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Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee and AZ529, Arizona's Education Savings Plan, Announce Statewide Future Career Art Contest Winners

PHOENIX, AZ – Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee honored 15 Arizona kindergarten through sixth grade students as winners of the third-annual AZ529 Future Career Art Contest. The 15 winners represent different schools among district, charter, private schools, Bureau of Indian Education and homeschools, representing all of Arizona's 15 counties.

AZ529, Arizona's Education Savings Plan together with the Arizona State Treasurer's Office invited K-6th graders across Arizona to draw, paint or find a creative way to make an art piece representing their dream job. A total of 15 winners were selected from 618 entries, up from 343 just one year ago. The entries were reviewed by a panel of judges and scored based on the content, creativity, organization and originality of the artwork.

"This contest reached every corner of our great state to emphasize that Arizona students are thinking about their future education and dream careers. It was encouraging to meet these talented, ambitious students and see how they envision their future," said Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee. "Today each student winner was awarded with \$529 in an AZ529 savings account to go towards advancing their education, whether they will choose college, vocational school or workforce training. Every dollar saved now will grow over time."

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.

"We received a record of 618 art submissions from across the state, all of which highlighted the dreams and aspirations of Arizona's next generation," said Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee. "As I have traveled across Arizona to share about the AZ529 Education Savings Plan, I am inspired that families are seeing the endless opportunities for children and their future when they set aside a savings plan for their education."

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 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. Beginning this year, 529 plan beneficiaries will be able to rollover unused funds into a Roth IRA, 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 Future Career Art Contest Winners:

Kindergarten:

- Teo, Sam Hughes Elementary School, Pima County
- Ximena, Mary L. Welty Elementary School, Santa Cruz County

1st Grade:

- Wesley, Metcalf Elementary School, Greenlee County
- Marcelo, Casa Grande Online Learning Academy, Pinal County

2nd Grade:

- Everleigh, Mountain Charter School, Coconino County
- Jaylynn, Bouse Elementary School, La Paz County

3rd Grade:

- Sloane, New Vistas Center for Education, Maricopa County
- AshLynn, Camp Mohave Elementary School, Mohave County
- Caleb, Homeschool, Yuma County

4th Grade:

- Chase, Kin Dah Lichi'i' Olta' School, Apache County
- Thalia, Skyview Charter School, Yavapai County

5th Grade

- Alfonso, Bonita Elementary School, Graham County
- Jackson, Snowflake Intermediate School, Navajo County

6th Grade

- Crystal, Town and Country Elementary School, Cochise County
- Stella, High Desert Middle School, Gila County

To see the winning artwork, visit <http://www.az529.gov/2024artcontest>.



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