

# All-Arizona Academic Team



Virtual Recognition Ceremony  
Thursday, February 24, 2022

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



# All-Arizona Academic Team for Community Colleges

*“Members of the All-Arizona Academic Team embody the tenacious and determined spirit that has long defined Arizona and its citizens. Through their resolve and dedication to academic excellence, work ethic and exemplary civic engagement, these distinguished scholars have demonstrated they are well-prepared for today’s challenges, and have effectively paved their pathways to a brighter tomorrow. Congratulations to all of the students who have received this prestigious award and my admiration to all of their families who helped them along the way. We are truly fortunate to have each and every one of you as examples of the boundless opportunities we have in Arizona.”*

– Governor Doug Ducey

## 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 extends 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 78 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 nation-wide. 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.



# All-Arizona Academic Team Celebration

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022**

**Welcome:**

Dr. Daniel P. Corr, President, Arizona Western Community College

**Emcee:**

Ian Schwartz, Meteorologist/Reporter, CBS5 KPHO/3TV KTVK/AZFamily.com

**Keynote Speaker:**

Carmen Maldonado

All-Arizona Academic Team recipient from Cochise College, 2012

**Arizona Board of Regents:**

Larry Penley, Chair of the Board

**Recognition of Academic Scholars:**

Ian Schwartz



**Carmen  
Maldonado**  
Keynote Speaker

Carmen Maldonado was born and raised in Douglas, Arizona and graduated from Douglas High School in 2009. Since childhood, she knew she wanted to pursue a higher education and be the first in her family to go to college as well as earn a degree. Coming from a low-income, single parent home, she knew she would struggle to finance her education at a university directly out of high school, so she started her higher education at Cochise College at the Douglas Campus.

Carmen graduated from Cochise College in 2012 with High Honors obtaining an Associate of Arts degree in Psychology and an Associate of Science degree in Biology. In 2014, she earned a Bachelor's of Science in Psychology (Magna Cum Laude and Honors) and Masters of Arts in Psychology from the University of Arizona. During the pursuit of her education, Carmen was involved in several honors societies, conducted research, and participated in other community service programs while also working part-time. Carmen pursued and earned her education debt free. She worked diligently to apply for various scholarships and federal financial aid in order to help her pay for her entire education. Now, she works for the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid at the University of Arizona as a Project Coordinator for the Scholarship Office where she helps students pursue their education and apply for scholarships, just as she once did.



# 2022 ALL-ARIZONA ACADEMIC TEAM

## ARIZONA'S COMMUNITY COLLEGES PRESENT

 <b>Jocelyn Andrade</b> Arizona Western College	 <b>Sofia Loera</b> Arizona Western College	 <b>Kaleah Peet</b> Arizona Western College	 <b>Karla Vera</b> Arizona Western College	 <b>Jenna Bishop</b> Central Arizona College	 <b>Rachelle Black</b> Central Arizona College	 <b>Cristal DeSantiago</b> Central Arizona College	 <b>Liliana Flores</b> Central Arizona College	 <b>Kristi Hill</b> Central Arizona College	 <b>Wynonna Pulma</b> Central Arizona College
 <b>Mary Alkas</b> Chandler-Gilbert Community College	 <b>Arad Arasteh</b> Chandler-Gilbert Community College	 <b>Brianna Della Valle</b> Chandler-Gilbert Community College	 <b>Katlind Nearing</b> Chandler-Gilbert Community College	 <b>Jose Avechuco</b> Cochise College	 <b>Kaelyn Edwards</b> Cochise College	 <b>Lauren Fullen</b> Cochise College	 <b>Victor Oviedo</b> Cochise College	 <b>Andrea Clayton</b> Cocconino Community College	 <b>Frank Stucjus</b> Cocconino Community College
 <b>Buck Carter</b> Eastern Arizona College	 <b>Brooke Dimbat</b> Eastern Arizona College	 <b>Dazi Schysm</b> Eastern Arizona College	 <b>Ian Syfert</b> Eastern Arizona College	 <b>Chelsea Lee</b> Estrella Mountain Community College	 <b>Alexia Sanchez</b> Estrella Mountain Community College	 <b>Carlos Apodaca</b> Gateway Community College	 <b>Allyiah Gomez</b> Gateway Community College	 <b>Sophia Acosta</b> Glendale Community College	 <b>Devin Dawson</b> Glendale Community College
 <b>John Matthew Garcia</b> Glendale Community College	 <b>Landon Kea</b> Mesa Community College	 <b>Brooklyn Shumway</b> Mesa Community College	 <b>Justin Begay</b> Mohave Community College	 <b>Brenda Carrillo</b> Mohave Community College	 <b>Crystal Covault</b> Mohave Community College	 <b>Wendy Gustafson</b> Mohave Community College	 <b>David Mendez</b> Mohave Community College	 <b>Lucy Nelson</b> Mohave Community College	 <b>Adam Romano</b> Mohave Community College
 <b>Angelica Abeita</b> Northland Pioneer College	 <b>David Aberle</b> Northland Pioneer College	 <b>Ashlyn Adakai</b> Northland Pioneer College	 <b>Hannah Bahr</b> Northland Pioneer College	 <b>Ashton Bishop</b> Northland Pioneer College	 <b>Erica Novak</b> Northland Pioneer College	 <b>Jamie Ortega</b> Northland Pioneer College	 <b>Britainy Pennington</b> Northland Pioneer College	 <b>Jolie Selestewa</b> Northland Pioneer College	 <b>Lauren Stidham</b> Northland Pioneer College
 <b>Kaylen Wilson</b> Northland Pioneer College	 <b>Donovan O'Neal</b> Paradise Valley Community College	 <b>Jovana Vincic</b> Paradise Valley Community College	 <b>Ashley West</b> Paradise Valley Community College	 <b>Vala Zupko</b> Paradise Valley Community College	 <b>Pocahontas Daniels</b> Phoenix College	 <b>Brittany Spears</b> Phoenix College	 <b>Genesis Benedith</b> Pima Community College	 <b>Michele Dashiell</b> Pima Community College	 <b>Rachel Gravina</b> Pima Community College
 <b>Angela Ho</b> Pima Community College	 <b>Hannah Irwin</b> Pima Community College	 <b>Maximus Luevanos</b> Pima Community College	 <b>Danielle Ostrop</b> Pima Community College	 <b>Halianna Pillar</b> Pima Community College	 <b>Andrea Salazar Calderon</b> Pima Community College	 <b>Jakelynn Wert</b> Pima Community College	 <b>Cordero Holmes</b> Rio Salado College	 <b>Carolyn Shack</b> Rio Salado College	 <b>April Famoso Pineda</b> South Mountain Community College
 <b>An Binh Tran</b> South Mountain Community College	 <b>Gabrielle Baker</b> Yavapai College	 <b>Jennifer Bergstad</b> Yavapai College	 <b>Anna Componovo</b> Yavapai College	 <b>Justin Hyson-Call</b> Yavapai College	 <b>Erin Markham</b> Yavapai College	 <b>Justin Ritzenhale</b> Yavapai College	 <b>Paul Schachtner</b> 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.

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

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**East Valley Tribune**  
EastValleyTribune.com





## Jocelyn Andrade

**Arizona Western College – Yuma Campus**

**Major:** Family Studies/Social Work

Jocelyn intends to transfer to Northern Arizona University where she will study social work and ultimately earn a Master's degree in Counseling. Jocelyn's career goal is to improve home lives for children and parents while clearing the obstacles for people to heal and grow.

**College/Community Activities:** Arizona Western College Honors Society Advocate, Somerton Apostolic Church Youth Ministry Member and Dutch Bros Coffee Barista

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and Honors Program student

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** Jocelyn was created to simply give God the Glory alongside the heavens and the rest of the earth including the seas and everything in them. Want to join? The way is JESUS! #PraiseHim! #lostinthefaceofJesusChrist



## Sofia Loera

**Arizona Western College – San Luis & Somerton Learning Centers**

**Major:** Nursing

Sofia plans to transfer to Northern Arizona University – Yuma campus where she will study nursing and ultimately earn a master's degree to become a nurse practitioner. Sofia's life goal is to assist, serve and care for people in need of medical assistance.

**College/Community Activities:** Phi Theta Kappa member, Matador Ambassador 2021 and Salsa Torros member 2020-2021

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, AWC Presidential Scholarship recipient, Foundation of Yuma Regional Medical Center scholarship recipient and Raymond Miller Endowed Nursing scholarship recipient

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** Sofia is a kind, family-oriented young woman. She is a dedicated student who prioritizes her studies and wishes to be a haven for people in need.



## Kaleah Peet

**Arizona Western College – Yuma Campus**

**Major:** Associate of Arts

Kaleah plans to transfer to Northern Arizona University (Yuma Campus) where she will study nursing and earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and simultaneously become a registered nurse. Upon completion of the program, Kaleah will transfer to the University of Arizona to earn her Master of Science in Nursing. Kaleah's life goal is to become a certified registered nurse anesthetist and give support to those going into surgery.

**College/Community Activities:** Mohawk Valley 4-H Club President 2015-2020, Mohawk Valley 4-H Lamb Club Advisor 2020-present and Gila Ridge FFA Club Secretary 2018-2019

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Honors Program Scholarship Recipient, Sturges Charitable Trust Scholarship Recipient and Dean's List

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** Kaleah is a hard-working, determined individual. She strives to do her best in every aspect of life and uses her life goals as determination. She is thankful for her family and friends who support her endlessly on her educational journey. #nursing #firstgeneration #collegegraduate



## ARIZONA WESTERN COLLEGE



### Karla Vera

**Arizona Western College — San Luis & Somerton Learning Centers**

**Major:** Business

Karla has transferred to Arizona State University where she is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Business Law and will ultimately earn an MBA degree by attending law school. Some of Karla's professional life goals are to become a business lawyer where she will focus on providing legal advice to business owners. Becoming a business owner herself is one of her long-term goals. Being a role model to not only her family but to her community is one of her personal aspirations.

**College/Community Activities:** Arizona Western College Matador Ambassador 2020-2021, Arizona Western College Student Government Association President 2021-2022, La Paz, District Operations Board member 2021-2022, La Paz Board student presenter and Arizona Western College Student Activities Board President 2021-2022

**College Honors:** Arizona Western College Campus Life Scholarship Recipient, Student Speaker for Arizona Western College Faculty and Staff Recognition Luncheon, Arizona Western College Ambassador Scholarship Recipient and Arizona Western College Dean's List award

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** Karla is devoted to her family and friends, enhances personal growth, is committed to living her life to her fullest, and is a strong believer that with faith and hard work anything can be possible.



## CENTRAL ARIZONA COLLEGE



### Jenna Bishop

**Central Arizona College — San Tan Campus**

**Major:** Hotel and Restaurant Management

Jenna plans to transfer to Northern Arizona University to earn her Bachelor's degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management. Though she has many career goals, she ultimately hopes to run a hotel of her own where both her guests and coworkers can feel safe and appreciated.

**College/Community Activities:** Crew lead at Barro's Pizza

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

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** I promote safety and laughter within my communities and continually practice acts of kindness in attempts to improve others' days.



### Rachelle Black

**Central Arizona College — Signal Peak Campus**

**Major:** AAS-Medical Laboratory Technician Program

Rachelle plans to transfer to the Arizona State University College of Health Solutions to obtain a Bachelor of Applied Studies degree in medical laboratory sciences and ultimately earn a doctor of medicine degree. Her career goal is to work as a clinical geneticist to research and develop a cure for hereditary health conditions.

**College/Community Activities:** Rural MV elders COVID assist initiative-donor and volunteer, Tse'bii'nidzsigai Elementary School volunteer, Monument Valley Community Health Center native language translator volunteer and Phi Theta Kappa member

**College Honors:** 2021 Dean's List, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and The National Society of Collegiate Scholars nominee and member

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** #FutureScientist #EducatedIndigenousWomen





## Cristal DeSantiago

**Central Arizona College — Aravaipa Campus**

**Major:** History

Cristal intends to transfer to Northern Arizona University where her objective is to achieve a Master's degree in History. Cristal plans to use her degree to gain a position at a museum, preferably overseas.

**College/Community Activities:** Saddle Brooke Food Bank, catered for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Arizona, highway pick up events, rescue dog fostering

**College Honors:** Dean's List

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** I am reliable in both professional and personal environments. When a problem occurs, I will have a stubborn and analytical attitude.



## Liliana Flores

**Central Arizona College — Superstition Mountain Campus**

**Major:** Art

Liliana plans to transfer to Arizona State University to continue studying art. Her career goal is to obtain the required degrees that will enable her to teach art. She also wants to further develop her skills as an artist.

**College/Community Activities:** Vice president of college project in Phi Theta Kappa, helped create a food drive sponsored by PTK, represented the disabled community at Pinal County Food Bank, Honor Roll

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

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** God lifted me out of my wheelchair and relieved me of my pain so that I could inspire others with disabilities to reach their dreams. Be faithful to everything you do and God will fill you with his blessings. #Art, #TeachingArt, #GodisGood



## Kristi Hill

**Central Arizona College — Signal Peak Campus**

**Major:** Nursing

Kristi plans to transfer to Northern Arizona University to complete a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and ultimately earn her Master of Science in Nursing. Her career goals are to eventually become a nurse educator and allocate the term "care" back into healthcare.

**College/Community Activities:** Front-line worker during COVID-19 pandemic, Sunday school children's leader, Phi Theta Kappa member

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

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** My ambition is led by faith, hope and perseverance to place "care" back into the term "healthcare". #Wife #Mother #Future Nurse #WithGodAllThingsArePossible



## Wynonna Ingrid Faye Pulma

**Central Arizona College — Superstition Mountain Campus**

**Major:** Associate of Business

Wynonna plans to transfer to the Arizona State University W.P. Carey School of Business to pursue her bachelor's in accountancy. Her career goal is to be a Certified Public Accountant and/or a Certified Management Accountant.

**College/Community Activities:** Phi Theta Kappa officer and Bayanihan E-Konsulta project volunteer

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and 2021 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** I am a diligent, resourceful and motivated student at my college. I am also a creative, helpful and reliable member of my community.







## Mary Alkas

**Chandler-Gilbert Community College — Pecos Campus**

**Major:** Political Science

Mary plans to transfer to Arizona State University, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, ultimately earning a Bachelor's degree in Political Science later, and her Juris Doctor degree. Her career goal is to work at a law firm as an attorney who focuses on family law.

**College/Community Activities:** Phi Theta Kappa and volunteer work at church

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

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** "There's no fear when you're having fun." – Will Thomas



**CHANDLER-GILBERT  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

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## Arad Arasteh

**Chandler-Gilbert Community College — Williams Campus**

**Major:** Biological Sciences

Arad plans to transfer to Arizona State University ultimately earning a Doctor of Medicine degree. His career goal is to work as a primary care physician in underserved communities in Arizona.

**College/Community Activities:** Phi Theta Kappa Chapter president, Peer Mentor program, CGCC service-learning program, STEM-CURE student mentor

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, CGCC honors program, All-Arizona Academic Team and President's Honor List

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** Success is a marathon, not a sprint and in this process, you will fail and come back.



**CHANDLER-GILBERT  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



## Brianna Della Valle

**Chandler-Gilbert Community College**

**Major:** Philosophy and Music

Brianna has transferred to the University of Arizona College of Social Behavioral Sciences and Fred Fox School of Music and will earn a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy: Ethics Concentration, and a Bachelor of Arts in Music. Her career goal isn't set in stone and she hopes to engage in creative work alongside advocacy work for marginalized groups.

**College/Community Activities:** H.E.L.P Club President, student moderator/speaker (on campus events and student success conference), Student Public Policy Forum and music ensembles

**College Honors:** Maria L. Hesse Scholarship recipient, Chancellor's Medallion recipient and Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** "Where there is charity and wisdom, there is neither fear nor ignorance." –St. Francis of Assisi



**CHANDLER-GILBERT  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



## Katelind Nearing

**Chandler-Gilbert Community College — Williams Campus**

**Major:** Animal Science

Katelind plans to transfer to the University of Arizona College of Animals and Life Sciences ultimately earning a doctor of veterinary medicine. Her career goal is to become a small animal veterinarian.

**College/Community Activities:** Coyote Leadership Academy Alumni, preschool teacher volunteer and Peer Mentor Program

**College Honors:** President's Honors List, All-Arizona Academic Team and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** Choose the path with the most uncomfortableness because with different, can come good.



**CHANDLER-GILBERT  
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## Jose Avechuco

**Cochise College — Douglas Campus**

**Major:** Business Administration

Jose plans to transfer to the University of Arizona to earn a Bachelor's degree in Agribusiness. Ultimately, he would like to pursue a master's degree. His career goal is to start an agricultural business and make a positive impact helping farmers and rural communities.

**College/Community Activities:** Member of Phi Theta Kappa, Vice President of Chapter Information Systems, Vice President of Fundraising for Club TRiO and Community and Highway Clean up volunteer

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society–Alpha Beta Zeta Chapter

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** I am a hardworking, persistent and an honest person who always tries to be a helping hand. I have the self-motivation to excel in all my goals.



## Kaelyn Edwards

**Cochise College — Sierra Vista Campus**

**Major:** Nursing

Kaelyn plans to transfer to the University of Arizona to earn a Bachelor's degree in Nursing and become a psychiatric nurse.

**College/Community Activities:** Phi Theta Kappa Club President, Benson Hospital volunteer, Patient Home Clean up volunteer and Pit Fire Pottery Festival volunteer

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society–Alpha Beta Zeta Chapter

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** #AllArizonaKae



## Lauren Fullen

**Cochise College — Douglas Campus**

**Major:** Associate of Science

Lauren plans to transfer to the University of Arizona. She is also furthering her education to earn a doctorate in veterinary medicine.

**College/Community Activities:** Phi Theta Kappa member, Student Government Association Vice President of Douglas Campus, peer mentor and past officer and alumni of Future Farmers of America

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society–Alpha Mu Zeta Chapter

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** I am ambitious, goal-oriented and determined. I am a leader and mentor to others. And I aim to make a difference! #futureveterinarian



## Victor Oviedo

**Cochise College — Sierra Vista Campus**

**Major:** Engineering

Victor plans to transfer to the University of Arizona to earn a Bachelor's degree in Engineering and become an electrical engineer.

**College/Community Activities:** Member of Phi Theta Kappa, peer mentor, Pit Fire Pottery Festival volunteer and Christmas Drive volunteer

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society–Alpha Beta Zeta Chapter

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** I am a creative, adventurous, enthusiastic person who can be really clumsy at times but works really hard for my future and goals.





## Andrea Clayton

### Coconino Community College

**Major:** Construction Technology Management

Andrea's plan is to transfer to Northern Arizona University to earn a Bachelor's degree in Construction Management. Her career goal is to work as a project manager for five years while securing a general contractors license and then starting her own contracting business.

**College/Community Activities:** Phi Theta Kappa officer (5 semesters), member of the National Society of Leadership and Success (3 semesters), volunteer for Discing4Kids and volunteer for Habitat for Humanity

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, President's Honor Roll – Fall 2020, CCC2NAU President's Scholarship, Loven Contracting Building Relationship Scholarship, JKC Inc. General Contractor Scholarship

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** My future includes building safer, sustainable communities. I have a passion for construction and a vision to make my community a safer and more sustainable place to live.



## Frank Stucjus

### Coconino Community College

**Major:** General Arts and Sciences

Frank plans to transfer to the Northern Arizona University College of Health Sciences ultimately earning a public health degree and Certificate of Education with the possibility of continuing his graduate study in psychology. His career goal is to share knowledge through education while working to become a school counselor or therapist.

**College/Community Activities:** Organized fund-raising events for muscular dystrophy and breast cancer, first person to raise \$100,000 in one year for Safeway fundraising events encompassing various causes, collaboratively assisted with the formation of the Goodwill Job Training Center in Coconino County.

**College Honors:** President's Honor Roll, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, recipient of CCC2NAU Raymond Scholarship and CCC Governing Board Scholarship

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** I have a passion for education and psychology. I'm so grateful for the opportunities that PTK has given me. My hope is to share my knowledge with others through teaching.



“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”

-Nelson Mandela





## Buck Carter

**Eastern Arizona College — Gila Pueblo Campus**

**Major:** Associate's degree in Business

Buck plans to transfer to University of Arizona upon completion of his associate's degree to further his education. His career goal is to work for the forest service or Department of Veterans Affairs as an administration clerk.

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

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** Retired Army veteran and full-time student, Eastern Arizona College, @eacmonsters trainer, instructor, operation and administrative leader.



## Brooke Dimbat

**Eastern Arizona College — Payson Campus**

**Major:** Associate's degree

Brooke is a full-time student, a full-time clinical associate at Banner Medical Group and a part-time employee with Chaparral Pines Golf Club. Brooke will be completing her degree in May 2022 and plans to pursue a sports management degree. She has enjoyed working in the golf industry and hopes, by furthering her education, she can further her career with her current employer or another sports management company.

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** Always let your conscience be your guide. – Jiminy Cricket



## Dazi Schysm

**Eastern Arizona College — Thatcher Campus**

**Major:** Political Science

Dazi plans to transfer to Northern Arizona University to complete her Bachelor's of Science in Political Science and continue on to earn a Master's degree in Economics. Her plan is to become a policy analyst with a focus on economics.

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

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** #Goingontobettertheworld



## Ian Syfert

**Eastern Arizona College — Thatcher Campus**

**Major:** Psychology and Economics

Ian plans to transfer to Northern Arizona University to get his Bachelor's degree in Psychological Sciences, then plans to transfer elsewhere to obtain a Master's degree in Economics. Ultimately, Ian plans to pursue a career in behavioral economics.

**College/Community Activities:** President of Gila Valley Hiking Club, AmeriCorps volunteer and President of Phi Theta Kappa

**College Honors:** President's List, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and Psychology Department scholarship recipient

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** I live and breathe psychology and economics and hope to use those skills to craft more effective policies in the future.



## ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE



### Chelsea Lee

Estrella Mountain Community College

**Major:** Nursing

Chelsea plans to transfer to Arizona State University to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing in conjunction with her attendance in Estrella Mountain Community College's Concurrent Enrollment Nursing Program. Her prospective career goal is to work in a critical care setting as an RN to become a flight nurse in the near future.

**College/Community Activities:** Honors Expo Convention speaker, embedded biology tutor for the Academic Success Center, Sounds of Autism student ambassador and student undergraduate researcher

**College Honors:** President's List, President's Honors student, WIRCCS Scholarship recipient and Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society member

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** Simple but significant. Living by the heart and speaking the truth. #nursing#aspiretoinspire



ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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### Alexia Sanchez

Estrella Mountain Community College

**Major:** Psychology

Alexia plans to transfer to Arizona State University and achieve a Ph.D. in Psychology. Her career goal is to become a psychologist and conduct her own research as a university professor.

**College/Community Activities:** Psychology Club and Psi Beta Vice President, Phoenix community garden volunteer and Women's Rising Chapter

**College Honors:** President's List, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and Psi Beta Honors Society in Psychology

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** Lexi is a very hardworking, loving and ambitious woman. Whenever she is passionate about something she gives all her energy to pursue it—as both a full-time student and a barista. Most of her time is spent making drinks at Starbucks and studying different areas of psychology.



ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN  
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## GATEWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



### Carlos Apodaca

GateWay Community College

**Major:** Communication

Carlos will transfer to Northern Arizona University's School of Organizational Communication at Glendale Community College for the Fall 2022 semester. His plan is to earn a Bachelor's of Science in Organizational Communication with a minor in communication general studies. Following his bachelor's program, he plans to apply to graduate school in Fall 2024 to earn a Master's in Communication. His career goal is to return to the Maricopa Community College District and become a full-time faculty professor of Communication. He also has future plans to earn a Doctoral degree in Communication or Education.

**College/Community Activities:** Volunteer at the bi - monthly GateWay CC Community food drives partnered with St. Mary's Food Bank, GateWay Community College Student Senator and Deputy Chair for the Maricopa Student Senate for the 2021 - 2022 academic year, and Phi Theta Kappa Alpha Alpha Epsilon Honorary Officer.

**College Honors:** Two - time GateWay Community College President's List Honors Award recipient, GateWay Community College Honors Program student, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society member, and fall 2021 Phi Theta Kappa All Arizona Scholarship recipient.

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** # I have learned to embrace failure because it has become my greatest teacher. From failure I have acquired the determination, wisdom, and resilience required to become the best version of myself.



GATEWAY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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## GATEWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



### Aliyah Gomez

GateWay Community College

**Major:** Biomedical Sciences

Allyiah plans to continue her education at Arizona State University to complete a Bachelor's degree in Biomedical Sciences. After obtaining an undergraduate degree, she hopes to become employed as a biomedical engineer while actively preparing for medical school to study the practices of a medical examiner.

**College/Community Activities:** Phi Theta Kappa President, Student Success Special Projects Peer Mentor, student of the Honors Program, and team player for GateWay Community College softball team

**College Honors:** Presidents list, 1st Team NJCAA All Academic, and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** #FirstGenerationStudent #StrongLatinaWoman #IamPTK



**GATEWAY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



### Sophia Acosta

Glendale Community College – North Campus

**Major:** Accounting/Finance

Sophia plans to transfer to Arizona State University ultimately to earn a Bachelor's degree in Accounting/Finance. Her career goal is to eventually own her own business or non-profit organization that makes a positive contribution to the community.

**College/Community Activities:** Non-profit accounting intern, Valley of the Sun United Way volunteer, Phi Theta Kappa member

**College Honors:** President's Honors Scholarship recipient, Honors Program, President's Honors List, Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** Hi! My name Sophia represents me. S for studious. O for organized. P for positive. H for hardworking. I for innovative. A for ambitious.



**GLENDALE  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



### Devin Dawson

Glendale Community College

**Major:** Fine Arts/Art Education

Devin intends to transfer to Arizona State University's ASU Herberger Institute for Design, and the Arts, ultimately earning a Bachelor of Arts in Education. She aims to become a secondary art teacher and further her education to become a professor and administrator of fine arts.

**College/Community Activities:** Member of Phi Theta Kappa, President of Art Connections Club of Glendale Community College, assistant curator for Glendale Community College's art collection, and art instructor for Optum Health Community Center

**College Honors:** President's List, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, President's Scholarship recipient, Student Honors Organization

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** If there were no rewards to reap, no loving embrace to see me through, this tedious path I've chosen here, I certainly would've walked away. #waititout



**GLENDALE  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



### John Matthew Garcia

Glendale Community College

**Major:** Nursing

John Matthew plans to transfer to Arizona State University to ultimately earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. He is eager to grow and learn everyday! His career goal is to become a registered nurse to serve the community through the healthcare system.

**College/Community Activities:** Phi Theta Kappa member, Maricopa Student Senator, EXCEL Scholar, Psi Beta member and GCC Success Coach

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

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** Approach things with a mindset to grow and improve. Never give up on your dreams and aspirations! #AnythingIsPossible #Blessed #GrowthMindset



GLENDALE  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



### Landon Kea

Mesa Community College – Southern and Dobson Campus

**Major:** Cybersecurity

Landon plans to transfer to the University of Arizona to pursue degrees in cybersecurity and management prior to pursuing a Juris Doctorate. His career aspirations are to serve a diverse community as a lawyer in preparations for becoming a judge.

**College/Community Activities:** Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society chapter vice president of leadership, GateWay Community College student government president and peer mentor, Student Success foundation creator and academic and professional tutor

**College Honors:** Dean's list, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society member, Sigma Chi Eta member and National Society of Leadership and Success member

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** "Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." – James Baldwin # I CAN, I WILL, I MUST, #Hawaiian, #Polynesian, #first gen, #Change agent, #Invisible battle wounds /scars are deeper and as important as physical ones



MESA  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



### Brooklyn Shumway

Mesa Community College – Southern and Dobson Campus

**Major:** Performing Arts

Brooklyn plans to transfer to Arizona State University to earn a bachelor's degree in Filmmaking Practices. Her ultimate goal is to have a fulfilling life-long career of directing, writing and acting in successful films that people around the world can enjoy, learn from, and be inspired from.

**College/Community Activities:** Monarch Butterfly Waystation builder and film documentarian, mental health advocate, musician and tutor

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society member, President's Honors Scholarship Program member, Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Award recipient and two-time President's Honors List student

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** "Shoot for the moon; even if you miss, you will land among the stars." -Les Brown #PTKproud #FutureLeader #Creativity #Film #PerformingArts



MESA  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE





## **Justin Begay**

**Mohave Community College — Lake Havasu Campus**

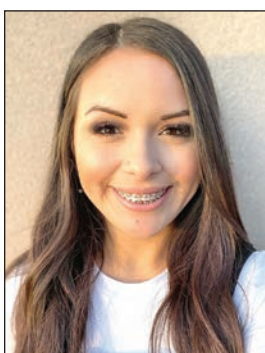
**Major:** Social and Behavioral Science

Justin plans to transfer to Arizona State University ultimately becoming a medical lab scientist specializing in blood banking.

**College/Community Activities:** Member of the Veterans Club

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society officer

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** Born in Kingman, Ariz. Raised in Lake Havasu City. Nine-year veteran of the U.S. Navy and first-generation college student.



## **Brenda Carrillo**

**Mohave Community College — North Mohave Campus**

**Major:** Nursing

Brenda plans to transfer to Arizona State University to earn her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. Her career goal is to work as a family nurse practitioner in her small town.

**College/Community Activities:** Phi Theta Kappa officer and volunteer for playground disinfection at the local elementary school

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** Just a gal who is chasing her dreams. #momlife #nursing #iamptk



## **Crystal Covault**

**Mohave Community College — Neal & Kingman Campuses**

**Major:** Education

Crystal plans to transfer to Arizona State University to earn her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a Master's degree in Reading Literacy. Her career goal is to be an elementary school teacher.

**College Honors:** Honors List

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** Crystal has been married for 25 years, mother of 2, and a (young) grandmother of 4. She has dedicated her life to her family: raising her children and now helping raise her grandchildren. She comes from a long line of teachers and has decided to go back to school to finish her education and start her next adventure in life: becoming an elementary school teacher.



## **Wendy Gustafson**

**Mohave Community College — Bullhead City Campus**

**Major:** Social and Behavioral Science

Wendy plans to transfer to Arizona State University to pursue a women and gender studies degree. Her career goal is to work in youth behavioral health and prevention, with an emphasis on being an ally for LGBTQ+ youth.

**College/Community Activities:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Topock Community Pride, Inc. founder and board president, Mohave County Bridge to Recovery, Inc. Board treasurer and CASA Council Helping Children of Mohave County Board member

**College Honors:** Dean's List, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and Resident Faculty Scholarship recipient

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** You're never too old to start something new, don't give up no matter how long it takes, and enjoy the process.





## David Mendez

**Mohave Community College – Bullhead City Campus**

**Major:** Biochemistry

David's plan is to transfer to Arizona State University to earn a Bachelor of Science degree. This will be his first stepping stone heading towards medical school.

**College/Community Activities:** Phi Theta Kappa

**College Honors:** Dean's List, Honor Society

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** I'm someone who enjoys the little things in life as well as living with minimal items. I enjoy reading graphic novels and playing Yu-Gi-Oh in my down time as well as taking my dogs out for walks. I've been told that I'm very meticulous with everything I do. This can be attributed to my work ethic and dedication to my personal interests. I tend to keep to myself but this does not discourage me from interacting with others.

**MCC** Mohave  
Community  
College



## Lucy Nelson

**Mohave Community College – Neal & Kingman Campuses**

**Major:** Nursing

After graduation, Lucy plans to transfer to Northern Arizona University to complete a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. She plans to work in surgery as a circulating nurse and continue volunteer work abroad on medical missions.

**College/Community Activities:** Mercy Ships volunteer and MCC Film Festival winner (Documentary)

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and award for academic achievement

**MCC** Mohave  
Community  
College



## Adam Romano

**Mohave Community College – Lake Havasu City Campus**

**Major:** Fine Art (Studio Art)

Adam plans to transfer to Arizona State University online to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Art (Museum Studios) and also transfer to Pacific Northwest College of Art in Portland, Ore., to pursue a Master's degree in Classical Painting with a minor in drawing. Adam's hope is to be an art professor at a college level, a curator and the director of an art museum.

**College/Community Activities:** President of the Student Art League, board member on the Board of Directors at the Lake Havasu Museum of History, Phi Theta Kappa Club Vice President of Scholarships and executive member of the Allied Arts Council of Lake Havasu City

**College Honors:** Outstanding Achievement in Arts and Humanities, 2021 Outstanding Achievement World Art History II, 2021 Outstanding Achievement English Composition II 2021 and Dean's List 2021

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** Every day; the sun, and, after sunset, night and her stars. Ever the winds blow; ever the grey grows. There is never a beginning, there is never an end, but always circular power returning into itself. Therein it resembles the scholar's own spirit, whose beginning, whose ending, he never can find, so entire, so boundless. –Ralph Waldo Emerson

**MCC** Mohave  
Community  
College



## Angelica "Angel" Abeita

**Northland Pioneer College — Hopi Center**

**Major:** Business Administration

Angel plans to transfer to Arizona State University's W.P. Carey School of Business to earn a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. She plans to continue working in the field of human resources.

**College/Community Activities:** Current Phi Theta Kappa Public Relations officer and community volunteer

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, NPC President's List, NPC Leg-Up Scholarship, Hopi Tribe Scholarship and Sinmuy Amungem Lois Qumyintewa Memorial Scholarship recipient

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** I am a proud indigenous woman who is hardworking, dedicated and always willing to provide a helping hand. I am grateful for the support and encouragement I have received from my fiancé and family. This is an achievement for US! #Hopi-Laguna-Santa-Ana #ForMySisterAmelda



Northland Pioneer College



## David Aberle

**Northland Pioneer College — Holbrook Painted Desert Campus**

**Major:** Computer Science

David plans to attend the University of Arizona and earn a degree in computer science with an emphasis on cybersecurity. His goal is to work his way up the tech ladder to become a chief information security officer and eventually start his own cybersecurity firm.

**College/Community Activities:** Indigenous medicinal/spiritual practitioner and avid volunteer

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, NPC President's List, CASO Scholarship recipient

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** A father, husband, spiritual leader and student seeking a higher education to blend the cultural life-way of my people with modern technology.



Northland Pioneer College



## Ashlyn Adakai

**Northland Pioneer College — Winslow Little Colorado Campus**

**Major:** Medical Sciences

Ashlyn plans to transfer to the University of Arizona to earn a Bachelor of Science degree. She aspires to work in the medical field (biomedicine) and focus on the health needs of her rural community.

**College/Community Activities:** United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY).

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, NPC Fill the Gaps and Andy Von Scholarship recipient.

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** I am a young Navajo woman. I am hardworking and diligent and am extremely grateful to my family for helping me along the way. #Diné #Tááhwòajit'éeego



Northland Pioneer College



## Hannah Bahr

**Northland Pioneer College — Springerville/Eagar Center**

**Major:** Nursing

Hannah is transferring to Northern Arizona University and plans to obtain her Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Her goal is to work as the director of a labor and delivery or neonatal unit.

**College/Community Activities:** Current Licensed Nursing Assistant and creator and facilitator of the Ruthie Lindsey Project

**College Honors:** President's List, Dean's List and honors student

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** I'm a diligent, motivated, and kind leader who wants to better my life by bettering the lives of others. #futureurse #AllAZteam



Northland Pioneer College





## Ashton Bishop

**Northland Pioneer College — Holbrook Painted Desert Campus**

**Major:** Mathematics

Ashton plans to earn his Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Northern Arizona University and hopes to become a high school mathematics teacher one day.

**College/Community Activities:** Volunteer for CCP

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** Whether writing stories, making art or spending time with my loved ones, I have a fierce passion for everything I do! #MathRules



**Northland Pioneer College**



## Erica Novak

**Northland Pioneer College — St. Johns Center**

**Major:** Nutrition

Erica is transferring to the University of Arizona to become a pre-med student. She hopes to pursue a career in emergency medicine and looks forward to exploring her career options while attending medical school.

**College/Community Activities:** WMRMC Health Fair volunteer, Apache County and attorney's office victim compensation advocate

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, President's Scholar Scholarship recipient and First Place 2020 Skills USA Regional Competition

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** I'm hard-working and always on the go. In my spare time I enjoy lifting weights, walking my dog (Koda) and spending time with friends and family.



**Northland Pioneer College**



## Jamie Ortega

**Northland Pioneer College — Show Low White Mountain Campus**

**Major:** Nursing

Jamie will transfer to Arizona State University and plans to earn her Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She wants to try a few different careers in the nursing field and find her true calling. She is interested in both psychiatric nursing and women's health nursing.

**College/Community Activities:** President of Phi Theta Kappa Chapter (2019-20) and Meals on Wheels volunteer driver

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** The more experience I gain, the more the possibilities intrigue me. I simply want to be an empathetic, caring and hard-working nurse.



**Northland Pioneer College**



## Britainy Pennington

**Northland Pioneer College — Winslow Little Colorado Campus**

**Major:** Nursing

Britainy plans to transfer to the University of Arizona and ultimately earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. Her career goal is to become a flight nurse.

**College/Community Activities:** Winslow Elks Lodge Christmas baskets and Rotary Food Bank volunteer

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

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** In addition to school and work, I love to thrift for vintage space items, take photos and travel. I can't wait for my future! #futureRN



**Northland Pioneer College**



## Jolie Selestewa

**Northland Pioneer College — Whiteriver Center**

**Major:** Community Health

Jolie will attend Arizona State University's Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation. She plans to earn a Bachelor of Science in Community Health and work to provide healthcare to underdeveloped communities. She hopes to one day build an inter-disciplinary team of healthcare professionals to address both traditional and modern views of medicine among indigenous tribes.

**College/Community Activities:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and White Mountain Women's Club student speaker

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

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** #NativeScholar #ForksUp



**Northland Pioneer College**



## Lauren Stidham

**Northland Pioneer College — Show Low White Mountain Campus**

**Major:** Nursing

Lauren plans to earn her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing and become a pediatric ICU nurse.

**College/Community Activities:** S.A.D.D. Driving mock crash volunteer, community blood drive volunteer and OTC drug prevention facilitator

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, NPC President's List, recipient of NPC President's Scholarship and the P.E.O. National Star Scholarship

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** I can achieve anything if I work hard enough for it. I enjoy spending time with my family and my golden retriever, Millie.



**Northland Pioneer College**



## Kaylen Wilson

**Northland Pioneer College — Silver Creek Campus**

**Major:** Education

Kaylen plans to transfer to Northern Arizona University's College of Arts and Letters to earn her degree in art education. Her goal is to teach high school and community college students in rural communities.

**College/Community Activities:** Snowflake High School Academic Decathlon volunteer

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and NPC President's Scholar Scholarship recipient

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** I have always been inspired by teachers, especially the ones who have inspired me. I also love trivia and anything and everything creative!



**Northland Pioneer College**



## Donovan O'Neal

**Paradise Valley Community College – Black Mountain Campus**



**PARADISE VALLEY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Major:** Business Communication

Donovan plans to transfer to Arizona State University to earn his Bachelor of Arts in Business Communication. His long-term goal is to become the CEO of a start-up clothing business.

**College/Community Activities:** Co-owner of Sonoran Pet Sitting, honors program leader and founder of design e-commerce business

**College Honors:** Presidents List, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and Honors Achievement Award recipient

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** Creative Thinker, Entrepreneur and Lover of Art



## Jovana Vincic

**Paradise Valley Community College**



**PARADISE VALLEY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Major:** Peace Studies - Social and Cultural Analysis

Jovana plans to transfer to Arizona State University and to eventually earn a doctoral degree in political science and peace studies. Her career goal is to work in peace studies with the first world issue in which she wishes to specialize: forced marriage. In her career future, she also sees working for large organizations helping them overcome cultural conflicts that arise when employees are not fully empowered to contribute.

**College/Community Activities:** Student senator, peer mentor, president of Club Z and St. Marie Food Distribution School volunteer

**College Honors:** President's Honor List Spring 2020, President's Honor List Spring 2021, national recognition at National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship and Tometi Award "for bringing people together"

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** Who am I now? I am a persistent hard-working and dedicated student who knows that there is still more hard work ahead. But I am confident and prepared for a career in Peace Studies that I visualize often. The most powerful impact on me is Dr. Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks. From these leaders, I had a chance to learn about human rights and justice—how to freely and proudly stand up for equality and dignity. I have graduated from Art High School (Interior Design). Art has helped me develop creative skills and understand that people can express themselves differently.



## Ashley West

**Paradise Valley Community College**



**PARADISE VALLEY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Major:** Veterinary Science

Ashley will transfer to the University of Arizona to earn a Bachelor's degree in Veterinary Science. Her career goal is to start her own business and nurture animals as a vet technician or in another career in the animal field.

**College/Community Activities:** Peer mentor and volunteer at Arizona Humane Society

**College Honors:** President's Honors Scholarship and Presidents List

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** Hashtag Believe in yourself and shoot for your goals, hard work pays off



## Vala Zupko

**Paradise Valley Community College – Black Mountain Campus**



**PARADISE VALLEY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Major:** Fine Arts

Vala plans to transfer to Arizona State University's Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts to earn a Master's degree in Fine Arts/Ceramics. Her career goal is to teach at the college level and to create a program for at-risk youth to spend their time learning about art and themselves.

**College Activities:** Honors student leader, Pride Club participant and school art installation participant

**College Honors:** President's List

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** Vala is passionate about Art and Mental Health Awareness. She enjoys camping w/her family, traveling & her dog. #FineArtsMajor #ASUFall22





## Pocahontas Daniels

**Phoenix College**

**Major:** Communication

Pocahontas plans to transfer to Arizona State University to earn a Bachelor's degree in Communication. Her career goal is to work as an independent contractor for ASL, English and Spanish interpreting.

**College/Community Activities:** Volunteer interpreter for LGBTQ+ events, Sommelier tutor, Phi Theta Kappa Chapter President and Phi Theta Kappa regional President

**College Honors:** President's List, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and The National Society of Collegiate Scholars

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** As a non-traditional student I am always so grateful for a chance to continue doing what I love, and what I love doing most is learning. #Ancoralmparo



**PHOENIX COLLEGE**

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



## Brittany Spears

**Phoenix College**

**Major:** Neurobiology with Cognitive Behavior

Brittany plans to transfer to Arizona State University to earn a Doctorate in Psychiatry. Her career goal is to work in urban educational systems and communities to develop a safe space for minorities to break the stigma around mental health.

**College/Community Activities:** Honors Award inductor, Hermanas volunteer leader, past NAMI officer and Phi Theta Kappa regional officer

**College Honors:** Presidents List, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and STEM scholar

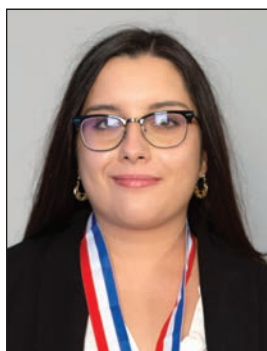
**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** I am a mother of three and a wife first. I am a Phi Theta Kappa student and part of a family in a large society of some of the smartest people I know. If I could sum my life up in a hashtag I would say #gottaseeitthrough. I say this because, throughout all the obstacles that have been thrown in my life, I never gave up on my education, I never gave up on my dream, and I kept my passion strong for my future. I take pride in that and know my motto is that I "gotta see it through."



**PHOENIX COLLEGE**

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# PIMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE *Desert Vista Campus*



## Rachel Gravina

**Pima Community College — Desert Vista Campus**

**Major:** Liberal Arts

Rachel plans to transfer to either the University of Arizona, Arizona State University or Northern Arizona University to study communication or information science. Her goal is to increase information literacy while serving her community by working in either the health or education fields.

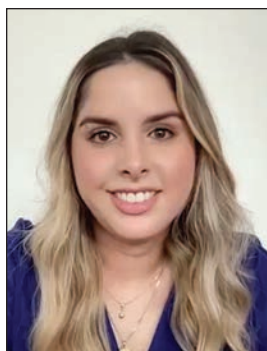
**College/Community Activities:** Student senator, Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention event lead

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa officer and Pima Honors Program officer

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** "The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain!" — Dolly Parton, singer and literacy advocate #PTK #PCC #Honors



**PimaCommunityCollege**



## **Andrea Salazar Calderon**

**Pima Community College — District Campus**

**Major:** Business Administration

Andrea plans to transfer to Arizona State University to ultimately earn a Master's degree in Nonprofit Leadership and Management. Her career goal is to start her own flight school and found a non-profit organization that provides free air transportation for medical treatment purposes.

**College/Community Activities:** Pima Honors Program Executive Team officer, Alpha Beta Chi Vice President, Pima Online Student Senate representative and GROW Academy Director of Student Resource Development

**College Honors:** Pima Honors Program

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** We bloom and succeed from adversity. Let's help people help each other. #InformalVolunteering



**PimaCommunityCollege**



## **Halianna Piller**

**Pima Community College — Downtown Campus**

**Major:** Business Administration

Halianna plans to transfer to the University of Arizona's Eller College of Business. Her goal is to help enhance the lives of people in Tucson.

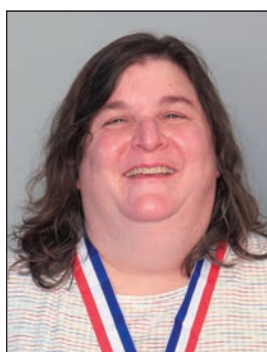
**College/Community Activities:** Phi Theta Kappa Chapter president, Phi Theta Kappa vice president of the Southern Arizona District and GROW Academy Student Board member

**College Honors:** Pima Honors officer and Phi Theta Kappa member

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** I am the rose that grew from concrete.



**PimaCommunityCollege**



## **Michele Dashiell**

**Pima Community College — East Campus**

**Major:** Computer Programmer/Analyst

Michele plans to transfer to the University of Arizona to eventually earn a master's degree and Ph.D. in computers. Her career goal is to work in Artificial Intelligence.

**College/Community Activities:** Site Council Gridley Middle School and Fruchtdender Elementary School

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** #Student #Mom #anythingTech



**PimaCommunityCollege**



## **Danielle Ostrop**

**Pima Community College – East Campus**

**Major:** Business Administration

Danielle is transferring to the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University and will ultimately earn her Master's degree in Business Administration. Her career goal is to combine her interests in community outreach and business by owning her own consulting firm to develop companies' outreach departments.

**College/Community Activities:** President of the Pima Business Club, business program student representative for the Pima Business Advisory Committee and St. Thomas More Catholic Newman Center–Social Justice Committee member

**College Honors:** Pima Honors Program member

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** I am determined, resourceful & charismatic. But most importantly, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13



**PimaCommunityCollege**



## **Genesis Benedit**

**Pima Community College – Northwest Campus**

**Major:** Computer Science

Genesis plans to transfer to the University of Arizona to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science. Her career goal is to work in the technology industry as a software and machine learning engineer.

**College/Community Activities:** Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Club president, Emotional Intelligence Project coordinator

**College Honors:** Pima Honors Program officer, Phi Theta Kappa member

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** I am in alignment with my values and vision. I consciously work my goals into existence.



**PimaCommunityCollege**



## **Angela Ho**

**Pima Community College – Northwest Campus**

**Major:** Nursing

Angela plans to transfer to the University of Arizona College of Nursing to ultimately earn a Master's degree in Nursing to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. Her career goal is to work with cancer patients in reconstructive surgery at the City of Hope's Department of Medical Oncology & Therapeutics Research in Southern California.

**College/Community Activities:** Pima Animal Care Center volunteer and Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Light the Night volunteer coordinator

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa officer and Pima Honors Program officer

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** Am an adventure-seeking animal lover who is optimistic and has a passion for serving others. #believeinyourself



**PimaCommunityCollege**





## Hannah Irwin

**Pima Community College — Online Campus**

**Major:** Nursing

Hannah has plans to transfer to Northern Arizona University in the concurrent enrollment program. Her goal is to work as a registered nurse prior to earning her master's degree and becoming a nurse practitioner.

**College/Community Activities:** Diversity and Inclusion Club president, Pima Honors Program volunteer and Unteaching & Unlearning Summit presenter

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa treasurer and Pima Honors Program member

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** Always ready for growth. Proud of how far I've come and what I've done. With patience, perseverance and dedication I can achieve anything.



**PimaCommunityCollege**



## Maximus Luevanos

**Pima Community College — West Campus**

**Major:** Neuroscience & Cognitive Science (NSCS)

Maximus plans to transfer to the University of Arizona to complete his NSCS major, then intends to attend the University of Arizona College of Medicine. His career goal is to become a psychiatrist and work for a Department of Veterans Affairs/ Veterans Healthcare Administration hospital.

**College/Community Activities:** Western Regional Honors Conference attendee, Rev It Up Showcase Event volunteer, Emotional Intelligence Workshop discussion moderator

**College Honors:** Pima Honors Program officer

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** I am an Eagle Scout and lover of jazz music. I am always striving to improve myself physically and mentally #jazz



**PimaCommunityCollege**



## Jakelynn Wert

**Pima Community College — West Campus**

**Major:** General Concentration of the Arts

Jakelynn plans to transfer to the University of Arizona, pursuing a double major in sociology and journalism. She would like to write, inspiring herself and others to think critically about their local and global communities.

**College/Community Activities:** Himmel Park Clean Up, Aztec Gold Care Packages, Felicia's Farm Fundraiser and Conversation Partners

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** Social creature, always ready to make friends. Find me dancing in my kitchen or hiking in the woods. #HiMyNamelsJakelynn #SmileWithMyEyes



**PimaCommunityCollege**



## Cordero Holmes

### Rio Salado College

**Major:** Substance Abuse/Addiction Counseling

Cordero plans to transfer to Arizona State University where he will study counseling and applied psychological science (substance abuse and addictions) and eventually earn a Doctorate degree in Counseling Psychology. Cordero's life goal is to provide assistance to communities that have been devastated by drugs, mass incarceration and temporary unhousing.

**College/Community Activities:** Student advisor on the State of Arizona Department of Education Indian Education Advisory Council, Maricopa Community College Student Senator 2020-2021, Phi Theta Kappa Arizona regional development officer and Arizona for a Cause Free Brown Bag Lunch volunteer

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Hazel Davis Literacy Scholarship recipient and honors program student

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** Cordero is a God fearing-man, is enamored with his wife, committed to his children and believes that service to his community is service to himself.



RIO SALADO COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



## Carolyn Shack

### Rio Salado College

**Major:** Associate in Applied Science in Addictions and Substance Use Disorders, Associate in Arts

Carolyn plans to transfer to the Northern Arizona University College of Psychology to earn a Bachelor's degree in Applied Human Behavior. Her career goal is to work as an addictions nurse specializing in alcohol and drug counseling.

**College/Community Activities:** Founder of Free Brown Bag Lunch Outreach, PTK College Project Fall 2021, PTK Honors-in-Action Project Fall 2021 and Panelist for American Public University System and Rio Salado College discussion on diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging

**College Honors:** President's List, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Honors Program at Rio Salado College and Nursing Peer Mentoring Leadership Award

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** #What makes me happy? Being a community contributor. In Jan 2021, I founded the Covid-19 Free Brown Bag Lunch Outreach feeding over 1,800 displaced or hungry citizens.

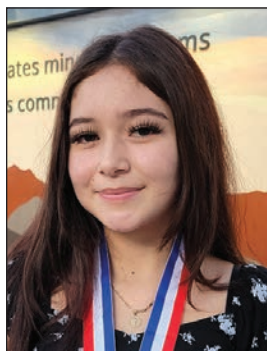


RIO SALADO COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

“ Education is the passport  
to the future, for tomorrow  
belongs to those who  
prepare for it today ”

-Malcolm X



## April Famoso Pineda

### South Mountain Community College

(dual enrollment in Arizona Agribusiness and Equine Center – South Mountain High School)

**Major:** Associate in Arts

April plans to transfer to Arizona State University's Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation to earn a Bachelor's degree in Nursing. Her career goal is to work at Banner Health in its delivery unit as a way to give back to her community.

**College/Community Activities:** Alek Laboratories volunteer, COVID-19 tester volunteer, veterinarian volunteer and Irene Lopez Elementary School volunteer

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society member and officer (Vice President of Scholarship)

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** I am Latina. I am Jalisiense and a proud tapatia with the ability to conquer any goal that I set my mind to. This accomplishment is just the beginning #sisepuede



**SOUTH MOUNTAIN  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

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## An Binh Tran

### South Mountain Community College

**Major:** Associate in Business, General Studies

In January 2022, An Tran transferred to Grand Canyon University to earn a Bachelor's degree in Supply Chains Management. His career goal is to create a business in transportation.

**College/Community Activities:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, contributed to College Project and HIA as well as other chapter activities

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

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** An Tran recently graduated from South Mountain Community College. During his time there, he was actively involved in the college's activities. Now, at Grand Canyon University, he is giving his best to his academic and community success.



**SOUTH MOUNTAIN  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

“ An investment in  
knowledge pays  
the best interest ”

-Benjamin Franklin





## Gabrielle Baker

Yavapai College — Prescott Campus

**Major:** Fine Arts (Concentration in Performing Arts)

Brie plans to transfer to an Arizona university to continue her education in all things theater. Her initial career goal is to be a professional performer and secondly, to become an arts educator.

**College/Community Activities:** Living History interpreter at Sharlot Hall Museum, Shakespearean actor with Laark Productions and president of C.A.S.T., a performing arts club at Yavapai College

**College Honors:** Yavapai College Outstanding Acting Student, Yavapai College Academic Honors, college honors program and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** Imagination Connoisseur, Proud Thespian, Ambitious Heroine. To the World We Dream about and the One We Live in Now #littlebutfierce

Yavapai  
COLLEGE



## Jennifer Bergstad

Yavapai College — Verde Valley Campus

**Major:** Nursing

Jennifer plans to transfer to Arizona State University to earn a doctorate with plans to become a psychiatric nurse practitioner.

**College/Community Activities:** Former president of the Student Nurses Association – Verde Valley Campus, inducted into the National Students of Leadership and Success, PTK Honor Society member and YC Students of Leadership 2021 cohort

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and recipient of the Jewish Community Foundation's Pathway to Careers scholarship

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** As a young parent, college was never on my radar. Fast forward to today and I not only have returned to college but graduated successfully with my associates in nursing with a 3.51 gpa. I have worked hard to show my kids and family the importance of education and hard work. I am dedicated to helping my community, and love to volunteer helping any chance I can get. My future goal is to become a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner and help bring better, more accessible care to the Verde Valley.

Yavapai  
COLLEGE



## Anna Componovo

Yavapai College — Chino Valley Campus

**Major:** Animal Science (Equine emphasis)

Anna plans to transfer to the University of Arizona in pursuit of an agriculture degree with an equine emphasis. Her career goal is to be an equine nutritionist.

**College/Community Activities:** Phi Theta Kappa member, Stepping Stones Agency volunteer and Spring Ridge Academy volunteer

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and Deb McCasland Endowed Scholarship recipient

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** "Only dead fish go with the flow" – Andy Hunt

Yavapai  
COLLEGE



## Justin Hysom-Call

Yavapai College — Prescott Campus

**Major:** Pharmacy

Justin plans to transfer to the University of Arizona Honors College to study chemistry and biology. His career goal is to direct an independent research laboratory, working in marine rehabilitation and sustainability.

**College/Community Activities:** Learning Center tutor, YC Juggling Club president and Phi Theta Kappa Leadership Team

**College Honors:** College honors program, Yavapai College Academic Honors 2020-22 and Phi Theta Kappa Honors in Action

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** #HonorCourageCommitment

Yavapai  
COLLEGE



## Erin Markham

Yavapai College – Verde Valley Campus

**Major:** Nursing

Erin is enrolled in the mid-entry concurrent education plan at Northern Arizona University and is on track to complete her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in Fall 2022. She hopes to pursue a graduate degree at NAU and to serve her community by specializing in geriatric care.

**College/Community Activities:** Yavapai College Love for Our Elders Chapter founder and president, Phi Theta Kappa Fun-Run marketing team and Verde Valley Student Nurses Association blood drive volunteer

**College Honors:** Presidents List and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** Eager and motivated to join the nursing workforce serving our community with a special interest in aiding the health and wellbeing of our senior citizens! #LoveForOurEldersYCC

*Yavapai*  
COLLEGE



## Justin Ritzenhaller

Yavapai College – Career and Technical Education Center

**Major:** Aerospace Engineering

Justin plans to transfer to the Arizona State University Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering, to earn a Bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering. His career goal is to work for a company such as NASA or SpaceX.

**College/Community Activities:** Fun Run organizer/volunteer, Tennis Ball pickup and donation, tutor for college honors program and lifeguard at Yavapai College

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, college honors program, Academic Honors at Yavapai College and licensed solid works associate

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** As Henry Ford once said, "When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it."

*Yavapai*  
COLLEGE



## Paul Schachtner

Yavapai College – Career and Technical Education Center

**Major:** Unmanned Aircraft Systems

Paul plans to transfer to the Arizona State University College of Biological Sciences, Conservation Sciences to earn a Bachelor of Science degree. His career goal is to assist in solving the global issue of drinking water sustainability.

**College/Community Activities:** Full-time algebra teacher at AAEC Early College High School-Prescott Valley, mountain bike coach-AAEC High School and Prescott Valley Performing Arts construction volunteer

**College Honors:** Yavapai College Honor Society, Yavapai College CTEC Most Outstanding Student 2020-21 and Phi Theta Kappa Beta Gamma Pi member

**Self-Descriptive Tweet:** I would like to thank my family first and foremost for supporting my crazy schedule and for paving the road ahead. Secondly, to all my awesome Yavapai College instructors for guiding me along the way, allowing my talents to shine. Finally, to all my fellow classmates for being in the trenches with me and striding along with me in post-secondary education. You guys rock! We will all make it across the finish line together to make this world the best it can be!

*Yavapai*  
COLLEGE

Knowledge  
is power



# All-Arizona Academic Team Recognition Ceremony

## Steering Committee 2022

Ashley Herrington – Arizona Western College  
Susanna Zambrano – Arizona Western College  
Michelle Gomez – Central Arizona College  
Angelita Bustamante – Cochise College  
Serena Westbrook – Cochise Community College  
Lori Dugan – Eastern Arizona College  
Aaron Westerfield – Eastern Arizona College  
Joseph Swaba – GateWay Community College  
Lora Lassitter – Mesa Community College  
Sandy Painter – Mesa Community College  
Cheryl Patton – Mesa Community College

Ron Rangel – Mesa Community College  
Nadine Arroyo Rodriguez – Mesa Community College  
Ted Sowards – Mesa Community College  
Dawn Zimmer – Mesa Community College  
Michael Colwell – Northland Pioneer College  
Karla Gonzalez – Pima Community College  
John Bastion – Rio Salado College  
Carol Smith – South Mountain Community College  
Yvonne Sandoval – Yavapai College  
Denise Woolsey – Yavapai College

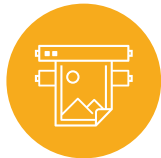
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