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Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee and AZ529, Arizona's Education Savings Plan, Announce Statewide "My Picture-Perfect Career" Photo Contest Winners

PHOENIX, AZ – Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee honored ten Arizona kindergarten through twelfth-grade students as winners of the inaugural AZ529 "My Picture-Perfect Career" Photo Contest. The 10 winners represent different schools among district, charter, private and homeschools, representing 6 of Arizona's counties.

AZ529, Arizona's Education Savings Plan together with the Arizona State Treasurer's Office invited K-12th graders across Arizona to take or pose for a photo representing themselves in their dream job. They could take a selfie, pose for a picture, invite friends and family into the photo or come up with their own creative ideas. The final photo just needed to visually communicate their vision of a dream job – whether the participant was in front of or behind the camera.

A total of 10 winners were selected from nearly 100 entries. The entries were reviewed by a panel of judges and scored based on the originality, creativity and technique of the picture. The winners received \$529 towards a new or existing AZ529 Education Savings Plan. The amount \$529 was selected to pay homage to Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code, which created the AZ529 plan. The funds may be used for future educational expenses such as tuition for college, trade schools, or workforce development training.

"This contest reached every corner of our great state, emphasizing that all Arizona students have endless opportunities to aspire and reach higher education and their future careers. It was encouraging to meet these creative and ambitious students and see how they picture their future," said Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee. "Today each student winner was awarded \$529 in an AZ529 education savings account to go towards advancing their education and helping them reach that dream job they depicted so creatively in their photo entry."

The AZ529 Education Savings Plan offers a tax-advantaged approach to setting money aside for college, community college, vocational training, trade school and other educational avenues for high school graduates. Arizona residents can receive a dollar-for-dollar state tax deduction for contributions made to an AZ529 account each year, of up to \$2,000 per beneficiary or \$4,000 per beneficiary depending on filing status. Funds earned over time will remain tax-free when used for a wide variety of covered educational expenses. Additionally, friends and family members may add to a child's AZ529 Plan at any time and earn the same tax benefits for themselves. For more information about AZ529, visit <http://www.az529.gov>.



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2023 AZ529 “My Picture-Perfect Career” Photo Contest Winners:

Kindergarten:

- Gianna, Homeschool, Maricopa County

1st Grade:

- Luleet, Gilbert Christian School, Maricopa County

3rd Grade:

- Sophia, Quail Run Elementary School, Maricopa County

4th Grade:

- Callum, Bonnie Brennan Elementary School, Navajo County

5th Grade

- Diego, Mexicayotl Charter School, Santa Cruz County

6th Grade

- Gilbert, Thatcher Elementary School, Graham County

7th Grade

- Crosby, Sequoia Choice, Yavapai County

9th Grade

- Zoe, Andrada Polytechnic High School, Pima County

11th Grade

- Logan, Liberty High School, Maricopa County

12th Grade

- Piper, Show Low High School, Navajo County

To see the winning artwork, visit <http://www.az529.gov/photocontest>.



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