer to Arizona State University to continue her studies in justice. She hopes to one day help solve crimes as a crime scene investigator.

College/Community Activities: Navajo County Teen Court, Show Low Police Department cadet sergeant, Civil Air Patrol Cadet Airman First Class, Show Low High School FBLA member and Show Low Public Library volunteer

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and NPC President's List

Personal Statement: "I've learned life isn't about having answers but about living the questions along the way."



Northland Pioneer College

NORTHLAND PIONEER COLLEGE



Dylan Hatch

Northland Pioneer College — Whiteriver Center

Major: Mathematics

Dylan plans to continue his studies at the University of Arizona and hopes to eventually earn a doctoral degree. He wants to make a difference in the world and help solve real-world problems. He would like to teach in a university setting, perhaps as a professor at MIT one day.

College/Community Activities: NPC mathematics tutor, Snowflake Senior Center volunteer, Shephards Kitchen and Food Bank volunteer and NPC Student Government Association

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, NPC President's List and NPC Friends and Family Scholarship recipient

Personal Statement: "If the soul is the accumulation of what we have learned and experienced in life then education expands the most true part of ourselves."



Northland Pioneer College

NORTHLAND PIONEER COLLEGE



Charis Johnson

Northland Pioneer College — Silver Creek Campus

Major: Performing Arts

Charis will continue to develop her skills in performing arts at Arizona State University. She is determined to follow her heart and continue to cultivate her passion for acting while furthering her skills in the profession. She hopes to build a successful career under the lights and on the stage as an accomplished actress.

College/Community Activities: Campus theater production assistance, box office member, lighting and audio assistant, live nativity actress and pilot

College Honors: NPC President's List and NPC Performing Arts Scholarship recipient

Personal Statement: "The unknown is meant to be explored. By studying, asking questions and staying consistent, I will turn my dreams into reality."



Northland Pioneer College



Micah Salazar

Northland Pioneer College — Silver Creek Campus

Major: Early Childhood Studies

Micah plans to transfer to Arizona State University where she hopes to earn a master's degree in early childhood studies with a focus on special education. Driven by a deep passion for supporting young learners, she aspires to work in an early childhood education setting where she can make a meaningful impact by serving children from diverse backgrounds and with a wide range of learning needs.

College/Community Activities: St. Anthony Catholic School volunteer

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and Jennifer Lee Witt Memorial Scholarship recipient

Personal Statement: "True aspirations demand both bold dreams and unwavering determination, because comfort never creates growth. #couragetogrow."



Northland Pioneer College



Christyana Serna

Northland Pioneer College — Painted Desert Campus

Major: Business (Cosmetology emphasis)

Christyana plans to continue her studies and earn her bachelor's degree in business. She aspires to follow the path of her grandmother, who owned and operated a successful salon in Holbrook for many years. She hopes to create an open and welcoming space for members of her community to gather and receive beauty services. She is particularly interested in esthetician procedures and skin health.

College/Community Activities: High school softball athlete, hair braiding class instructor, toy drive volunteer and animal shelter volunteer

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and NPC President's List

Personal Statement: "I have a strong passion for helping people and beautifying them. I am excited to get the opportunity to fulfill my dreams. Beauty is about celebrating individuality. It's a celebration of what makes you 'YOU'."



Northland Pioneer College



Amber Thompson

Northland Pioneer College — White Mountain Campus

Major: Nursing

Amber plans to continue her nursing studies at Arizona State University. She is committed to treating patients as individuals and works hard to make health crisis situations easier for them and their families. She values the importance of compassionate care and of treating her patients not only physically, but also emotionally. She hopes to continue her career in the emergency department at Summit Healthcare and become an ER nurse one day.

College/Community Activities: Children's worship leader

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and NPC President's List

Personal Statement: "Pursuing my bachelor's in nursing to turn compassion, resilience and lived experience into meaningful, patient-centered care."



Northland Pioneer College



PARADISE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Ryan Harlan

Paradise Valley Community College

Major: Software Engineering

Ryan recently transferred to the Arizona State University Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering where he plans to earn a master's degree in computer science. Eventually, he hopes to work in quantum computing and develop new encryption methods.

College/Community Activities: New student orientation student panelist, supplemental instruction leader and Phi Theta Kappa chapter officer

College Honors: Golden Puma: Student Leadership Award, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and President's List

Personal Statement: I'm a dog loving, Dungeons & Dragons playing, geeky nerd who loves to tackle challenges and understand how things work!



PARADISE VALLEY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PARADISE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Ifeyinwa Obiadi

Paradise Valley Community College

Major: Nursing

Ifeyinwa plans to transfer to Northern Arizona University to earn her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). Her career goal is to become a nurse practitioner and provide accessible, culturally competent healthcare to low-income, underserved and immigrant communities.

College/Community Activities: Community school support program, Salvation Army volunteer, community education outreach and Back-to-School Support Drive

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society membership, National Society of Collegiate Scholars membership, National Society of Leadership and Success membership and All-USA Scholarship nominee

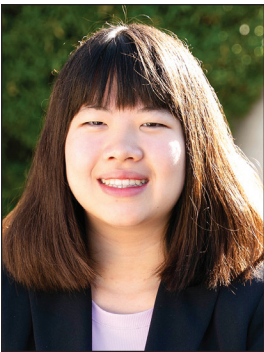
Personal Statement: A mom, wife, determined student and a compassionate CNA. I'm proof that hard work pays off when you apply yourself. Future Nurse Practitioner ready to give back to the community. #StruggleStrengthensResolve



PARADISE VALLEY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PHOENIX COLLEGE



Olina Fong

Phoenix College

Major: Business

Olina plans to attend Arizona State University, double-majoring in business entrepreneurship and accountancy. Her dream is to open an eco-friendly, motivational stationery business that empowers individuals to pursue their dreams and advocates for the use of sustainable materials in the industry.

College/Community Activities: PTK chief development and recruitment regional officer, PTK Rho Pi Chapter president, Phoenix College Preparatory Academy National Honor Society president and Aspiring Youth Academy Scholar

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Associate in Arts with Highest Distinction and Associate in Science with Highest Distinction

Personal Statement: Pursuing bachelor's degrees in entrepreneurship and accountancy. Aiming to create a motivational, eco-friendly stationery business.



PHOENIX COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE





Grace Garcia

Pima Community College — District Office Campus

Major: Visual and Performing Arts

Grace plans to transfer to the University of Arizona School of Art, ultimately earning a design arts and practices degree. Her career goal is to work at Innisfree to become a creative director to oversee the company's visual style and creative execution of the brand's marketing and content.

College/Community Activities: Pima Community College Cultural Awareness Art Workshop facilitator, Pima Community College Senior Care Love coordinator, Iglesia de Jesucristo Palabra Miel Sunday School volunteer teacher and Adopt a Highway volunteer

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and Pima Community College Employee of the Year 2025

Personal Statement: Passionate about design, I'm a dedicated learner and reliable contributor, eager to apply my skills and to make a positive impact.



PimaCommunityCollege



Eric Garza

Pima Community College — Downtown Campus

Major: Electrical Engineering

Eric plans to transfer to the University of Arizona College of Engineering to continue studying towards a bachelor's degree in electrical and computer engineering. Having a broad interest in signals, power and manufacturing, he hopes to secure a career in any of the three.

College/Community Activities: Tucson Park Cleanup Initiative, Harvard University research experience for undergrad internship program and Pima Community College Classical Guitar Ensemble member

College Honors: Pima Community College graduation with honors (Associates of Science and Associates of Fine Arts), Pima Merit Scholarship and TRIO STEM Excellency Award

Personal Statement: My name is Eric Garza, I'm pursuing a degree in Electrical Engineering with a Minor in Music in Classical Guitar.



PimaCommunityCollege



Hunter Gillenkirk

Pima Community College — West Campus

Major: Liberal Arts - Biology

Hunter plans to transfer to the University of Arizona College of Agriculture, Life & Environmental Sciences/School of Natural Resources & the Environment to pursue a natural resources major in wildlife conservation and management with a minor in environmental science. His career goal is to advocate for wildlife and focus on ecosystem restoration.

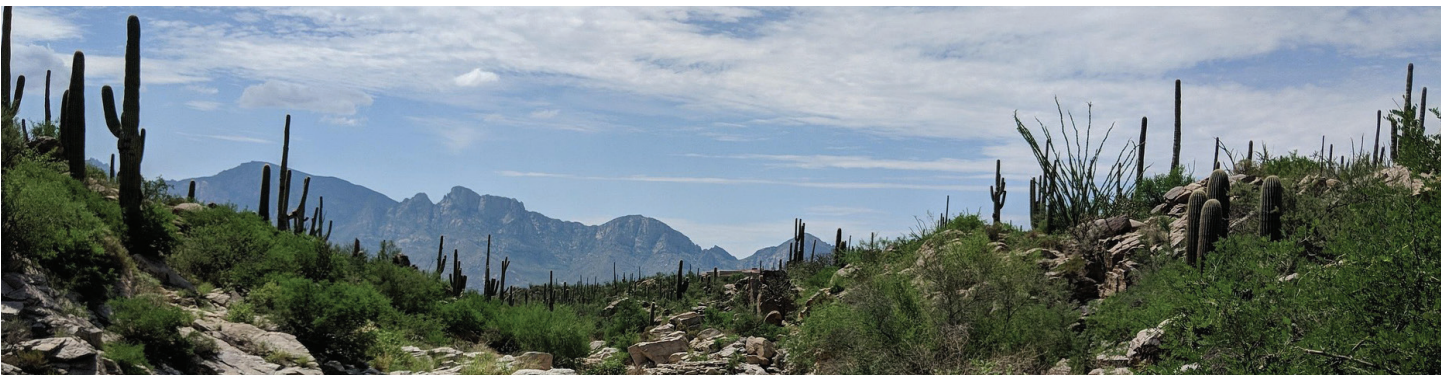
College/Community Activities: Phi Theta Kappa member, PCC Hike, Run & Explore co-president, Sabino Canyon Naturalists volunteer and AmeriCorps Alumni

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Personal Statement: Future generations depend on our current actions to secure sustainable and healthy environments on a planet we are actively degrading.



PimaCommunityCollege





Tatiana Gonzales

Pima Community College — Desert Vista Campus

Major: Cybersecurity

Tatiana plans to transfer to the University of Arizona College of Information Science to earn a bachelor's of applied science degree. Her career goal is to gain hands-on experience with SIEM deployment, administration and data center management and compliance, and to help the Tucson community with cybersecurity awareness.

College/Community Activities: Cyber Warfare Range volunteer, IT peer mentorship, outreach/IT workshop with public speaking at middle, high school and university levels and church community volunteer

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, City of Tucson & South Tucson IT Scholarship recipient and Tucson Republican Women scholarship recipient

Personal Statement: Once uncertain, I found my fit in cybersecurity—a puzzle piece that ignited my curiosity, confidence and passion for serving my community.



PimaCommunityCollege



Jason Janoski

Pima Community College — Northwest Campus

Major: Business Administration

Jason plans to transfer to the University of Arizona's Eller College of Management to ultimately earn a master's degree in accounting. His career goal is to work in higher education.

College/Community Activities: Pima Business Club secretary, Phi Theta Kappa ABX vice president, ARC Food Pantry volunteer and student ambassador

College Honors: Pima Hero's Award recipient, Alpha Beta Chi Distinguished Chapter Member Award and Most Impactful Event award

Personal Statement: I am Jason Janoski. Despite the challenges of life, driven through the opportunity of education, I look to help anyone and everyone I can.



PimaCommunityCollege



Sydney Jones

Pima Community College — Northwest Campus

Major: Science (Engineering)

Sydney plans to transfer to the University of Arizona College of Engineering to earn a degree in mechanical engineering. Her career goal is to ultimately work in the design and testing of automobiles, ships and boats, or other exciting opportunities.

College/Community Activities: Engineering Club leader, Tucson Speedway technical volunteer, tutor and game night host

College Honors: Dean's List and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Personal Statement: Adventurous, friendly, conscientious, and ready to solve problems together. Life's motto: "Do or do not. There is no try." - Yoda



PimaCommunityCollege



Rachel King

Pima Community College — District Office Campus

Major: Associate of Science

Rachel plans to transfer to the University of Arizona in Fall 2026 to pursue a bachelor's degree in electrical and computer engineering. Her career goal is to work as a software engineer or in a similar field where she can express her creativity and problem-solving skills.

College/Community Activities: Pima Community College Student Senate Chair and Honors Advisory Council

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Personal Statement: I am a curious and creative engineer whose passion shapes how I learn, see, and understand the world.



PimaCommunityCollege



Paloma McKenna

Pima Community College — Downtown Campus

Major: Psychology

Paloma plans to transfer to the University of Arizona, ultimately earning a bachelor's degree in psychology. Her career goal is to assist patients in their journey with mental health as an art therapist.

College/Community Activities: Caretaker, Fiesta Grande youth coordinator, Florecitas program volunteer and People4PCC co-chair

College Honors: Pima Heroes Award

Personal Statement: Paloma is a creative spirit. She wants to be an art therapist in the future, attaining her ultimate goal of inspiring and healing others.



PimaCommunityCollege



Nora O'Brien

Pima Community College — East Campus

Major: Psychology

Nora plans to transfer to the University of Arizona to pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and ultimately earn a master's degree in either clinical mental health counseling (CMHC), social work (MSW) or marriage and family therapy. Her career goal is to be a licensed therapist and incorporate art therapy into her practice.

College/Community Activities: Honors Study topic collaborator on Honors in Action (HIA) Project, Phi Theta Kappa (Alpha Beta Chi) liaison officer, AYSO Kids soccer volunteer and Tucson Meet Yourself (TMY) volunteer

Personal Statement: A phrase that I live by that has guided me not just through life, but in my academic career/goals, is that "to be soft is to be powerful".



PimaCommunityCollege



Oscar Riesgo

Pima Community College — East Campus

Major: Cybersecurity

Oscar will transfer to the University of Arizona College of Information Science to earn a bachelor's degree in cyber operations. His goal is to eventually work for Lockheed Martin.

College/Community Activities: Arizona Cyber Warfare Range volunteer at Pima East Campus

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society

Personal Statement: If you want to be successful, you're going to have to be obsessed. You must want it as badly as you want to breathe.



PimaCommunityCollege



Hannah Seery

Pima Community College — West Campus

Major: Associate of Arts - Liberal Arts

Hannah is transferring to the University of Arizona to pursue a degree in nutrition and human performance. After graduation she plans to pursue a doctorate in physical therapy. She is excited for this next chapter of her life and sincerely hopes to help many people in her career.

College/Community Activities: Pima Mentor Collective program mentor, Casa Maria Soup Kitchen volunteer, YoungLife volunteer/photographer and Pima Love Notes club volunteer

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship and All-USA Academic Team nomination

Personal Statement: I feel so honored to receive this scholarship and I am so grateful for the family, friends and advisors that have supported me this far.



PimaCommunityCollege



Marielena Aguirre Foster

Rio Salado College

Major: Addictions and Substance Use Disorders

Marielena plans to transfer to Arizona State University's Barrett, The Honors College to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Public Service and Public Policy with a concentration in health policy. Her long-term goal is to earn a doctorate in public health and lead efforts to reform addiction-prevention policy, strengthen recovery support systems and advance equitable, evidence-based public health initiatives. She is especially committed to advocating for stronger alcohol-marketing regulations and reducing youth exposure to harmful advertising through comprehensive public health policy.

College/Community Activities: Phi Theta Kappa chapter president, Campus Vote Project Democracy Fellowship, Maricopa County Community College's Student Public Policy Forum participant and Maricopa County Community College's Student Senate

College Honors: Chancellor's Civic Leadership Medallion, AHCCCS Behavioral Health Grant Scholar, Arizona Community College Workforce Scholarship and Latina Legacy Scholarship recipient

Personal Statement: Marielena is a future public health leader dedicated to prevention, recovery advocacy and creating policies that uplift underserved communities.



RIO SALADO COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Goldine Johnson-Pompey

Rio Salado College

Major: Law & Public Policy

Goldine plans to transfer to the University of Arizona to study law. Her goal is to become an attorney and policymaker.

College/Community Activities: Phi Theta Kappa vice president of leadership, Phi Theta Kappa AZ regional vice president of Central District, East Valley Rotaract president, Democracy Fellow and Pearl Pages Publishing founder

College Honors: President's List

Personal Statement: Goldine is shaped by resilience and purpose, proving through her life's work that legacy speaks and love rooted in justice rewrites the world.



RIO SALADO COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Simone Bedi

Scottsdale Community College

Major: Psychology and Biological Sciences

Simone plans to transfer to Arizona State University to pursue a bachelor's degree in psychology and biological sciences with the goal of attending medical school and pursuing a career in surgery within the healthcare field.

College/Community Activities: Holds leadership positions in several student clubs and organizations, hospital volunteer and other community support

Personal Statement: There is a saying education is the most powerful weapon to change the world. I strive to turn knowledge into impact and help others.



SCOTTSDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Alexia Neal

Scottsdale Community College

Major: Motion Picture, Television and New Media Production

Alexia plans to transfer to Arizona State University's Sidney Poitier New American Film School, ultimately earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film and Media Production. She will double major in journalism and mass communications through the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism with honors from Barrett, The Honors College. Her goal is to become a producer and assistant director and work in the development department for motion pictures.

College/Community Activities: Phi Theta Kappa chapter president, two-time producer of SCC's capstone films, SCC Dean of Student Affairs student panelist and SCC HR assistant

College Honors: Chancellor's Award recipient, Helen A. Frantz Scholarship recipient, Ron Bergamo Television Scholarship and SCC Honors College

Personal Statement: A creative inspired by connection, big dreams and dancing all night to the best song ever. #LiveLoudDreamBig



SCOTTSDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SOUTH MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Fardeen Imran

South Mountain Community College

Major: Business/Entrepreneurship

Fardeen plans to transfer to the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University to earn a bachelor's degree. His ultimate career goal is to become an entrepreneur.

College/Community Activities: Career peer coach at South Mountain Community College, Collegiate DECA member participating at Fall Leadership Conference and Phi Theta Kappa officer

College Honors: President's List, President's Honors Scholarship recipient and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Personal Statement: Business student | Academic scholar | DECA & Phi Theta Kappa | Future entrepreneur #Leadership #Entrepreneurship



**SOUTH MOUNTAIN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SOUTH MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Natalyia Torres

South Mountain Community College

Major: Psychology

Natalyia plans to transfer to Arizona State University's Mary Lou Fulton School of Teaching and Learning Innovation to pursue a bachelor's degree in education, with the long-term goal of earning a doctorate in education. Her career aspiration is to work at the intersection of education and mental health, serving and supporting youth and young adult populations.

College/Community Activities: Phi Theta Kappa vice president of scholarship and Educators' Rising president

College Honors: Honors Achievement Award recipient

Personal Statement: Lifelong learner & Aspiring educator & advocate, passionate about supporting youth, creating safe spaces, and turning challenges into growth.



**SOUTH MOUNTAIN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

YAVAPAI COLLEGE



Robert "Porter" Blakely

Yavapai College – Career and Technical Education Center

Major: Engineering - Electrical

Robert plans to transfer to Arizona State University to pursue a degree in electrical engineering, including automation/robotics, radio, audio and theater.

College/Community Activities: Phi Theta Kappa chapter president, community theater and local political activism

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa

Personal Statement: "Being great doesn't always require being perfect. Show grace. Stay dedicated. Be true."

**Yavapai
COLLEGE**

YAVAPAI COLLEGE



Eric Jackson

Yavapai College – Verde Valley Campus

Major: AAS in Fire Science - Suppression

Eric will transfer to Northern Arizona University to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Applied Wildland Fire Science with a career goal in wildfire management.

College/Community Activities: Firefighter/EMT with Verde Valley Fire and former Australian firefighter 2018-2020 serving during the 2019-2020 Black Summer Bush Fire

College Honors: Dean's List and Phi Theta Kappa

Personal Statement: "The most important thing is to be yourself." – Dave Grohl

**Yavapai
COLLEGE**



Sarah Khalil

Yavapai College — Prescott Campus

Major: Associate of Arts

Sarah will transfer to Arizona State University to pursue a psychology degree.

College/Community Activities: Student Government Association senator, Phi Theta Kappa officer, Students of Leadership student and Future Business Leaders Association officer

Personal Statement: "Don't let fear, anxiety, embarrassment or doubt get in the way."

Yavapai
COLLEGE



Tristan David Schreiner

Yavapai College — Prescott Campus

Major: Creative Writing and Interdisciplinary Studies

Tristan will transfer to the University of Arizona with the goal of writing books and digital screenplays.

College Honors: Honors and Phi Theta Kappa student

Personal Statement: "I shall be telling this with a sigh, Somewhere ages and ages hence: Two roads diverged in a wood and I— I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference." The Road Not Taken by Robert Frost

Yavapai
COLLEGE



Patric Sipes

Yavapai College — Career and Technical Education Center and Prescott Campus

Major: AAS Fire Science

Patric will transfer to Northern Arizona University to pursue a degree in the medical/lifesaving field.

College/Community Activities: Sustainability Club, certified Zumba instructor and Fire Academy

College Honors: National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Students of Leadership, College Honors Program—Leadership Focus and Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society

Personal Statement: "I am defined by my progress, not my past."

Yavapai
COLLEGE



Laura Waltrip

Yavapai College — Verde Valley Clarkdale Campus

Major: AAS Paralegal Studies and Certification for Criminal Law Legal Paraprofessional

Laura will transfer to Arizona State University in Fall 2026 to pursue a bachelor's degree in justice studies. Her career goal is to become a legal paraprofessional with endorsements in criminal law, family law and juvenile dependency

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society

Personal Quote: "If you fail to plan you plan to fail." – Taylor Swift

Yavapai
COLLEGE

All-Arizona Academic Team Recognition Ceremony

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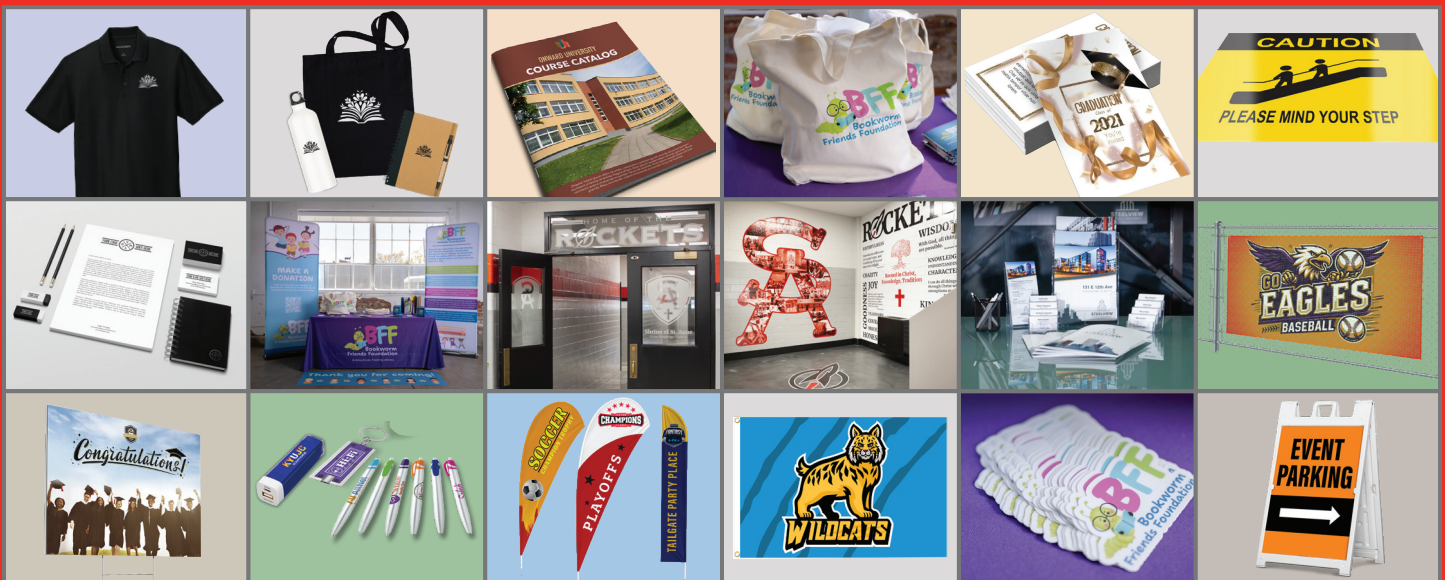
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