Office of the Arizona State Treasurer
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Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee and AZ529, Arizona's Education Savings Plan, Announce Statewide Essay Contest Winners

20 Winners Selected from over 478 Entries

PHOENIX, AZ – Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee honored 20 Arizona fifth and sixth grade students as winners of the seventh annual AZ529 Essay Contest. The 20 winners represent different schools among district, charter, private, tribal and homeschools, representing all of Arizona's 15 counties.

"Students from all of Arizona's 15 counties shared about their dream jobs and the path they will plan towards their future careers," said Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee. "The essays demonstrated that if they plan for higher education savings, their future ahead is bright. As State Treasurer, my priority is to equip every household with resources like the AZ529 Education Savings Plan to help turn those education plans into reality."

AZ529, Arizona's Education Savings Plan, and the Arizona State Treasurer's Office invited students across the state to submit essays detailing their dream careers. Out of more than 478 entries, a panel of judges selected the top submissions. They scored each essay based on content, creativity, organization, and originality. Each winning student received $529 toward an AZ529 Education Savings Plan, giving their families an immediate head start on funding their future education.

"Every child deserves the chance to pursue their dream career without being held back by the cost of higher education," said Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee. "Since I took office, more than 79,679 new AZ529 Education Savings accounts have been opened. These 20 winners are getting a great head start, and I hope their stories inspire other Arizona families to start saving early."

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 couple, depending on filing status. Funds earned over time will remain tax-free when used for a wide variety of covered educational expenses. Additionally, 529 plan beneficiaries can now rollover unused funds into a Roth IRA, up to a $35,000 lifetime limit free of income tax or tax penalties. Friends and family members may also 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.

AZ529
ARIZONA'S EDUCATION SAVINGS PLAN

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2026 AZ529 Essay Contest Winners:

5th Grade

- Abigail, Loretto Catholic School, Cochise County
- Elliana, Doerneman Family Academy, Gila County
- Hannah, Thatcher Elementary School, Graham County
- Paul, Fairbanks Middle School, Greenlee County
- Kriss, Magnet Traditional School, Maricopa County
- Henry, Saint Thomas the Apostle, Maricopa County
- Emelie, Black Mesa Community School, Navajo County
- Aubrey, Leman Academy of Excellence Marana, Pima County

6th Grade

- Russell, Alpine Elementary School, Apache County
- Lincoln, BASIS Flagstaff, Coconino County
- Alayna, Bouse Elementary School, La Paz County
- Elizabeth, Homeschool, Maricopa County
- Sumukh, BASIS Ahwatukee, Maricopa County
- Kyara, Starline Elementary School, Mohave County
- David, Pusch Ridge Christian Academy, Pima County
- Heidi, Cross Middle School, Pima County
- Tab, Copper Basin, Pinal County
- Remigio, Wade Carpenter, Santa Cruz County
- Quinn, Skyview School, Yavapai County
- Grace, Ron Watson Middle School, Yuma County

To read the winning essays, visit http://www.AZ529gov.



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