



# ***MEDIA RELEASE***

— For Immediate Release —

## **“On-line” Scholarship Applications Now Available**

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*Phoenix, Arizona* – College Success Arizona, an organization leading the way in increasing college graduation rates among Arizona students, is proud to announce the availability of a new “on-line” scholarship application. The new application coincides with the opening of the scholarship application window for the 2015-2016 School Year.

“This is a great addition to our program,” said Marjorie DeRubeis, Director of Success Services for College Success Arizona. “We’re always striving to make our processes easier for the applicants. This new system will allow students from across the state to submit their information for review electronically, no matter where they live in the state.”

“This new application will enhance the services we provide to our students,” said College Success Arizona’s President and CEO, Rich Nickel. “Every year, we try to make our process easier and more transparent. So far, we’ve been able to help nearly 800 high potential, low-income students with mentoring and scholarship awards of over \$12.5 million, and the best is yet to come. This new on-line application gives students a link to [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov) so that they can complete the FAFSA Financial Aid Form, and finalize their scholarship application all on-line, including their essay and recommendation letters. Anything we can do to make our process simpler is better for our customers.”

By 2020, 68 percent of all jobs 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. Last year, our diverse, low-income students had a six year graduation rate of 70 percent — a significantly higher average than other students in Arizona.

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, 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.

Approximately 80 percent of College Success Arizona's scholars are first-generation college students, are in need of financial support, and are highly motivated to succeed in college.

Students will have until 11:59 p.m. on Friday, March 20, 2015 to complete their application package. Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted

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

If you'd like more information on College Success Arizona, and the services we provide, contact Greg Hyland, CPM, Director of Communications and Engagement at (928) 636-1850 or [ghyland@collegesuccessarizona.org](mailto:ghyland@collegesuccessarizona.org) - email.

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