



MEDIA RELEASE

— For Immediate Release —

College Success Arizona Awards Additional \$1.2 million in Scholarships to Arizona Students

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Phoenix, Arizona – 50 highly successful Arizona High School students received notification last week that they are the recipients of a four-year scholarship to one of Arizona’s colleges or universities.

Hundreds of students applied “on-line” for the \$6,000 per year scholarship and an intensive set of Success Services, including professional mentoring, that complements the scholarship. Out of the initial applicant pool, 80 students were invited for personal interviews. From those interviews, 50 promising high school seniors, with high financial need will be awarded scholarships. “This year’s group of students was one of the most talented I’ve seen,” said Marjorie DeRubeis, College Success Arizona’s Director of Success Services. “It broke my heart to have to tell some of these great students that they weren’t being awarded a scholarship from us, but there’s only so much funding to go around. If we’d had the money, we could have easily awarded 70 or more scholarships.”

“This is our 11th year of awarding scholarships,” said Rich Nickel, President and CEO of College Success Arizona. “With this year’s group of scholars, we’ll have been able to help nearly 850 high potential, low-income Arizona students with mentoring and scholarship awards nearing \$14 million to attend Arizona’s colleges and universities. We’ve been supporting Arizona students, Arizona institutions, and Arizona communities since 2005. We’re very proud of the services we provide, and the successes our scholars have had.”

“It has been reported that by the year 2020, nearly 70 percent of all jobs in Arizona will require a career certificate or college degree. Just attending college is not enough. To get the full benefit, students need to graduate with a degree. Still, just over 50 percent of the full-time students seeking bachelor’s degrees at Arizona universities will graduate within six years. If a student is from a low-income background, or is a minority; or if the student is a first-generation college student, or attends college part-time, the chances of success are even lower. College Success Arizona specializes in helping students stay on track and graduate, by providing valuable mentoring and other success enhancing services. 70 percent of our students are the first in their families to attend college, and to date, our diverse, highly motivated students have a six year graduation rate of 71 percent — a significantly higher average than other students in Arizona.”

This year's scholars come from across the state, and include the communities of El Mirage, Goodyear, Mesa, Morenci, Parker, Peoria, Avondale, Glendale, Mesa, Tolleson, Shonto, Duncan, Yuma, Flagstaff, Scottsdale, Tuba City, Surprise, Tucson, San Tan Valley, Somerton, Gilbert, and Phoenix.

These 50 scholars will be attending Coconino Community College, Eastern Arizona College, Grand Canyon University, Mesa Community College, Northern Arizona University, the University of Arizona, and Arizona State University; studying such diverse majors as Veterinary Science, Physiology, Engineering, Sociology, Kinesiology, Education, Social Work, Medicine, Earth and Space Exploration, Physics, Criminal Justice, Nursing, Business Legal Studies, Neuroscience, Business Management, Marketing, Computer Science, Journalism, Digital Culture, Architecture, Criminology, Biochemistry, Criminal Justice, Business, Communication, Biomedical Science, and Biology.

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

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

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