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## Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee Announces AZ529 Education Savings Plan's Statewide “My Picture-Perfect Career” Photo Contest Winners

PHOENIX, AZ – Ten Arizona K-12th grade students were honored as winners of the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual AZ529 “My Picture-Perfect Career” Photo Contest. The 10 winners represent different schools among district, charter, private and homeschools, representing seven of Arizona’s counties.

AZ529, Arizona’s Education Savings Plan together with Treasurer Kimberly Yee and 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 over 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 school, or workforce development training.

“Our statewide photo contest has sparked conversations among Arizonans, inspiring students and families to explore and discuss their aspirations for the future. The winners honored today received \$529 towards their future education and this empowers them to reach their career goals,” said Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee. “With each statewide contest my office administers, we continue to see that Arizona students have boundless ideas for their future and have an unwavering dedication to accomplishing their dreams.”

The AZ529 Education Savings Plan offers a tax-free 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 individual or \$4,000 per married couples filing jointly. Funds earned over time will remain tax-free when used for a wide variety of covered educational expenses. Beginning this year, 529 plan beneficiaries can rollover unused funds into a Roth IRA for retirement, free of income tax or tax penalties. 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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## 2024 AZ529 “My Picture-Perfect Career” Photo Contest Winners:

### Kindergarten:

- Noah, Challenge Charter School, Maricopa County

### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade:

- Meadow, St. David Elementary School, Cochise County

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:

- Connor, Leading Edge Academy, Pinal County

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:

- Anais, Homeschool, Yuma County

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Caleb, Coyote Springs Elementary School, Yavapai County

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Annabel, Desert Cove Elementary School, Maricopa County

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Jackson, Scottsdale Preparatory Academy, Maricopa County

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Sophia, Leman Academy, Pima County

### 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Aleksei, Flagstaff High School, Coconino County

### 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Carter, Brophy College Preparatory, Maricopa County

To see the winning artwork, visit <https://az529.gov/photocontest-winners/>.



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