



# MEDIA RELEASE

— For Immediate Release —

## **Nogales Education Leader to be Named STAR at Annual Luncheon**

*Phoenix, AZ* – College Success Arizona is proud to announce that Zulema Fragoso, of the Nogales Unified School District, will be the recipient of the 2017 College Success Arizona Star Award.

The Star Award recognizes college access and success professionals who demonstrate an extraordinary level of personal commitment and leadership in helping Arizona students achieve their postsecondary education goals. Recipients of the Star Award go above and beyond to help students, particularly those that are low-income, first-generation students, gain access to higher education. Zulema's dedication to student success helps to strengthen our state by providing the tools to develop an educated workforce.

Zulema Fragoso was born in Nogales, Sonora. She was raised, educated and has lived in Arizona for more than two decades. She received her Bachelor of Science in Business Management and an MBA in Business in Health Care Management from the University of Phoenix, and she also holds a Master's Degree in Education in School Counseling from the University of Arizona.

Zulema is part of Nogales High School's counseling team. Since beginning her career in counseling, she has dedicated herself to helping students achieve their goals and guiding them to success. Having worked with hundreds of students to access higher education and reach their goals, she continually encourages them to take Career and Technical Education classes, apply for summer programs, and volunteer in their community. Zulema works hard to broaden her students' horizons. She gives personal attention to each one, "holding their hands" through the process and counseling them through many life-changing decisions.

The graduating class of 2017, the cohort she advised last year, had a remarkable 96% graduation rate, with the majority of her students receiving some form of financial assistance to further their education. And, 61% of the students she worked with, enrolled at either a college or university, a significantly higher percentage than other schools across the state. *"My students are my life,"* says Zulema. *"It's so gratifying to see them graduate from high school, and then go on to college. I can't wait to see what they'll become in the years ahead."*

The amazing results that Zulema has achieved, working to help students articulate and achieve their dreams, is why she's being recognized with College Success Arizona's Star Award.

A member of National Society of Hispanic MBAs, the American School Counselor Association, Arizona School Counselor Association and Arizona College Access Network, in addition to working with her students, Zulema enjoys reading, spending time with family and participating in community events.

Zulema is truly dedicated to the success of Arizona's students. *"She is truly one of brightest shining stars in our state,"* said Rich Nickel, President and CEO of College Success Arizona. *"The work she's done, and continues to do, in preparing high school students for their future educational endeavors is remarkable. The graduation and enrollment rates of Zulema's students is nothing short of amazing. She continues to help raise the education level of our state, and we are proud to recognize her with this award."*

Zulema will receive her award at College Success Arizona's annual Leaders and Legends Celebration Luncheon, which will be held on Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at the Arizona Biltmore, in Phoenix. This year's luncheon is dedicated to Ms. Sue Glawe, Vice President of Community Relations for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona. Ms. Glawe is being recognized for her continued dedication to improving the educational opportunities in Arizona and working to improve the Arizona economy.

For more information on attending this year's luncheon, please visit [www.CollegeSuccessArizona.org](http://www.CollegeSuccessArizona.org) or follow [this link](#).

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

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