



# ***MEDIA RELEASE***

**— For Immediate Release —**

## **40 College Success Arizona Scholars to Receive College Degrees**

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*Phoenix, Arizona* – May is a special month for College Success Arizona as 40 of its scholarship, and mentoring, students are graduating from colleges and universities around the state. The students are graduating from the Art Institute of Phoenix, Arizona State University, Grand Canyon University, Northern Arizona University and the University of Arizona.

Rich Nickel, the CEO of College Success Arizona, says the graduations reflect a lot of hard work, “We’re extremely proud of our students, many of whom grew up in circumstances that would not likely lead to a college degree if not for their determination to overcome some pretty big challenges. College Success Arizona scholars tend to be high-potential young people from low-income backgrounds.”

Nickel adds that all of the students graduating this year are receiving their bachelor’s degrees. “Having training and education beyond high school is critical because research shows that by 2020 approximately two-thirds of all jobs in the state will require a college degree or certificate. It also shows that a person with a college degree or certificate on average earns five-hundred dollars more per week than those without that level of education.”

Over the past decade, College Success Arizona has provided nearly 1,300 students with more than \$15.6 million in scholarships and mentoring services. The Phoenix-based educational nonprofit currently has 830 students currently enrolled in their program and is very proud of the 379 students (includes 2017 graduates) who have already graduated with an associate degree or higher.

College Success Arizona’s scholarships provide up to six-thousand dollars per school year for educational expenses and specialized mentoring services. The mentoring involves a team of “Success Advisers” working with the students to help them overcome academic and personal challenges throughout their college experience.

## The 2017 graduates are:

### Art Institute of Phoenix:

Elizabeth Castillo

### Arizona State University

Audree Adams-Dupont  
Alejandra Alvarado  
Shyla Bonham  
Ashley Curiel  
Francisco Fernandez  
Channeyla Garcia  
Itzel Garcia  
Yvonne Garcia  
Brianna Goss  
Antonio Gutierrez  
Diana Gutierrez

Adalberto Hurtado  
Scott Koch II  
Andres Morales  
Pablo Moreno  
Duyanh Nguyen  
Luis Perez-Medina  
Thao Phan  
Jesus Rios  
Magda Roman  
Ruby Salgado  
Jenny Ung

### Grand Canyon University

Stephanie Pena-Montoya

### Northern Arizona University

Josephina Chavez (NAU-Yuma)  
Amanda Cooper  
Alexander Garcia

Karina Gonzalez (NAU-Yuma)  
Anahi Rubio-Barrera  
Jonathan Yamasaki

### University of Arizona

Andrea Anguiano (U of A – Yuma)  
Angeleena Corrente  
Rebecca DeLao  
Alexis Gonzales  
Ariel McCurdy  
Shayla Nardi

Amariz Palencia  
Marc Sanchez  
Miguel Solorio  
Darren Stroughter  
Anselmo Vargas

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

[www.collegesuccessarizona.org](http://www.collegesuccessarizona.org).

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