



MEDIA RELEASE

“94 College Success Arizona Students Graduating”

May 11, 2016

Phoenix, AZ – May is a special month for College Success Arizona as 94 of its scholarship students are graduating from colleges and universities around the state.

The students are graduating from Arizona State University, Estrella Mountain Community College, Glendale Community College, 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 are so proud of our students, many of whom grew up in circumstances that would not likely lead to college if not for their determination to overcome some pretty big challenges. Our scholars tend to be high-potential young people from low-income backgrounds.”

Nickel adds that the majority of students graduating this year are getting bachelor degrees, “The numbers show that all but three of the students are about to enter the workforce with a bachelor’s degree. 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 more than one-thousand students with scholarships totaling nearly fourteen million dollars. The Phoenix-based educational nonprofit currently has 554 students under scholarship and is very proud of the 339 students (includes 2016 graduates) who have already graduated with an associate’s degree and higher.

The scholarship provides 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 2016 Graduates are:

Arizona State University

Ahsan Allahi
Noemi Arellano
Julio Castanon
Jazmin Corrales
Shannon Draper
Ricardo Duarte
Nancy Flores
Christopher Gao
Karina Garcia
Enedina Gaxiola
Edgar Gutierrez
Leonardo Gutierrez
Aurelio Herrera
Elva Herrera
Robert Ito
Isabella Jimenez
Shelby Kazen
Eric Lao
Jennifer Lima
Abdi Lopez
Gerardo Marabel
Eliazar Jr Mayoral
Marie Morales
Manuel Nevarez
Patrick O'Connor
Austin Olaiz
Monica Olloren
Kimberly Osuna
Louie Padilla
Ricardo Palomera
Yareli Barraza-Pena
Staphany Ramirez
Jessica Rivas
Yesenia Rodriguez
Lizette Gallardo Rojas
Edlyn Ruiz
Adriana Saenz
Rene Sanchez
Kristian Santana
Austen Shipley
Diana Solache
Gabriel Tena
Marcela Torres
Marilyn Velasquez
Charles Weddle Weaver
Jaime Barbosa-Zavala

Estrella Mountain Community College

Ammy Sanchez

Grand Canyon University

Cody Dumas
Alexis Garcia
Dawt Khun
Christine Miles
Camila Moreno
Alfredo Nava
Daniela Ruiz

Northern Arizona University

Eddie Becerra
Brittany Begaye
Leticia Carrasco
Jadriene Ellery
Emmaline (Emma) Frey
Dallana Garcia
Tracey Lee
Stefanie Thayer
Alyssa Tilley

Northern Arizona University-Yuma

Claudia Alvarez
Eduardo Gallardo
Aneth Mejia

University of Arizona

Sadiya Ahmed
Marie Corazon Aquino
Emabil Blanco
Janette Carrillo
Marquis Carswell
Monica Contreras
Naim Duran
Yolanda Flores
Vanessa Gonzalez
Valeria Huizar
Patt Intarakamhang
Duane Jackson Jr
Tonya King
Melissa Lee
Paola Mendoza
Yocasta Moreno
Cynthia Quinonez
Josely Rendon
Aimee Rodriguez
Naiby Rodriguez
Lupita De Los Santos
Joan Amari Smith
Taylor Tran
John Waters

Glendale Community College

Monica Avalos-Boneta

Talia Munoz

Aimee Wong

University of Arizona-Yuma

Erika Garcia

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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. For more information visit www.collegesuccessarizona.org.