



New Team Member

Welcome, Roxanne Dewyer-Murphy, to the College Success Arizona team! Roxanne is the new Director of Statewide Initiatives and the Arizona College Access Network. She brings a wide range of experience in advancing college access efforts including serving as the program director for the Northern Arizona College Access Center at Northern Arizona University.

[Learn More About Roxanne](#)

Our Policy Priorities for 2019

We articulated the policy priorities key to increasing college access and affordability in Arizona and to bringing us closer to meeting our statewide attainment goal—60 percent by 2030—set by Achieve60AZ. If Arizona is to remain competitive regionally and nationally, we need to help more low-income students go to college and earn a certificate or degree.

[See Our 2019 Policy Priorities](#)

The Need to Increase College Access and Attainment in Arizona

College Success Arizona is working to significantly increase the college attainment rate of students in Arizona, particularly for those who otherwise would not be able to attend or graduate, such as low-income, first generation, and Latino students. We advocate for long-term, sustainable policy solutions that address key challenges in Arizona. Our priorities include closing information gaps that limit college-going culture, working to improve college affordability and increase state financial aid, and advocating for increased attainment statewide to drive economic growth.

Information Gaps Limit College-Going Culture

Learning about college options, what it takes to be ready for college, and identifying and applying to the institution that best fits a student's needs can be a daunting process. This is particularly true for students and families who have limited access to resources and information about college. To improve college awareness, access, and attainment, Arizona can:

- Address the school counselor crisis that leaves many students without effective guidance about their college options.
- Focus on providing broader access to information about all college options—including certificate, associate, and bachelor's degree programs—and the credentials required for careers in Arizona's economy that provide economic stability and mobility.

Increasing attainment to 60 percent would add **\$3.5 billion** in personal income and tax revenue to the state economy.

903:1 Arizona student to counselor ratio

464:1 National average

Reaching 50 percent FAFSA completion could lead to **\$64 million** more in aid for Arizona students.

The Importance of The FAFSA

Learn more about the economic impact of FAFSA completion and the importance of federal financial aid in College Success Arizona's latest issue brief. The Arizona FAFSA Challenge seeks to increase FAFSA completion in 2019 to 50 percent statewide, up from 43 percent last year. If Arizona meets this goal, \$250 million more in federal financial aid could come to the state over the course of the academic careers of students who receive federal aid.

[Download Our FAFSA Issue Brief](#)



Achieve60AZ Attainment Report

Achieve60AZ recently released their first State of Attainment Report highlighting on

where Arizona stands on attainment and where we need to go. In order for Arizona to reach our 60 percent attainment goal, we need one million more Arizonans to earn credentials or degrees.

[Read The Report](#)



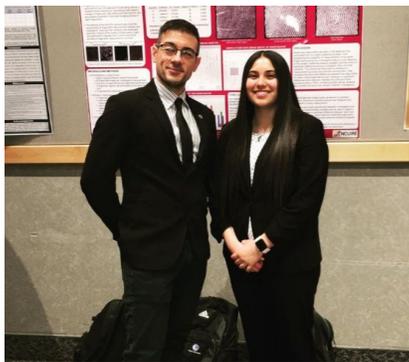
Success Services Program Update

In January, we held our 13th Annual Leadership Symposium for our Success Services Program. This day-long student conference consisted of motivational speakers, workshops, and networking. This year, students heard from one of our communities' greatest influencers, Gonzalo de la Melena, Jr., President & CEO of the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.



[Learn More About the Symposium](#)

Student Spotlight



Natalie Rivera Cardenas

Natalie Rivera Cardenas, a Fall 2016 Helios Scholar, is now in her third majoring in Forensic Science at Arizona Science University's West Campus. She credits the critical role internships and employment opportunities to select a career path that will provide personal satisfaction and allow her to contribute to the community.

[Learn More About Natalie](#)