



Office of the Arizona State Treasurer
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AZ529, Arizona's Education Savings Plan, Announces Statewide Essay Writing Contest Winners

PHOENIX, AZ – Twenty Arizona fifth grade students were honored as winners of the third-annual AZ529 Essay Writing Contest. The 20 winners represent different schools among district, charter, private, Bureau of Indian Education and homeschools, representing all of Arizona's 15 counties.

“This contest reached every corner of our great state to emphasize that Arizona students in so many communities are planning for their future education and dream careers. It was so encouraging to meet these bright, ambitious student winners and see that they are the future of our state,” said Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee. “Today each student winner was awarded with \$529 in an AZ529 account to go towards advancing their education so they can achieve the dreams they wrote about in their essays.”

AZ529, Arizona's Education Savings Plan together with the Arizona State Treasurer's Office asked Arizona fifth graders: “What Is Your Dream Job and How Do You Plan on Achieving It in the Future?” The winners were selected from 631 essay entries, up from nearly 100 from last year's essay writing contest. The essays were reviewed by a panel of judges and scored based on the ideas, organization and originality of the content provided.

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.

“The goal of this essay contest is to increase awareness of the AZ529 Plan, pave a path for another generation of students to achieve post-secondary education, and equip them with an education savings plan,” said Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee. “As I traveled the state to share about this wonderful savings program, we've seen conversations start between families and their children about preparing and saving for future education and career training.”

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.



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2022 AZ529 Essay Writing Contest Winners:

Apache County:

- Destine, McNary Elementary School

Cochise County:

- Oldemar, Walter J. Meyer Elementary School

Coconino County:

- Addilyn, Mountain Charter School

Gila County:

- Natalia, Julia Randall Elementary School

Graham County:

- Selena, Ruth Powell Elementary School

Greenlee County:

- Paige, Duncan Elementary School

La Paz County:

- Donnie, Quartzsite Elementary School

Maricopa County:

- Calli, Sequoya Elementary School
- Annabelle, Homeschool
- David, BASIS Scottsdale
- Reegan, New Vistas Center for Education
- Cha'Reece, Gila Crossing Community School

Mohave County:

- Jonathan, Mohave Accelerated Learning Center

Navajo County:

- Irelyn, Snowflake Intermediate

Pima County:

- Jonsie, AZ Connections Academy
- Alyssa, Gale Elementary School

Pinal County

- Benjamin, Florence K-8 School

Santa Cruz County

- Diego, Mexicayotl Academy Charter School

Yavapai County

- Malia, Sequoia Choice

Yuma County

- Fabian, Salida Del Sol Elementary School

For more information about AZ529, visit <http://www.az529.gov>.



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