

# **MESSAGE FROM OUR GOVERNOR**



Katie Hobbs
Governor of Arizona

"Congratulations to this year's All-Arizona
Academic Team! Today we celebrate your academic
achievement and leadership in your community.
Arizona is proud of you and can't wait to see the big
things you accomplish in the future."

-Governor Katie Hobbs

## Quick Bio

- Elected November 15, 2022
- Sworn in January 2, 2023
- Arizona's 24th Governor
- Arizona's 21st Secretary of State
- 5th Arizona-born governor
- First social worker governor
- Former chief compliance officer for Sojourner Center
- Graduated from NAU in 1992
- Holds a master's degree in social work from ASU
- Mother to two: Sam and Hannah
- Born in Tempe, Arizona



## **ALL-ARIZONA ACADEMIC TEAM FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

#### **Recognition Ceremony**

This ceremony celebrates the outstanding academic achievements and distinguished leadership of students enrolled in Arizona's community colleges. All-Arizona students demonstrate academic excellence and intellectual rigor combined with leadership and service that extend their education beyond the classroom to benefit society. Phi Theta Kappa, the American Association of Community Colleges, Arizona Community Colleges, the Arizona Board of Regents and the Follett Higher Education Group help these exceptional students reach their educational goals by awarding scholarships and issuing tuition waivers for any of Arizona's three state universities: Arizona State University, University of Arizona and Northern Arizona University.

#### **Process**

Each college may send two student nominations per campus to the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society for judging. This year we honor 77 students who were evaluated on academic performance and service to the college and community. Criteria for selection are:



- GPA of 3.50 or higher (4.0 scale)
- Good academic standing and working toward an associate degree
- Involvement in campus or community volunteerism

Judging is in three rounds. First-round judges consist of business, civic, education and government leaders. The second and third rounds are held in Washington, D.C. and the judges are representatives of federal agencies and national educational associations.

Scores from the national competition are used to rank the students for the state team. First Team members will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship, Second Team members a \$750 scholarship and Third Team members a \$500 scholarship.

#### **National Recognition**

**All-Arizona Academic Team members** are eligible to be selected as one of 22 to be named to the All-USA Community College Academic Team, receiving an additional \$5,000 scholarship, medallion, obelisk and a certificate during the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Annual Convention.

The top scoring student in each of the 50 states will be named a **New Century Workforce Scholar** or a **New Century Transfer Scholar** and will be receiving between \$1,250 - \$2,250 in additional scholarship funds. These programs annually recognize 100 scholars nationwide. New Century Workforce Pathway Scholars receive special recognition by the Association of Community College Trustees Congress and New Century Transfer Pathway Scholars are recognized during an AACC Convention.

Applicants are also considered for the **Coca-Cola Academic Team Scholarship Program** with 50 students to be named Gold Scholars, receiving \$1,500 each; 50 students to be named Silver Scholars, receiving \$1,250 each; and 50 students to be named Bronze Scholars, receiving \$1,000 each. A state may have multiple Gold, Silver and Bronze Scholars and all scholars will also receive special medallions.

#### Arizona Five Cs: Copper, Cattle, Cotton, Citrus, and Climate











## **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**



Cordero Holmes Keynote Speaker

Cordero Holmes is a 2022 All-Arizona Academic Team honoree and a recipient of a Coca-Cola Academic Team scholarship as a student at Rio Salado College where he earned Level I and Level II Certification in Addiction and Substance Use Disorders, an Associate in Applied Science and an Associate in Arts, emphasis in Psychology.

Today Mr. Holmes is enrolled at Barrett, The Honors College at Arizona State University, as an undergraduate student majoring in Public Service and Public Policy, with a focus on nonprofit leadership and management, at the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions. He will graduate in 2024.

His path in life wasn't always so promising. Born to parents in the military at Fort Carson, Colo., Mr. Holmes grew up in public housing in southwest Phoenix. In and out of juvenile detention facilities as a teen for gang activity, he envisioned a life mostly spent in prison. Mr. Holmes was 20 when he was sentenced to 10.5 years in prison. Three

of those years were spent in solitary confinement where he became captivated with reading and learning and developed a love for humanity that sparked a commitment for racial equity and equality.

Since his release in 2017, the 35-year-old father has dedicated himself to living a meaningful life by causing positive change in the world. He is a 2023 recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Living the Dream award presented by the city of Phoenix at the 37th annual Arizona MLK Awards Breakfast at the Phoenix Convention Center.

Mr. Holmes was a student voice on the Maricopa Council on Black American Affairs within the Maricopa County Community College District while attending Rio Salado College, and was a member of the Arizona Department of Education's Indian Education Advisory Council where he worked with other Native American community leaders and advised Arizona's superintendent of education about policies regarding Indigenous children. He has also been involved with the Computing Alliance for Hispanic Serving Institutions at the University of Texas–El Paso.

Often visiting the Maricopa County-Durango Juvenile facility in Phoenix to speak with young people, Mr. Holmes also assists the unhoused population of Phoenix with food and clothing as a Leadership in Action Fellow at St. Vincent de Paul. In 2022 he traveled the southern region of the U.S. with others who were previously incarcerated, for a PBS documentary produced by Roadtrip Nation titled "Being Free" where they shared experiences and advocated for women and men currently incarcerated.

Having roots in Phoenix that go back several generations, Mr. Holmes is an enrolled member of the Tohono O'odham Nation and a proud community member of the Buckeye Road area where he grew up. His courage to persevere through adversity is an example not only for youth and the formerly incarcerated, but for all people who desire to maximize their fullest potential and impact those around them.

# All-Arizona Academic Team Celebration

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023

## Welcome:

Dr. Stacy Klippenstein
President, Mohave Community College

# **Reading of the Governor's Proclamation:**

Erin Hart, MPA
Policy Advisor, Higher Education
Office of Governor Katie Hobbs

## **Emcee:**

Ian Schwartz

Morning Meteorologist/Reporter

CBS 5 / 3TV KTVK / AZ FAMILY

# **Keynote Speaker:**

Cordero Holmes

# **Arizona Board of Regents:**

Dr. Larry Penley Chair of the Board

# **Recognition of Academic Scholars:**

Ian Schwartz



# 2024 All-Arizona Academic Team

# ARIZONA'S COMMUNITY COLLEGES PRESENT











































**Gavin Bryce** 



**Grant Palmer** 



**Christina Nosie** 









Victor Gonzalez Zapata





























Simone Jean



Halle Goral



Christine Collado-Frost



Maya Lee



Elizabeth "Ro" Loucks





Jillian Henry



Camille Shumway



Kavla Mason















Collin Newberry









April Beltran



Presented as a public service by the



These Community College Students are selected for their academic achievement, leadership and service to the community. All receive scholarships from Arizona's community colleges, as well as Arizona Board of Regents tuition waivers for any Arizona public university. Students are eligible for selection to the All-USA Academic Team.

#### **ARIZONA WESTERN COLLEGE**



## Josett Clark

Arizona Western College

Major: Agricultural Systems Management



Josett plans to transfer to the University of Arizona where she will continue her studies and receive a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Systems Management. Josett's life and career goals are aimed at conserving the trust and transparency between the agriculture industry and people all over the U.S. by helping keep innovation and a passion for learning as a top priority.

College/Community Activities: Humane Society volunteer and Crossroads Mission donor

College Honors: Active member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, AWC Honors Program student and Honors Scholarship recipient

**Personal Statement:** Josett has always been a determined and hard-working person, whether it comes to school, work or her home life. Her dedication to learning, family and animals shows that her passions and responsibilities come before anything else. #believeinyourself



#### Abel Morales III

Arizona Western College

Major: Social Work



Abel plans to transfer to Northern Arizona University where he will study social work with a focus on the US-Mexico border. Then he will transfer to Arizona State University to obtain his master's degree in social work. Ultimately, he plans to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and provide therapy services in Yuma County.

College/Community Activities: Arizona Western College student ambassador, Yuma Community Food Bank volunteer and academic mentor

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, All-Arizona Academic Team, Dorothy A. Taber Endowment Scholarship recipient and Arizona Western College Student of the Month Award for March 2019

**Personal Statement:** Abel is always happy to help whoever is in need because he believes that whoever helps one person helps the entire world. #bekind #spreadlove



## Kassandra Sicairos

Arizona Western College

Major: Nutrition with Emphasis in Dietetics



Kassandra plans to transfer to the University of Arizona where she will study nutrition with an emphasis in dietetics. She intends to use her undergraduate degree to prepare for and gain admission to medical school and eventually become a Doctor of Medicine. Kassandra's life goal is to eliminate healthcare disparities and provide compassionate care to communities that have been underserved.

College/Community Activities: Arizona Western College South Yuma County Ambassador, Yuma Regional Medical Center Patient Engagement volunteer and Yuma Regional Medical Center Mentor Me M.D. program participant

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Arizona Western College Ambassador of Excellence and All-Arizona Academic Team **Personal Statement:** Beyond her professional accomplishments, Kassandra has a profound sense of empathy and an easy-going nature. She believes that a big heart and love for science is the perfect mix for a great doctor. #empathyispowerful



## Rosaelba Soto Robles

Arizona Western College - Yuma Campus

Major: Agriculture Science/ Sustainable Plant Systems



Rosaelba plans to transfer to the University of Arizona where she will study sustainable plant systems and earn a master's degree in plant science. Rosaelba's life goal is to facilitate the jobs of those in the agriculture industry by conducting agricultural research and working alongside farmers to find solutions to the issues they face daily.

College/Community Activities: Young Farmers and Ranchers secretary, Western Cats Mentorship program and San Luis Youth Center volunteer

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, USDA Goals Scholarship recipient and Honors Program student **Personal Statement:** Rosaelba is a highly motivated and dedicated individual working towards achieving her goals by being an active member in her community. #farmsforthefuture

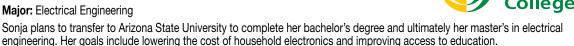
#### **CENTRAL ARIZONA COLLEGE**



# Sonja Elstad

Central Arizona College — Maricopa Campus

Major: Electrical Engineering



College and Community Activities: NASA ASCEND

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Dean's List

Personal Statement: Setbacks do not determine a person; it is what they learn from it and how they recover.



# Maritza Lopez

Central Arizona College — Maricopa Campus

Major: Nursing

Maritza will transfer to the University of Arizona in Spring 2024 and is an accepted student for the incoming Bachelor of Science in Nursing-Integrative Health program. Her goal is to become a registered nurse and work in pediatrics. In the future, she hopes to continue her education by pursuing her master's degree.

College/Community Activities: Council of Student Advisors, Club Activity Board, and TRIO member

College Honors: Presidents List, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, National Society of Leadership and Success and TRIO scholarship recipient

Personal Statement: I am a first generation student and the oldest of seven at home. Because of that, I have always been a responsible and caring individual. Being a caregiver comes naturally to me which is why I wanted to pursue nursing. I am an enthusiastic learner who loves to learn new concepts and skills in and outside the classroom. I am also a firm believer that hard work always pays off which stems off my natural ambition to be the best version of myself that I can be. Besides academics, I like to stay active by taking my dog on walks, going to the gym or playing sports. I like to read, listen to music and spend quality time with my friends and family. Overall, I would describe myself as a wise, helpful, and goal-oriented individual.



# **Tiffany McClellan**

Central Arizona College — San Tan Campus

Major: Graphic Design

Tiffany plans to transfer to Arizona State University to ultimately earn a bachelor's degree in graphic design. Her career goal is to work as a strategic marketing graphic designer with a focus on brand development.

College/ Community Activities: Phi Theta Kappa Alpha Theta Delta chapter public relations officer and secretary, ActivStars martial arts volunteer, Central Arizona College Pence Center Auditorium brochure designer and PTK and National Society of Leadership and Success volunteer

College Honors: Dean's List, NSLS Foundations of Leadership and Advanced Leadership certification

Personal Statement: Tiffany McClellan is a creative graphic designer for her community and college. A black belt in martial arts studying toshicon and shotokan. She has been a PTK member and officer for two years and is serving as the public relations officer, secretary and graphic designer. Tiffany is an avid bookworm and adventurous photographer.





College

Central

#### **CENTRAL ARIZONA COLLEGE**



## Lillian Medrano

Central Arizona College - Signal Peak Campus

Major: Pharmacy



Lillian will transfer to the University of Arizona's R. Ken Coit College of Pharmacy next fall to ultimately earn a doctorate in pharmacy. Her career goal is to work in a community or hospital pharmacy to help aid people, care for their health and wellbeing and share knowledge with those in need.

College/Community Activities: Vitalant Student Blood Drive organizer and Thanksgiving Food Drive organizer

College Honors: President's List, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Kiwanis Club of Casa Grande Scholarship recipient and Vitalant Student Leader Scholarship recipient

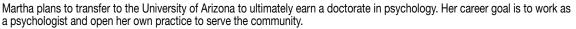
**Personal Statement:** I am a first-generation college student who loves to participate in community events and connect with new people. I enjoy spending time outdoors, traveling and exploring new cultures to learn more about our world. I hope that my career in pharmacy can help me to connect with more people and provide faith and comfort between medical professionals and patients.



#### Martha Meraz

Central Arizona College - Signal Peak Campus

Major: Psychology



College/Community Activities: St. Anthony of Padua Young Adult Group, St. Anthony of Padua School PTO president, Diocese of Tucson El Camino to Easter and Phoenix Premier CG Boys volunteer

College Honors: President's List, Dean's List, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and The National Society of Leadership and Success

Personal Statement: I am a self-determined person who accepted life's challenges and decided to return to school a few years after graduating high school. My passion for helping others motivated me to share the talents God has given me with others around me. My goal is to give back to my community and walk this journey that is called "life" together. I feel very blessed, and I am grateful for this opportunity to embark on this new journey that will help me reach my destination and ultimate goal in life, which is to create a safe environment and to help people recognize the value we all have within us. We all have a purpose in life and together we make this world a better place. #Godmotivated #Blessed #Family



## **Teresa Smith**

Central Arizona College — San Tan Campus

Major: Nursing

Teresa plans to transfer to Northern Arizona University to ultimately earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Registered Nurse degree. She is a small business minority woman who owns Mother Teresa's Group Home, a Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)-licensed agency that provides home and community based services for the disabled. Her career goal is to own several group homes to service the DDD population of the greater Phoenix area.

**College/Community Activities:** Phi Theta Kappa Induction Honors and Awards Ceremony recipient, Compassion in Action volunteer, Celebrate Recovery sponsor and Phi Theta Kappa officer

**College Honors:** Central Arizona Honors program graduate, President's/Dean's list, Phi Theta Kappa - Alpha Delta Chapter Vice President of College Projects and Hurst Review NCLEX® Nursing Scholarship recipient

Personal Statement: I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13



#### CHANDLER-GILBERT COMMUNITY COLLEGE



## Samantha Lagattuta

Chandler-Gilbert Community College — Pecos Campus

Major: General Business



CHANDLER-GILBERT
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CHANDLER-GILBERT
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Samantha plans to transfer to the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University ultimately earning a master's degree in accounting. Her career goal is to work as a CFO or CPA.

College/Community Activities: City of Chandler intern, Feed my Starving Children volunteer, Midwest Food Bank volunteer and Phi Theta Kappa officer

College Honors: Presidents List, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and Honors Achievement Scholar

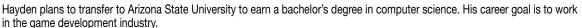
**Personal Statement:** Diligent business major dedicated to academic excellence. Committed to hard work and passionate about giving back to the community.



## **Hayden Thornlimb**

Chandler-Gilbert Community College — Williams Campus

Major: Computer Science



**College/Community Activities:** President of Phi Theta Kappa, Sun Lakes Center volunteer, event planner for multiple successful college events and Phi Theta Kappa representative at Associated Students of Chandler-Gilbert Community College meetings

College Honors: Presidents List, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and Honors Achievement

**Personal Statement:** Passionate PTK President and aspiring game developer with a knack for innovation, community building and fostering positive change.



## **Olivia Ward**

Chandler-Gilbert Community College — Williams Campus

Major: Criminal Justice

Olivia plans to transfer to Northern Arizona University to earn a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Her career goal is to work as a victims advocate to help those individuals navigate the justice system.

College/Community Activities: Peer Success coach, produce distribution volunteer and Phi Theta Kappa member

**College Honors:** President's Honor Scholarship recipient, Honors Achievement Scholarship recipient, Presidents List and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

**Personal Statement:** I'm passionate about helping others within the justice system and my main mission is to make a positive change no matter how big or small.



# **Yeojung Yoo**

Chandler-Gilbert Community College — Pecos Campus

Major: Business Law

Yeojung plans to transfer to the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University. Her career goal is to become a forensic accountant.

College/Community Activities: Collegiate DECA member, CollegeArch and Phi Theta Kappa chapter project officer College Honors: Gilbert Together Scholarship recipient, President's Honor List, President's Honor Scholarship recipient and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

**Personal Statement:** Passionate business student fueled by curiosity, innovation and a drive to create positive change in the world of commerce.



CHANDLER-GILBERT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#### **COCHISE COLLEGE**



#### **Rosalie Collins**

Cochise College — Sierra Vista Campus

Major: Nursing



Rosalie plans to transfer to Arizona State University to obtain her bachelor's degree in nursing. Her career goal is to continue her education to become a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner.

College/Community Activities: Helps create sustainable gardening solutions with Together We Grow AZ, and CODAC Health, Recovery and Wellness

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society member

Personal Statement: I believe that we as a community can thrive and grow together through knowledge, understanding and acceptance. #plantthatfirstseed #togetherwegrow



#### Nikko Vincent-Paul Ochoa

Cochise College — Douglas Campus

Major: Fine Arts



Nikko plans to enroll at Northern Arizona University's School of Art to pursue a bachelor's degree in art and design with a minor in animation. He has his sights set on the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program as a goal. His ultimate career goal is to create and develop his own anime series, aspiring to craft stories that resonate with audiences and offer the same inspiration he found in them as a child in foster care. At that time anime was more than entertainment. It offered Nikko a source of inspiration and creativity.

**College/Community Activities:** Phi Theta Kappa member, Student Government Association coordinator of operations, National Alliance on Mental Illness support group facilitator and Art Club member and historian

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Dean's List, President's List and President's Student Leadership Academy

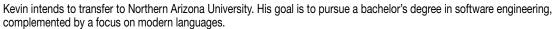
Personal Statement: I can be who I need to be tomorrow because the person I am today is not the same as the person I was yesterday.



## **Kevin Robles Lopez**

Cochise College - Douglas Campus

Major: Engineering



College/Community Activities: Student Government Association president, Phi Theta Kappa member, peer mentor and TRi Club Vice President of Records

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society-Alpha Beta Zeta Chapter

**Personal Statement:** I value the transformative magic of reading. I am goal-driven and ambitious, and I find peace in my cats and knitting. Excited for the future!



# Jonathan Sigona

Cochise College - Sierra Vista Campus

Major: Mathematics



Jonathan plans to transfer to the University of Arizona where he aims to complete a bachelor's degree in mathematics and statistics. His professional ambition is to carve out a career as a statistician within the environmental sector.

College/Community Activities: Phi Theta Kappa member, Cochise College Library student aide and volunteer pianist for the Sierra Vista Bethel Church

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and President's List

**Personal Statement:** I've always believed that this world needs more love in it, both for each other and for our planet. By working as a statistician in the environmental industry, I hope to improve our planet and, by doing so, provide a loving future for Earth and future generations.

#### **COCONINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



# **Grace McCullough**

Coconino Community College - Northern Arizona University

Major: Mathematics



Grace is a high-credit load mathematics and business economics student at Northern Arizona University. She is an early transfer from Coconino Community College–Lone Tree campus. Grace will earn her master's degree from a university in Hungary and enter the workforce as a data scientist.

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa, the Honor Society member and President's List at Coconino Community College

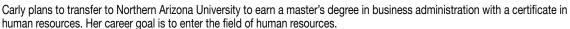
**Personal Statement:** I am a 4.0 GPA student on track to complete my degree in three years all while managing two successful businesses and a third job on the side.



## **Carly Miller**

Coconino Community College - Lone Tree Campus

Major: Psychological Sciences



College/Community Activities: Phi Theta Kappa marketing officer

College Honors: President's List, Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society and CCC Foundation Scholarship recipient

Personal Statement: As a first generation student, I have a deep value for education and the opportunities it creates for entire communities and generations.



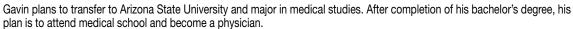
#### EASTERN ARIZONA COLLEGE



# **Gavin Bryce**

Eastern Arizona College — Thatcher Campus

Major: General Studies Science



**College/Community Activities:** Certified Emergency Medical Technician, chairman of Young Adult Activities Committee and Phi Theta Kappa vice president

College Honors: United Way Scholarship recipient, Merit Scholarship recipient and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

**Personal Statement:** My name is Gavin Bryce; I am a future doctor. I love football and my wife, Hailey. I work as an EMT on the San Carlos Apache Reservation.



#### **EASTERN ARIZONA COLLEGE**



#### **Christina Nosie**

Eastern Arizona College

Major: General Technical Studies-Phlebotomist Technician



Christina, a member of the San Carlos Apache Tribe east of Globe, AZ, from the Cottonwood sticking in water people of Camp Verde, plans to pursue her studies to become a registered nurse. She feels that achieving this goal will be a huge milestone achievement not only for her family but as someone representing the Tribe as well. Christina is currently employed by the Tribe under the Department of Health and Human Services as a community health technician working with elders in the community.

**College/Community Activities:** District gatherings visiting the elderly in the San Carlos Apache Tribal community, Johnson O'Malley Committee member, advocate for her children's education and community events

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa member and Dean's List

**Personal Statement:** Having such a wonderful busy life is amazing–getting my children to school, getting to work, sports events when it comes to our children, sports events for myself and my husband, meetings as we are also board members on the Johnson O'Malley Committee, family gatherings, traveling and community events. Most of all we are highly involved in our children's education. I do believe in what you set in your home and as a family, it will be carried on generation after generation. Here's to many more to achieve as this good ole Apache gal is not done at all!



#### **Grant Palmer**

Eastern Arizona College - Thatcher Campus

Maior: Pre-Med

Grant plans to transfer to the University of Arizona or to Arizona State University. After receiving his undergraduate degree, he plans to attend medical school, ultimately graduating and specializing in emergency medicine as an emergency room physician. His career goal is to work in rural Arizona where quality medical services are in great demand.

**College/Community Activities:** Emergency medical technician, volunteer children's Sunday school teacher, chemistry tutor and Phi Theta Kappa officer

College Honors: President's List, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society chapter president, Eastern Arizona College's Advanced Chemistry Student of the Year and Eastern Arizona College Student Ambassador

Personal Statement: Grant is from Flagstaff, AZ where he graduated from Flagstaff High School in 2019. After serving a two-year religious mission in Argentina and Maryland, Grant returned to Arizona to attend Eastern Arizona College as a pre-med major. While there, Grant met his wife, Aneron (pronounced Uh-nare-in), and they recently welcomed their new son, Henry, into their family. Grant works hard and plays hard. He loves adventuring with his family and enjoys outdoor extreme sports, fishing, camping and exercising. He enjoys constantly learning about science, personal development and the world around him. He has the lifelong goal to never stop learning. Grant plans to attend medical school after earning his undergraduate degree and wants to practice medicine in rural Arizona where he and his wife hold deep roots. #NeverStopLearning #WorkHardAndBeKind

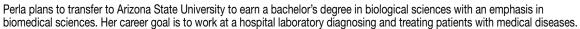
#### **ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



# Perla Murillo

**Estrella Mountain Community College** 

Major: Biological Sciences



**College/Community Activities:** Monkey Health Explorer undergraduate researcher, St. Mary's Food Bank volunteer and Project C.U.R.E. volunteer

College Honors: President's Scholar Honors Program and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

**Personal Statement:** As a first-generation Latina in STEM, I am driven by the determination to create a bright future for my family and myself through my passion for science and caring for others.



ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#### **ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



## **Kenneth Norton**

**Estrella Mountain Community College** 

Major: Statistics



Kenneth plans to transfer to Arizona State University, ultimately to earn a master's degree in biological data science. His career goal is to work in medical research to extend human lifespan and health span.

**College/Community Activities:** Involvement in Wild at Heart raptor sanctuary research project led by Dr. Rachel Smith **College Honors:** Maricopa County Community College District General Foundation Scholarship

**Personal Statement:** My purpose in life is to make the world a better place. I make that happen by using my abilities. I improve my abilities by making efforts to improve myself through education, patience and understanding. I will have influenced fellow humanitarians along my path and in that way, the process never ends. "One must care about a world one will not see." – Bertrand Russell



#### **GATEWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



# Victor Gonzalez Zapata

GateWay Community College — Washington Campus

Major: Computer Science



Victor plans to transfer to Arizona State University to pursue a bachelor's degree in computer science. Following this, he aims to undertake a doctorate in computer science with a specialization in cybersecurity. His ultimate career aspiration is to utilize his coding skills by working for a socially conscious company dedicated to making a positive impact on the world.

College/Community Activities: STEM Train student, Coding Club, Math Engineering Science Achievement and St. Mary's Food Bank volunteer

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society member, President's Honor List, honors student and PepsiCo Scholarship recipient **Personal Statement:** As a first-generation DACA student, I'm fueled by dreams larger than borders, driven to pave a path and inspire others. Don't let your dreams be dreams!



# **Tiffany Hughes**

**GateWay Community College** 

Major: Health Services Management



Tiffany plans to transfer to Arizona State University to earn her Master's in Health Care Administration. Her goal is to continue growing within her current company, Cranial Technologies, where every day they help reshape children's lives.

College/Community Activities: Phi Theta Kappa secretary, St. Mary's Food Bank volunteer, Women Rising and GateWay Academic Nexus Advancing Students

College Honors: Presidents List, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and GW Honors

Personal Statement: I am not a traditional student by any means. I started college right out of high school then stopped. I got married and started a family which only fueled my desire to strive for greatness so that I can be a great role model for my daughters. Everything you want to achieve in life is up to you, speak it into existence, embrace your village (because it takes one!) and do the work. You will make it.

#### **GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



# John Ojeda

Glendale Community College - Main Campus

Major: Business Administration/Finance



John plans to transfer to the Eller College of Management and W.A. Franke Honors College at the University of Arizona to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Then he will pursue a PhD in Finance. His long-term career goal is to work at the highest level of leadership for major firms, then become an investor and manage small companies.

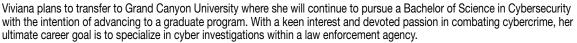
College/Community Activities: Student athlete, Peer Success Coach and Student-Athlete Advisory Council member
College Honors: GCC Honors Program, Dean's List, athletics director's High Achievers List and Scholar Athletic Award recipient
Personal Statement: I am a proud first-generation student who would not be in the position I am in today without the love and support of those who matter in my life. Thank you Mom and Dad. #jucoproduct



#### Viviana Pacheco

Glendale Community College — Main Campus

Major: Cybersecurity



College/Community Activities: Cisco Networking Tutor, St. Mary's Food Bank volunteer, Catholic Charities volunteer and Women in STEM advocate

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa, President's Honor List, Presidential Scholarship recipient, Makany-Relucio Family Scholarship for Women in IT Award recipient and Glendale Community College Honors Program

**Personal Statement:** As a first-generation college student dedicating my life to constant learning, I aspire to fight for information security, instill a sense of safety in my community, and ignite inspiration in other women who want to pursue this field.



## Jennifer Tyree

Glendale Community College — North Campus

Major: Social Work

Jennifer plans to transfer to the Watts College of Public Service at Arizona State University to earn her master's degree in social work. Her career goal is to become an American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and Therapists-certified sex therapist and sexual educator.

Community/Campus Activities: President of Omicron Lambda Phi Theta Kappa chapter, Psychology Club/Psi Beta officer, Peer Success Coach and attended Intercollegiate Student Leadership Experience

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Personal Statement: I couldn't have achieved this without the love and support of my family, friends, faculty, admin and PTK advisor. #adultreentry #momlife #destinedforgreatness





**GLENDALE** 

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#### **MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



## **Charlotte Fornasiero**

Mesa Community College — Southern and Dobson Campus

Major: Liberal Arts and Studies/General Studies



COMMUNITY COLLEGE
A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Charlotte plans to transfer to Arizona State University to earn a bachelor's degree in a biology-related field such as natural resource management/wildlife conservation followed by a master's degree. Her career goal is to work in interpretive naturalism preferably for organizations like the National Forest Service. Her life goal is to turn the adversity she experienced in the past into an incentive to do better, be better and perform better.

**College/Community Activities:** Interpretive naturalist intern with Student Conservation Association, AmeriCorps and Superior National Forest, MCC Center for Community and Civic Engagement leading the campus Environmental Engagement team, Monarch Waystation Project and Veterans Heritage Project

College Honors: Omicron Beta chapter Phi Theta Kappa

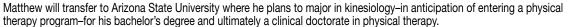
**Personal Statement:** I recently graduated from Mesa Community College in December 2023 and hope to attend Arizona State University and double major in animal biology and sustainable horticulture. I have dreams of being an interpretive naturalist. My journey through education has been difficult with chronic health conditions and PTSD throughout my life. However, I've grown a lot and now have a service dog named Luna. #disabledandproud, #thriving, #hopeful



#### Matthew Skabelund

Mesa Community College — Red Mountain Campus

Major: Health-Related Professions



**College/Community Activities:** Gathering Humanity volunteer, clinical assistant/tech for R.O.C. Physical Therapy, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints missionary

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Omicron Beta chapter president, MCC Honors Program and President's List

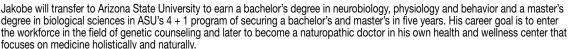
**Personal Statement:** I enjoy working with others one-on-one helping them to meet their needs and I look forward to doing so throughout my life as a physical therapist.



## **Jakobe Stevens**

Mesa Community College — Red Mountain Campus

Major: Biological and Biomedical Sciences



College/Community Activities: Undergraduate research volunteer, Arboretum Days at MCC volunteer, CHAMP 5K Run/Walk for Childhood Cancer volunteer, Strong Wings Adventure School volunteer camp counselor and Papago Park yoga community

College Honors: Omicron Beta chapter Phi Theta Kappa vice president and President's List

Personal Statement: My love and passion for biology began at Mesa Community College and will continue at Arizona State University where I plan to earn a bachelor's degree in neurobiology, physiology and behavior, and my master's degree in biological sciences. After my master's program I plan to pursue either a Ph.D. or a degree in naturopathic medicine. My end goal is to open my own wellness center that utilizes my scientific background, love for the outdoors and desire to help others to live a healthy and balanced lifestyle. #foryourhealth, #bekind



#### **MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



## Isabel Rei Zann Wee

Mesa Community College — Southern and Dobson Campus



Major: Engineering

Isabel, an international student from Singapore, will transfer to the University of Arizona to pursue a bachelor's degree in engineering. She plans a career in industrial engineering.

College/Community Activities: Jukebox Dance Fam (competitive team), Mesa Community College Theatre house assistant, Kamayan Festival volunteer, Hall Promotion Board, Dance Club head of publicity and MCC Orientation Camp vice head

College Honors: Omicron Beta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa and MCC academic recognition

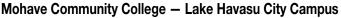
**Personal Statement:** As an industrial engineering sophomore for Mesa Community College, I've enjoyed streamlining operations, creating efficient procedures and improving production schedules. On my off days, I dance for a local dance crew that lets me express who I am. My goals this year are to maintain my GPA, do well in upcoming competitions and spend more time with my family and friends.



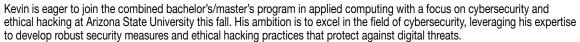
#### **MOHAVE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



## **Kevin Gauthun**



Major: Computer Science



**College/Community Activities:** Co-founder Phi Theta Kappa Food Pantry and Clothes Closet at Lake Havasu City Campus, LHC Student Activities Council secretary, Phi Theta Kappa vice president of scholarship, active participant in community engagement and leadership programs

College Honors: Dean's List, Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholarship, Phi Theta Kappa Distinguished Member

**Personal Statement:** Dedicated Computer Science student focused on ensuring digital security. Committed to community engagement and leadership excellence.



## **Alisa Hammon**

#### Mohave Community College — North Mohave Campus

Major: Liberal Arts

Alisa has decided to attend Western Governors University. Her goal is to earn a bachelor's degree in secondary education and humanities.

College/Community Activities: Volunteer at clinic, volunteer tutor at Centennial Academy, paraprofessional at Masada Charter School and volunteer at an elder-care committee

College Honors: Dean's List and Honors List

**Personal Statement:** I have a passion for teaching others, and learning about myself through the instruction of others. I'm competent, capable, willing and assertive in my educational goals.



Community

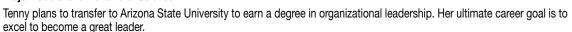
#### **MOHAVE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



# **Tenezee "Tenny" McWilliams**

Mohave Community College — Bullhead City Campus

Major: Social and Behavioral Science



College/Community Activities: Phi Theta Kappa officer, vice president of fellowship, Psyched Out, Psychology Club vice president and Student Activity Council member

College Honors: Dean's Honor List

**Personal Statement:** I'm a born leader with a great personality. I'm funny, reliable, passionate, charismatic, energetic and altruistic. I like to motivate others to succeed. I want to thank my loved ones that believed in me!



### Fiona Pedi

Mohave Community College — Neal Campus-Kingman

Major: History

Fiona plans to transfer to the Northern Arizona University College of History ultimately earning a bachelor of history degree. Her career goal is to work as a full-time dance business owner. She sees her history degree as a crucial stepping stone to understanding the full cultural background of various dance styles.

College/Community Activities: Community college non-credit educator of Latin dance, City of Kingman dance teacher volunteer and Kingman Riot MMA Latin dance coach

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa officer, Dean's List, Outstanding Achievement Award in English, Academic Achievement Award in College Algebra and Outstanding Service Award for participation in PTK as club vice president of fellowship

**Personal Statement:** Most who've met me know I'm slightly reserved. The things I shared about myself in this bio were my attempts over the years at seeing how much of myself I could expand and go beyond my shyness.



## **Mandie Price**

Mohave Community College — Neal Campus-Kingman

Major: English and History

Mandie plans to transfer to Arizona State University to pursue bachelor's degree in history and English. Her goal is to improve her community by returning to her former high school as a teacher and to inspire a new generation of students to continue their education. One day she hopes to return to Mohave Community College as a professor.

**College/Community Activities:** Member of Kingman Concert Band, started a project to honor veterans, held officer positions in several clubs and Phi Theta Kappa officer (2021-22) and president (2022-23)

College Honors: Dean's and Honors lists, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, academic excellence in English and leadership recognitions

Personal Statement: Wife of disabled veteran, mom to two teenagers, college graduate. Stay humble, set a good example, blaze the trail. #lamPTK #FirstGen



## Jennifer Schaefle

Mohave Community College — Bullhead City Campus

Major: Liberal Arts/General Studies

Jennifer plans to transfer to the Northern Arizona University Comprehensive Chemistry program, and ultimately earn a doctoral degree in chemical oceanography. Her career goal is to become a faculty researcher studying ocean acidification or abiotic factors of deep-sea ecosystems.

**College/Community Activities:** Phi Theta Kappa Alpha Chi Psi president, Student Activities Council president and Student Success tutor in mathematics, English and science

College Honors: President's List, Dean's List, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and Campus Dean's Award

**Personal Statement:** Jennifer is a caring and quirky individual with a deep curiosity for the world around her. She always strives to better herself and others.



Mohave Community

#### **MOHAVE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



# **Ashley Teodosio**

Mohave Community College — Lake Havasu City Campus

Major: Education



Ashley plans to transfer to Northern Arizona University ultimately earning her bachelor's degree in elementary education. Her passion is in education and her career goal is to become an elementary school teacher.

College/Community Activities: Bighorn Nerd Herd treasurer and Esports

College Honors: President's List, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and Philanthropic Educational Organization Scholarship recipient

**Personal Statement:** Find your passion and reach for the stars. In the wise words of Mr. Feeny "Believe in yourselves. Dream. Try. Do good" #education



#### NORTHLAND PIONEER COLLEGE



## Sara Chevalier

Northland Pioneer College - White Mountain Campus

Major: Nursing



Sara will transfer to either Arizona State University or Northern Arizona University to pursue a career in nursing. She plans to earn her bachelor's and eventually her master's in the field. She knows she was meant to help others and strives to provide a personal touch to patients in need of her care. She wants to work at a family practice clinic as a registered nurse one day.

College/Community Activities: School and community volunteer work, high school cheer captain and youth cheer coach and president of the National Honor Society

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, President's List and Dean's List

**Personal Statement:** I am a very hardworking, dedicated student. I am extremely grateful for the support I have received from all of my family and friends. I strive to accomplish my goals because I know they believe in me and push me to be the best. I wouldn't be where I am today without their support. #FutureNurse #HardWorkPaysOffWhiteriver Center



## **Cassey Drew**

Northland Pioneer College — St. Johns Center

Major: Education



Cassey will follow the legacy of her mother and great grandmother and become a teacher. She plans to attend Arizona State University's Mary Lou Fulton Teacher's College to obtain her bachelor's degree and eventually a master's degree in special education. She is passionate about teaching those with disabilities how to overcome obstacles, develop skills and reach their greatest potential. She currently works with teens in the special education department at Saint Johns High School.

College/Community Activities: School and community volunteer working with teens; math, science and history tutor and volunteer esports coach

College Honors: NPC Dean's List

**Personal Statement:** Teaching the children of today and the future is one of the best ways to help them reach their greatest potential. No matter how hard or impossible any given day can get, keep smiling and trying your best. You can always turn the impossible into possible.

#### NORTHLAND PIONEER COLLEGE



# **Jillian Henry**

Northland Pioneer College — Whiteriver Center

Major: Health Sciences/Community Health



Jillian will transfer to Arizona State University's College of Health Solutions to earn her bachelor's degree in health sciences. She plans to work with Indian Health Services for the White Mountain Apache Tribe as a medical assistant and health technician. She is passionate about educating and advocating for others and hopes to improve the health of those in her community.

College/Community Activities: Vice president of records and treasurer for Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, member of NPC's Student Government Association and NPC's Eagle Club

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, NPC President's List, NPC Dean's List and White Mountain Apache Tribal Scholarship recipient

Personal Statement: I am a proud, resilient Indigenous woman and mother who is hardworking, dedicated and always willing to provide a helping hand. I strive to do my best and settle for nothing less. I come from a reservation where poverty and unemployment are extremely high. I have pushed myself out of my comfort zone to help improve my reservation and community college relationship, to normalize going to college and earning a degree. I want to be the person to stand up and advocate for education. Because as my parents told me and my siblings, the only thing that will never be taken from you is your education. #WMAT #Indigenous&Educated"



## Simone Jean

Northland Pioneer College - Hopi Center

Major: Computer Engineering



Simone plans to transfer to Arizona State University to earn her bachelor's degree in computer engineering. She will pursue a career as a software engineer and aspires to one day play a leading role in exploring new technologies and be at the forefront of cutting-edge advancements in the field of computer science.

College/Community Activities: Church and community volunteer work in communities throughout the United States

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, NPC President's List, NPC Dean's List and NPC Technology Scholarship recipient

Personal Statement: I am a committed and ambitious young lady with a love for knowledge and experiences. Immersing myself in the world around me is where I find joy. Family and faith keep me grounded.



#### **Jaden Martinez**

#### Northland Pioneer College - White Mountain Campus

Major: Nursing



Jaden plans to continue his studies and transfer to Arizona State University to complete his Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. Jaden enjoys the challenge of providing urgent care to patients in need and hopes to eventually become a flight nurse working with critical care patients in transport.

College/Community Activities: Church and community volunteer work with children and young adults, volunteer at physical therapy/medical center in Costa Rica

College Honors: President's List; recipient of Northland Pioneer College's Doris Reed Nursing Scholarship, the NPC Pres Winslow Memorial Scholarship and the Summit Healthcare Foundation Nursing Scholarship

**Personal Statement:** I am a first-generation college graduate who has grit and is dedicated to achieving my goals. I love helping others and overall, am just trying to make the world a better place by spreading God's love. This achievement is way more than something to just aid me in my journey; this achievement is an example to others of how hard work and kindness can bring you good things in life. #Blessed #Nevergiveup"



#### NORTHLAND PIONEER COLLEGE



# Kayla Mason

Northland Pioneer College — Silver Creek Campus

Major: Marketing



Kayla will attend Arizona State University's W.P. Carey School of Business to pursue a degree in marketing. She plans to eventually obtain her master's degree in the field. She hopes to one day work with corporate clients as an agent at a major marketing firm - maybe even for the Arizona Diamondbacks baseball team someday.

College/Community Activities: Vice president of public relations for NPC's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, church and community volunteer work

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, NPC President's List, NPC Dean's List and recipient of the Elks Foundation Scholarship

**Personal Statement:** I am a hardworking, independent young woman who always goes the extra mile. Standing on a strong support system I strive to do my best!



#### Arina Mortensen

Northland Pioneer College — Springerville-Eagar Center

Major: Education



Arina will attend Arizona State University's Mary Lou Fulton Teacher's College to pursue a bachelor's degree in secondary education. She plans to continue working as a high school teacher in Round Valley (Springerville/Eagar) and is dedicated to helping young adults Go! Fight! Win! and become the heroes of their own stories.

College/Community Activities: Staff advisor for the Round Valley Student Council and Student Leadership programs, church counselor at the Stake Young Woman's Presidency Program and community volunteer

**Personal Statement:** I am a wife, mother and a self-taught artist who got a golden opportunity to teach high school art, fell in love with it, and went back to school to get a secondary teaching degree. It has been hard to work full time and take college classes, but it's a good hard. It gives me a sense of accomplishment. My family has been super supportive, especially my husband who takes on extra housework so I can do my schooling. My daughters and I are all going to college right now, so this scholarship is greatly appreciated! #blessesbeyondmeasure #NPCAlIAZ"



## **Ashley Myers**

Northland Pioneer College — Springerville-Eagar Center

Major: Psychology



Ashley plans to enroll in Arizona State University's Counseling and Applied Psychological Science program and earn her bachelor's degree. She wants to help those who struggle with substance abuse and addiction overcome their obstacles and realize that achieving their goals is possible. Ashley is passionate about helping people and is particularly compassionate to those struggling to become and stay sober. She says someday she may even open a rehabilitation clinic of her own.

College/Community Activities: Community volunteer work

**Personal Statement:** I've worked very hard to get to where I am today and while it hasn't been easy, the struggle has taught me so much about myself. Because of all the things I've gone through, it just makes everything I want seem possible.



#### NORTHLAND PIONEER COLLEGE



# **Camille Shumway**

Northland Pioneer College - Silver Creek Campus

Major: Legal/Pre-Law



Camille plans to continue her studies at Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University or University of Arizona to earn her bachelor's degree and eventually attend law school to obtain a master's degree in law. She is uncertain as to what area of practice she will go into but is interested in commercial litigation. Whatever path she follows, Camille knows she wants to make a positive impact on people's lives in a big way.

College/Community Activities: School and community volunteer work and NPC President's Scholar

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, NPC President's List, NPC President Scholarship, NPC On the House and NPC Arvin Palmer Ph.D., Memorial Scholarship recipient

**Personal Statement:** I am a hardworking, persevering student and am constantly pushing forward to achieve my goals. I have had so much support from the people I care about and cannot thank them enough. It's been difficult to get here, and I couldn't have done it without all of my friends and family. Thank you to everyone who helped me get to where I am today!



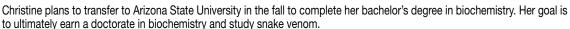
### PARADISE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



## **Christine Collado-Frost**

**Paradise Valley Community College** 

Major: Biochemistry



College/Community Activities: Continuing peer mentor and volunteer for the Phoenix Herpetological Society

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa chapter president of Alpha Omicron Chi

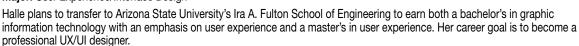
Personal Statement: #womeninstem #futurebiochemist



## Halle Goral

Paradise Valley Community College — Union Hills Campus

Major: User Experience/Interface Design



College/Community Activities: Phi Theta Kappa recording officer, Student Government Registrar chair and Paradise Valley Community College peer mentor

College Honors: President's List and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Personal Statement: "The moment you doubt whether you can fly, you cease forever to be able to do it." -J. M. Barrie



PARADISE VALLEY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#### **PHOENIX COLLEGE**



## Maya Lee

#### **Phoenix College**

Major: Mechanical Engineering and Applied Computing



Maya plans to transfer to Arizona State University's Ira A. Fulton's School of Engineering and Arizona West Campus. She ultimately wishes to earn a doctorate in biomechanical engineering, focusing on robotics. Her career goal is to establish a human-centered nonprofit engineering firm dedicated to developing open-source software and technology to increase accessibility in the healthcare devices and technology industry.

College/Community Activities: Kodiak Robotics Team president, PTK regional chief project officer, S-STEM/TRAIN researcher and Las Hermanas Workshop speaker

College Honors: President's Honor Scholar, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, URSA Leadership Award and United States Presidential Service Award

**Personal Statement:** A dedicated scholar who strives to create human-centered technology to bridge gaps in healthcare accessibility, inclusivity, and equity. #EquityInSTEM



## Elizabeth "Ro" Loucks

#### **Phoenix College**

Major: Marine Biology



**PimaCommunityCollege** 

Ro plans to transfer to the Arizona State University College of Ocean Futures, ultimately earning a doctorate in marine biology. They plan to participate in the School of Ocean Futures research center on the Big Island of Hawaii. Their career goal is to develop ways to analyze and study the effects climate change has on marine life.

**College/Community Activities:** National Honors Society, robotics, Phi Theta Kappa chapter and regional officer, M.E.S.A. member **College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society, URSA Leadership Award, United States Presidential Service Award

**Personal Statement:** The All AZ scholarship empowers me to become a LGBTQIA+ trailblazer in the fight against climate change. #thefuturehasnoboundaries



## PIMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



# **Timothy Akert**

Pima Community College — Northwest Campus

Major: Engineering

Timothy plans to transfer to the University of Arizona to earn a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

College/Community Activities: Creator and facilitator of the Discover STEM workshop, member of Pima Community College's Arizona Near Space Research Team, operations assistant for the Pima Engineering Club and peer mentor at the Northwest Campus

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

**Personal Statement:** I love to learn, create and be involved in my community! Critical thinker and strategic. My hobbies include playing games and making things.

#### PIMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



## **Oskar Anderson**

Pima Community College — East Campus

Major: Biology



Oskar plans to transfer to the University of Arizona to pursue a degree in natural resources (range-land management concentration). After school, his goal is to begin a career in field ecology to gather data on desert and grassland ecosystems and apply it towards creating a more resilient future.

College/Community Activities: Invasive plant removal project leader, STEM tutor, Phi Theta Kappa chapter secretary and TTRPG Club president

College Honors: Merit Tuition Award recipient, college honors program officer and Phi Theta Kappa

**Personal Statement:** Oskar Anderson is a thorough, passionate student pursuing a career in field #ecology to study and protect biodiversity in arid environments.



## Annika Arvayo

Pima Community College — Northwest Campus

Major: Business Administration

Annika plans to transfer to Arizona State University and pursue a bachelor's degree in finance. Her career goal is to work as a financial advisor and spread financial literacy to her community.

College/Community Activities: Ronald McDonald House Charities volunteer and Pima Track and Field athlete

College Honors: Pi Theta Kappa member

**Personal Statement:** Communities, connections and serving others is what I value most. "If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one" -Mother Teresa



## **Logan Bradford**

Pima Community College — Downtown Campus

Major: Programming/Data Analysis; Applied Computing



**PimaCommunityCollege** 

Logan plans to transfer to a state university to earn their degree in applied computing. Their career goal is to work in local government or the nonprofit sector as a data analyst focusing on social inequities.

College/Community Activities: RISE 2023 volunteer, Pima Leadership Institute graduate, PACC foster and Paradise Parrot Rescue volunteer

College Honors: Pima Merit Scholar and Pima Honors Program Excellent Service Award recipient

**Personal Statement:** "In nine hundred years of time and space, I've never met anyone who wasn't important." — The Eleventh Doctor, A Christmas Carol



## **Angela Cordova**

Pima Community College — Desert Vista Campus

Major: Nursing



Angela plans to transfer to the University of Arizona College of Nursing to ultimately earn a master's degree in nursing to become a certified registered nurse anesthetist. Her career goal is to work with cancer patients in reconstructive surgery at the UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles, Calif.

College/Community Activities: EMT Tucson Fire Department and CPR instructor

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Personal Statement: There can be no progress, no achievement without sacrifice and a man's worldly success will be in the measure that he sacrifices. James Allen

#### PIMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



## **Nicholas Davis**

Pima Community College — Downtown Campus

Major: Business Administration



Nicholas plans to transfer to the University of Arizona Eller College of Business ultimately earning a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Finance. His career goal is to work as a financial advisor and contribute to the financial health of minorities in the community.

College/Community Activities: Phi Theta Kappa Alpa Beta Chi Chapter treasurer, adolescent drug and alcohol prevention speaker, local non-profit administrator. Teen Challenge and Pima Community College Business Club member

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

**Personal Statement:** I have overcome an intense amount of adversity in my life. The resilience has translated into my academic success. The sky is the limit.



## **Kassy Erwin Rocha**

Pima Community College — East Campus

Major: Natural Resources



Kassy plans to transfer to the University of Arizona College of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Science ultimately earning a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources with an emphasis in ecology, management and restoration of rangelands. Her career goal is to work in public lands with the U.S. Forest Service.

**College/Community Activities:** Phi Theta Kappa officer, Pima Love Notes, Community College Connection and K-8 school volunteer **College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa officer and Pima Honors

**Personal Statement:** Dedicated mom and nature enthusiast with a resilient and empathetic spirit. I have a commitment to personal growth and connection to others.



## Sage Furrer

Pima Community College — West Campus

Major: Graphic Design



Sage plans to transfer to Arizona State University to earn a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership. Her goal is to work as an art director at an advertising agency.

College/Community Activities: Peer mentor, Phi Theta Kappa officer and Zion City volunteer

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

**Personal Statement:** I would describe myself as someone who is very outgoing and creative with a passion for art and design. I am also kind and empathetic.



# Kristy Snowden

Pima Community College — Downtown Campus

Major: Liberal Arts – Social Services



Kristy will be transferring to Northern Arizona University to pursue a bachelor's degree in public administration. Her career goal is to utilize the knowledge gained to promote efficiency, effectiveness, equity and positive change in her community.

College/Community Activities: Pima Community College Student Senate secretary and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society member

**College Honors:** Soroptimist Live Your Dream Award, Pima Community College Chancellor's Success Tuition Award and the ACES Community Service Award

Personal Statement: Albert Einstein once said, "Life is like a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." #relentless

#### PIMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



## Heidi Stoeckman

Pima Community College — Downtown Campus

Major: Accounting



Heidi plans to transfer to the University of Arizona Eller College of Management, ultimately earning a master's of accounting and CPA license. Her career goal is to work toward opening an accounting firm.

College/Community Activities: Felicia's Farm volunteer coordinator, Park Clean Up volunteer, Pima Love Notes volunteer and Outdoors for All Club president

College Honors: Pima Honors Program officer and Phi Theta Kappa member

**Personal Statement:** I'm inspired by those who remain optimistic through adversity. Perseverance is the key to growth which develops character and integrity.



## **Grace Marie Theesfeld**

Pima Community College - West Campus

Major: Psychology, Pre-law



Grace Marie plans to transfer to the University of Arizona College of Science to study psychology with a minor in pre-law. Her career goal is to earn a J.D. and an M.A. in psychology to ultimately become an attorney defending women's rights in a nonprofit organization.

College/Community Activities: Pima Community College Emerging Leader Conference speaker, chair of Youth Committee for Arizona League of Women Voters, Arizona League of Women Voters DEI Committee member

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Personal Statement: I'm called to serve a purpose outside of myself, break down barriers to justice and be a living testimony to recovery. #wheneveryouareready



## Loyda Vance

Pima Community College — Desert Vista Campus

Major: Liberal Arts and Animation



Loyda intends to transfer to the University of Arizona College of Humanities and College of Social and Behavioral Sciences to ultimately earn degrees in Spanish and urban and regional development. Her career goal is to work in government to help communities be prosperous.

**College/Community Activities:** President of Art Sparks!, Phi Theta Kappa volunteer, first place winner of the Motion Graphics Digital Arts contest 2023, second place winner for the Animation Digital Arts contest 2022

College Honors: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Personal Statement: I am compassionate, creative and determined. I give thanks to my God, friends and family for pushing me forward.



#### **RIO SALADO COLLEGE**



# Rebekah Namachanja

Rio Salado College — Tempe

Major: Addictions and Substance Use Disorders

Beka plans to attend Arizona State University to major in dual degrees: psychology and public policy.

College/Community Activities: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society chapter member, student senator, Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) Student Senator Board Chair, Student Public Policy Forum and recipient of the Chancellor's Civic Leadership Medallion

College Honors: 3.6 GPA and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

**Personal Statement:** Beka began her studies at Rio Salado College (RSC) in November 2020. She is pursuing an Associate in Applied Science degree in Addictions and Substance Use Disorders which prepares her for a career in counseling. Beka has been a student leader while at Rio. She has served as a student officer for the Rio Salado chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society which led to her being selected as one of two students to serve on the Horizon Grant team. She is also the 2023-2024 RSC student senator and was elected by her peers as chair of the MCCCD Student Senator Board.

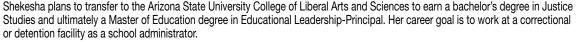
Last year, Beka was a member of the MCCCD Student Public Policy Forum which gave her the opportunity to take part in one-on-one meetings with congressional staff and advocacy groups in Washington D.C. She is also a full-time case worker with a local nonprofit and is set to graduate and continue her educational journey toward an undergraduate and graduate degree in psychology at ASU.



### Shekesha Shelton

Rio Salado College - Tempe

Major: Early Childhood Education



College/Community Activities: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society member, Sigma Alpha Pi Honor Society member, full-time mother and Dress for Success EducateHer scholar

College Honors: 4.0 GPA for four consecutive semesters, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and Sigma Alpha Pi Honor Society and National Society of Leadership and Success

Personal Statement: Kesha Shelton is a devoted mother, daughter, auntie and friend. She is dedicated to helping promote education for all learners, from young children to adults. Those closest to her would describe her as personable, trustworthy, genuine, persistent, resourceful and goal oriented. Kesha describes herself as intuitive with great communication skills and can understand the perspectives of the individuals she encounters. Kesha is grateful to God for providing her the many blessings and opportunities that her family and herself have been given. She feels grateful to the initiatives implemented through organizations, colleges/ universities, municipalities and individuals that seek to support the education of women and especially single mothers. She would like to encourage ALL women to go after their dreams and find their tribe that will help them along the way. #BlessedandHighlyFavored #BlackGirlMagic #softlifeERA #singlemom #EducatedQueen #BlackandEducated #Virgo #Empath #LovelsLight





RIO SALADO COLLEGE
A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#### SCOTTSDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



## **Jack Meyers**

#### **Scottsdale Community College**

Major: Associate in Arts, Fine Arts, Emphasis in Music



COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Jack plans to transfer to the Arizona State University Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts to ultimately earn a music learning and teaching degree. His career goal is to teach high school students as a band director.

College/Community Activities: Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society officer

**College Honors:** Presidents List, Presidential Honors participant, George Benson Honorary Scholarship winner and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

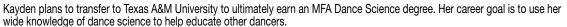
**Personal Statement:** I was blessed to be born into a loving musical family. Since I had music all around me my entire life, I decided to start my journey to become a high school band director. Through my time, I have met so many fantastic people ranging from the exceptional faculty at Scottsdale Community College to the talented musicians I interact with in ensembles. I am so excited for all the opportunities to come and I am grateful to be nominated for the All-USA Academic Team.



# Kayden Openshaw

**Scottsdale Community College** 

Major: Dance Performance and Technology



College/Community Activities: Scottsdale Community College Food Distribution volunteer, SCC Dance Department volunteer, SCC office assistant

College Honors: President's List, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Personal Statement: I grew up in the small town of Flagstaff, AZ, where I started musical theater and dancing at the age of 5. I trained in ballet, jazz, hip hop, tap and modern at Canyon Dance Academy. After graduating from Northland Preparatory Academy in 2022, I moved to Phoenix and began my college career at Scottsdale Community College where I study Dance Performance and Technology. At SCC I have the pleasure of dancing with Instinct Dancecorps. I am passionate about giving back to the dance community whether it be through helping backstage, cleaning the dance floors, creating lighting designs, sewing costumes or staying late to rehearse. I feel that if I want to continue to grow as a professional dancer and educator, I need to support the industry I'm working in through volunteering.

#### SOUTH MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE



## Catharina Salles Melo Da Silva

**South Mountain Community College** 

Major: Behavioral Science



Catharina plans to continue her education at South Mountain Community College by taking the college's new bachelors program in behavioral science and she plans to earn her master's degree afterward. Her career goal is to work with student affairs as a counselor to help young adults needing guidance on their college experience.

College/Community Activities: Kids Workshop at Home Depot, Team Depot volunteer, Honors Award banquet speaker, Las Sendas Elementary School volunteer, food box cooking competition student chef and Phi Theta Kappa officer

College Honors: Early Childhood Education certification, President's Honor List, Trauma Supporting Trauma certification and Mental Health First Aid USA certification

Personal Statement: Catharina moved to the United States in 2017 from Sao Paulo, Brazil. She had already graduated high school in Brazil but took her senior year at Paradise Valley High School where she graduated in 2018. Catharina started her college education at Paradise Valley Community College right after finishing high school and then transferred to South Mountain Community College. Throughout her first three years of community college, she paid out-of-state tuition, paid classes out-of-pocket and only took two classes per semester and one during summer. Even with challenges happening in her life she never stopped her education and continued taking classes which was a major goal. Today she is proud to be able to pursue her vision of earning her bachelor's in SMCC's new program followed by her master's in education. She also is grateful for the opportunity of working at the SMCC counseling department where she met incredible people and gained so much knowledge and experience.



# **April Beltran**

Yavapai College — Verde Valley Campus

Major: Nursing



April will transfer to Northern Arizona University. Her career goal is to achieve her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. **College/Community Activities:** Cottonwood Oak-Creek School District after school program and Clarkdale Library Art in Clarkdale program

College Honors: Academic honors for maintaining a 4.0 GPA and Phi Theta Kappa membership

Personal Statement: "If I accomplish all these things without Love, it is nothing."



## **Chasity Bryant**

Yavapai College - Prescott Campus

Major: Nursing



Chasity will transfer to Northern Arizona University for her Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She plans to earn a Master of Science in Nursing and eventually a doctoral degree in nursing. Her goal is to become a registered nurse specializing in labor and delivery, pediatrics and/or oncology. Once she can no longer do bedside nursing, she plans to transition into teaching at a higher education institution.

College/Community Activities: Yavapai College Pride Club president, Student Nurses Association member, Yavapai College Council Student Representative and TRIO Student Support Services

**College Honors:** Phi Theta Kappa Chapter officer, Phi Theta Kappa Arizona regional president, Yavapai College Honors program student and President's Award for Excellence recipient

Personal Statement: "I attribute my success to this - I never gave or took any excuse." Florence Nightingale



## **Caysha Francis**

Yavapai College — Verde Valley Campus

Major: Associate of Arts

Caysha plans to transfer to Northern Arizona University to become a dental hygienist.

**College/Community Activities:** First year member of the Cottonwood City Counsel Youth Advisory Commission, volunteer fundraiser for Muscular Dystrophy Association, City of Clarkdale, AZ, volunteer and full-time mom

College Honors: 3.84 GPA

**Personal Statement:** "What stands between us and even our most ambitious dreams has far less to do with possessing some magical skill or talent and far more to do with how we approach problems and make decisions to solve them. And because of the continuous and compounding nature of all those millions of decisions we face on a regular basis, even a marginal improvement in our process can have a huge impact on our end results." Stephen Duneier



# **Collin Newberry**

Yavapai College - Prescott Campus

Major: Double major in Psychology and Philosophy

Collin plans to transfer to Arizona State University. His goal is to teach psychology at the postsecondary level.

College/Community Activities: Psychology Club founder and president, Phi Theta Kappa officer at large, Philosophy Club member and Juggling Club president

College Honors: Yavapai College Honors Program student

Personal Statement: "Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity." Seneca the Younger



Yavapai

#### YAVAPAI COLLEGE



## **George Smith**

Yavapai College — Career & Technical Education Center

Major: Mechanical Engineering



*Yavapai* 

George will transfer to Arizona State University to earn his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. His goal is to work in the automotive industry designing/testing vehicle engines/components.

College/Community Activities: Yavapai College Hygiene Drive, Fun Run and Resident Mixer

**College Honors:** Yavapai College Honors Program and Phi Theta Kappa **Personal Statement:** "The best revenge is massive success." Frank Sinatra



#### **Isaac Smith**

Yavapai College — Career & Technology Education Center

Major: Associate of Science

Isaac is transferring to Northern Arizona University. His goal is to work in the field of mathematics and robotics.

College/Community Activities: Church volunteer work, 3-D Concrete Printing volunteer, Juggling Club treasurer and C.A.S.T Club treasurer

College Honors: President's Award of Excellence and four-time Academic Honors List

Personal Statement: "I can do all things through Him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13





















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