



GRADUATION ISSUE

June 4, 2026



“Dream big. Whatever you think is big, dream bigger than that and then follow your dreams.”

- Dr. Leland Fulwilder, Doctorate in Business Administration

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



Butterfly Class



Bear Class



Cottontail Class



Cottontail Class



Bear Class



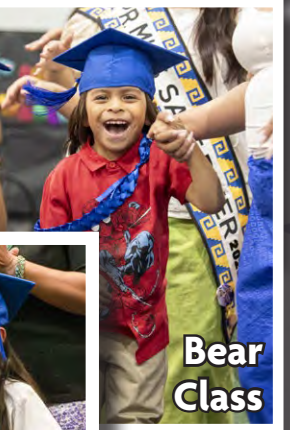
Turtle Class



Cottontail Class



Eagle Class



Bear Class



Turtle Class



Quail Class



Horned Toad Class



Turtle Class



Turtle Class



Cougar Class

- Butterfly**
Soraya Isela Carlisle
Ruben Angel Carrillo
Faustino Maurice
Jauregui-Carlos
Angel Felipe King
Maya Vipismal Manuel
Aria Bethani Rein
McNeil
Aries Naya Rodriguez
MayKwadiik Angel
Monica Seota
Avery Logan Smith
Mars Washington

- Bear**
Irie Michelle Andrews
Anton
Stephen Wade Carlos
Robert Angel Crow
Charlie Clark Hillan
Kaleena Belle Legacy
James
Isreal Lewis
Logan Manuel Phillips
Iyra Mae Thomas
Akaydah Benneka
Jazmin Turner
Sage Washington

- Cottontail**
Kira Hohokmel Collins
Adriel Ramon Estrada
Kassandra Alaya
Garza
Nash Ohshad
Gutierrez
Presley Lovely Rose
Johnson
Greg Emmanuel Lewis
Maddie Maisy Milly
Garcia
Alicia Acel Renee Osif
Samuel Isazz Santo
Lopez
Devin Wauneka

- Cougar**
Amelia Nicole Alvarado
Nathan Anka Kimball
Antone
AvaSky Little Bird
Cabrera
Elijah Jay Chellis
Marcel Samuel
Demontigny
Zavian Herder Lee
Cairo Curtis Miguel
Kayden Olson
Daisy Rosaline Saine
Sahlae Enos Quintero

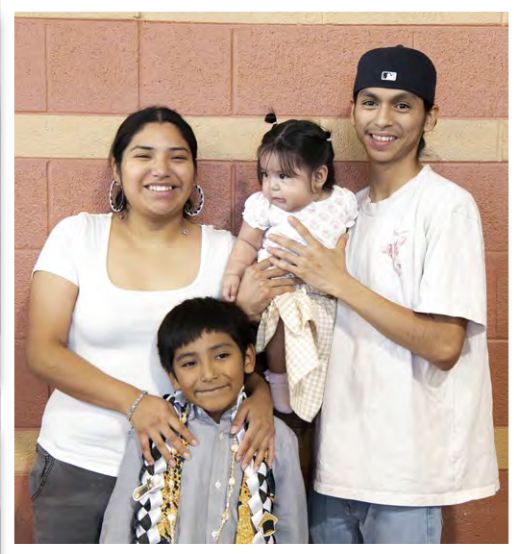
- Eagle**
Legacy Cole Burns
Khayzen Steve Harvier
Dallas
Sareya Ann Kisto
Choya Wenima
Littlecharley
Mary Lou Willow
Martinez
Maylanie Lilymae Osife
Reid
Bianca Kerry Jean
Schurz

- Horned Toad**
Alexander Jackson
Carlos Jose Robles

- Turtle**
Izaya Aguilar
Ty Felipe Evangelista
Genesis Danielle Garcia
Anton
Raven Christine Lopez
Marisol Lopez Moquino
Sage Richard Charles
John Peterson
Amina Scarlett
Ramirez
Julian Joaquin Rolon
Isaac Julian Vega
Mariela Schurz

- Quail**
Vishig A'an Baptisto
Noah Geme Brandon
Cooper
Aniyah Garza
Mateo Roy Garza
Enecio Ivan Troy
Jensen
Alex Ismael Jimenez
Adalina Teola Lewis
Sozin Manuel
Mayzie Renee Osif
Abdiel Leo Rincon
Violet Eli Sanchez

SALT RIVER KINDERGARTEN



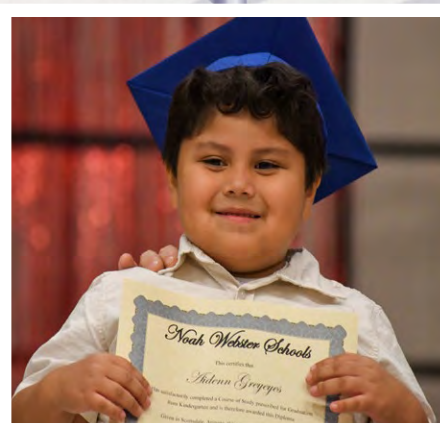
Mrs. Valencia
 Ava Sixkiller
 Benjamin Ruiz
 Braylynn Richards
 Cobain Lewis
 Gillian-Faith Carlos
 Loyd Fulwider Jr.
 Marcella Duwyenie
 Marcello Flores
 Maryana Hernandez
 Mateah Cooper
 Melanie White
 Mila Scott
 Obidiah Tsoie
 Raine Johnson
 Salem Ruggles
 Si'alig Jose-Wauneka

Mrs. Claycomb
 Adrian Lewis
 Adrianna Ramirez
 Amelia Castaneda-Collins
 Aurora Spex
 Cylas James
 Ellie Montano
 Hezekiah Track-Seumanu
 Isabella Wilkins
 Jaylen Scott
 Opie Ludlow-Martinez
 Parker Salinas
 Remy Waters
 Sincere Cabrera
 Skyler Scott
 Syone Varela
 Zaire Benally

Mrs. Hunsaker
 Aniah Antone
 Anthony Lewis
 Ari Webster
 Celestia Avalos
 Jalyssa Jose
 Jayleena Jose
 Jayleena Beltran-Dash
 Judum Reyes
 Julian Gonzales
 Lamont Losey
 Mateo Flores
 Paul Thorton Jr.
 Ryelk Watters
 Thosh Pacheco
 Zuna Thomas

Mrs. Gilchrist
 Ethan Goodwin
 Inissa Miguel
 Kamiah Kisto
 Xxiynn Begay

NOAH WEBSTER KINDERGARTEN NOAH WEBSTER KINDERGARTEN



Pre-Kindergarten:
Kira DiBella
Gia Hasson
Azalea Lamson

Kaia Chanaiwa
Amena Chavez
Santiago Gallegos
Karma Garza
Aidenn Greyeyes
Diego Perez
Christalynn Ray
Mateo Renteria

Andelina Rodriguez
Rosas Zabala
Maddox Rodriguez
Serenity Smirke
Anthony Stamps
Bearwater Washington



MESA PUBLIC SCHOOLS KINDERGARTEN NATIVE AMERICAN EDUCATION PROGRAM



SALT RIVER SCHOOLS SIXTH GRADE

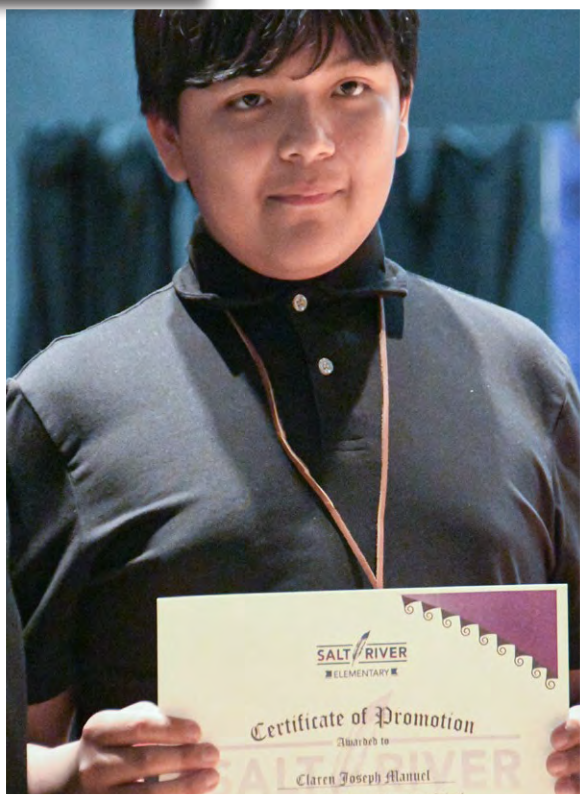
SALT RIVER SCHOOLS SIXTH GRADE



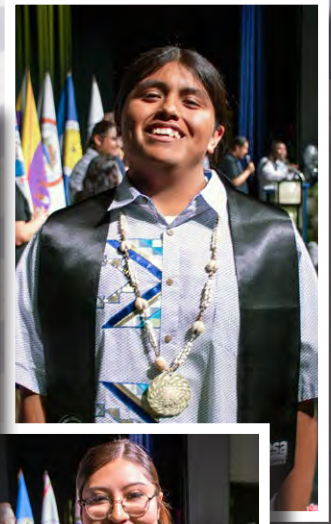
Damon Adams
Ariyah Alexander
Simya Alvarez
Tianna Anderson
Violet Andrews
Marcyle Benally
Cindy Cruz Burns
Cyrus Enos
Silas French
Jayla Garcia
Susennes Garcia
Amelia Garza

Monae Gillis
Ambrielle Herrera
Rayann Johnson
Nexiana Leonard
Phoenix Lewis
Sumaya Lewis
Elena Ludlow
Claren Joseph Manuel
Tavia Mendoza
Cecrett Percy
Armoni Richards
Adian Rodriguez

Suzie Rodriquez
Jasmine Santo
Serenity Saunders
Izabella Silva
Oniya Silversmith
Skye Spencer-
Redhouse
Jonathan Upshaw
Fawn Velasquez
Madustus Ventura
Victorious Washington
Peyton White



MESA PUBLIC SCHOOLS HIGH SCHOOL NATIVE AMERICAN EDUCATION PROGRAM



Dobson High School
Josiah Lynch

East Valley Academy
Isabella Martinez
Matthew Vasquez
Rosemarie Antone

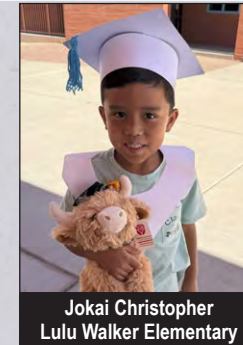
Mesa High School
Jaylyn Mendez
Luis Melchor-Manual

Mountain View High School
Staziah Lynn Butler

Red Mountain High School
Mykel Guiterraz Moquino

Westwood High School
Ava Lerma
Eli Smith
Ella McGilbarly
Emma Scabby
Lucas Vasquez

CONGRATS, GRADUATES!



Elijah Norris
Fountain Hills Middle School

Cam Casias
8th Grade Promotion

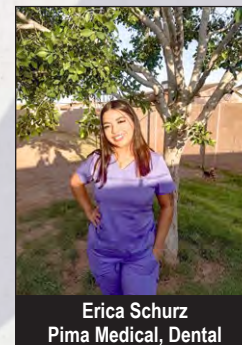
Rayann Johnson
Salt River Elementary

Audrina Prieto
Mountain View

Tatianna Kirkendall
Tucson High School

Jokai Christopher
Lulu Walker Elementary

Joel Christopher
Imagine Preschool at Lulu Walker Elementary



Nevaeh D. Chavez
Dobson High School

Jo Chavez
Saguaro High School

Matthew Goodwin
Scottsdale Community College

Gabrielle Lewis
Assisted Living Training School

Erica Schurz
Pima Medical, Dental Assistant

Azarian Johnson
Mountain View High School

Asari Sylvia Lewis
Gateway CC



Antonio Fulwilder
Sherman Indian High School

Micah Joshua Nathaniel Reyes
Fountain Hills High School

Rena Fulwilder
Grand Canyon University

Lucas R. Williams
Westwood High School

Kaleb Losey
Saguaro High School

Kaleb Losey
Saguaro High School

Ella Mae McGilbarly
Westwood High School

Congratulations to Antonio Fulwilder on accomplishing one of your many goals in life. Our family is very proud of you! We wish you mucho, mucho success in your future endeavors. May God continue to bless you now and forever. - WE LOVE YOU - THE FAM BAM 2026

You are fearfully awe-strikingly wonderfully made, there is no mistake about you! Do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with YHWH as you continue your life's adventures, CONGRATULATIONS, we love you!!

Watching you reach this milestone has been such a joy. We are so proud of your perseverance, strength, and growth. Congratulations on your graduation and new degree! MSN! You make us so proud! Love your family

Congratulations Son! We are so proud of you and all you've accomplished. We can't wait to see what comes next. We will be here to support you every step of the way. Love, Mom & Dad

We are so incredibly proud of the man you've become. Dream big, stay true to yourself, and know that we will always be cheering you on. Congratulations! Love, Your Cashoya, Almaraz, Shaw & Scott Family

Watching you walk across that stage is one of our proudest moments. You've worked incredibly hard to reach this milestone, and we can't wait to see what you conquer next. Congratulations! We Love you! Love, Mom, Sister, Uncle Ricardo, Uncle Carlos & Grandpa Saul.

We are so proud of you! You are an excellent representative of our family and your tribes. Thank you for taking the lead with your siblings and being the positive example this world needs! We love you more than words can express! Mom, Dad, Adrian, Lily and Olivia

WESTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL WESTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Ella McGilbary

Emma Scabby

Eli Smith

Angel Faye Ruiz

Zethyn Lara

Noah Lasiloo

Emily Stacey

**Erwin Thomas
Manuel II**

Simon Angel Lewis

**Trinity Alyssa
Manuel**

**Jayden Wolf
Frederick**

Analiyah Jackson

Justin Andrews

Diondria Pilger

**Makio Bahe
Villalpando**

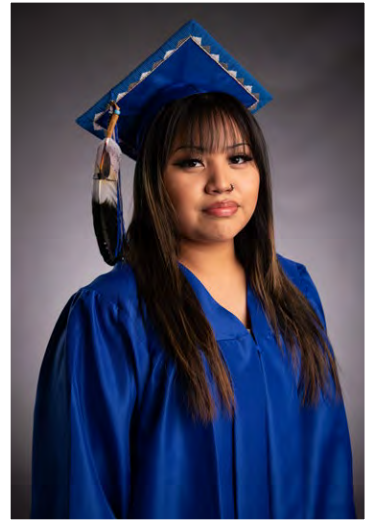
Natoni Makil

GRADUATION PORTRAITS

On May 1-2 O'odham Action News offered professional portraits for graduates at the Creative Ki: Studios. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us, and congratulations!



Jaheim Anderson



Zariah Antone



Dean Roy Carpenter III



Joseph Chavez



Giada Constantine



Leland Fulwilder



Romeo Gonzalez



Matthew Goodwin



Odessah Herder



Joshua Hood



Azarian Johnson



Eliana Jones



Zethyn Lara



Ava Leon



Ava Lerma



Kaleb Losey



Natoni Makil



Ella McGilbary



Tomasi Moustafa



Renzee Nash



Ellis Parchcorn III



Audrina Prieto



Naleyah Ramirez



Melissa Ray



Micah Reyes



Summer Rogers



Aaliyah Sampson



James Schaaf



Jade Winter Silversmith



Ariana Smith



Eli Smith



Hosteen Judum Smith



Cameron Track



Nadia Trujillo

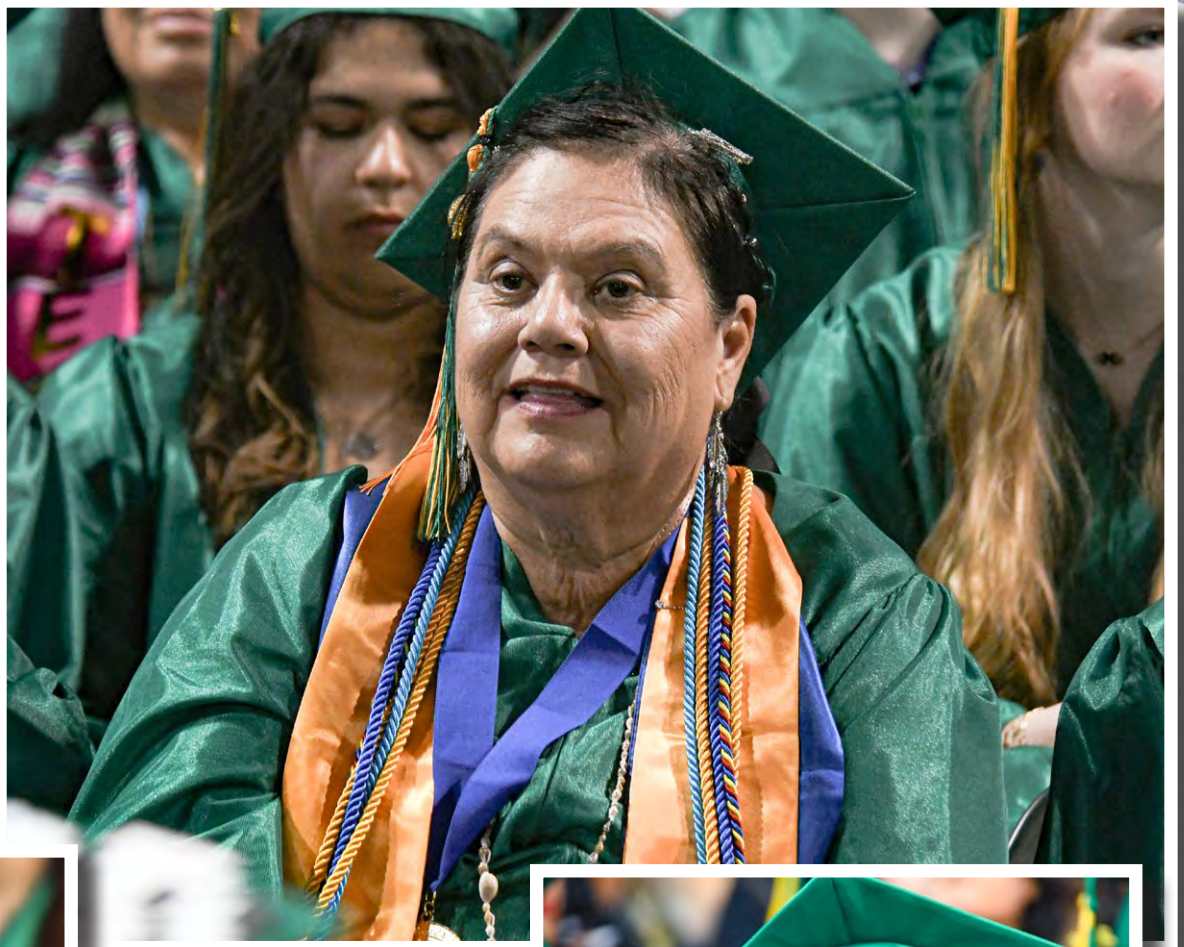


Emily Vicente

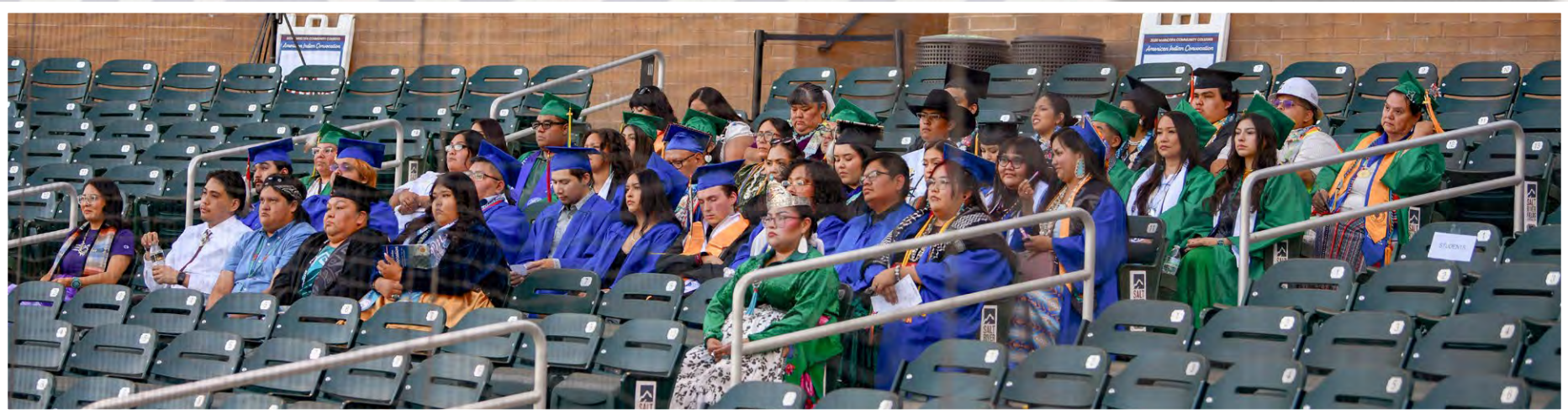
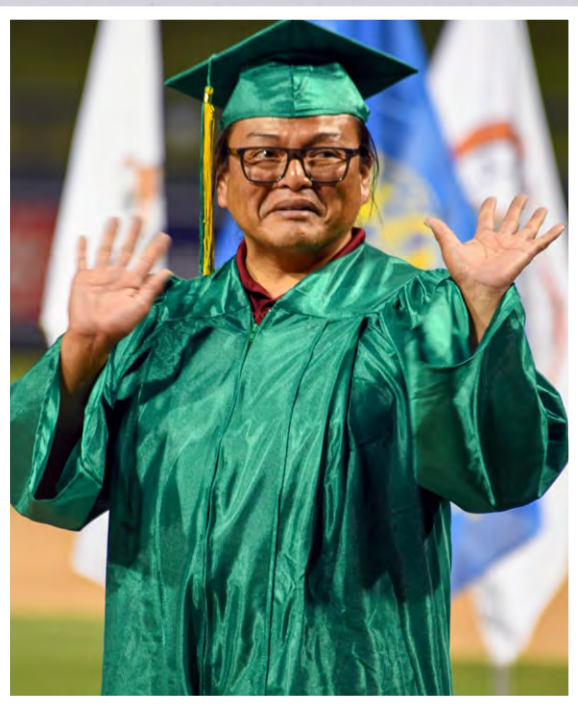
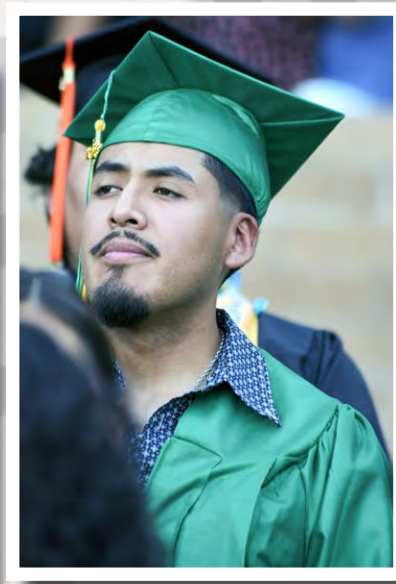
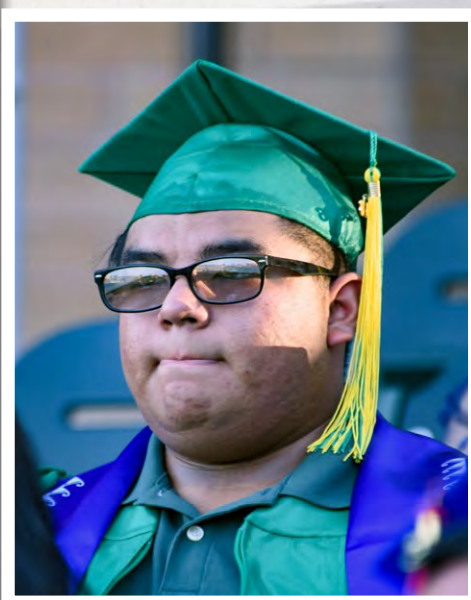
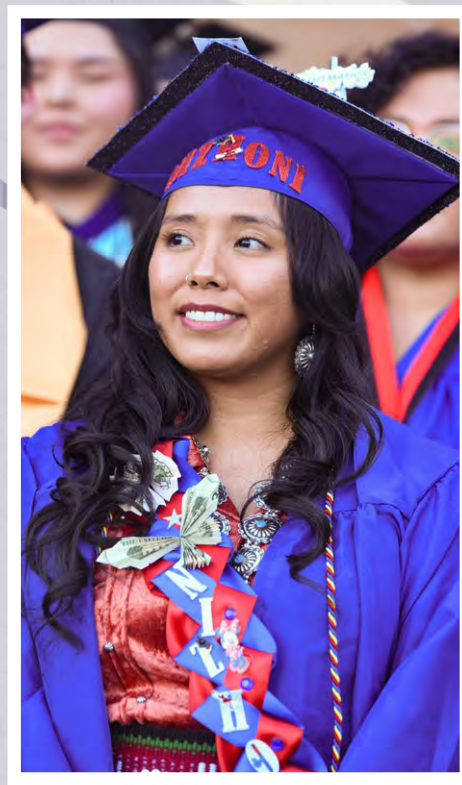
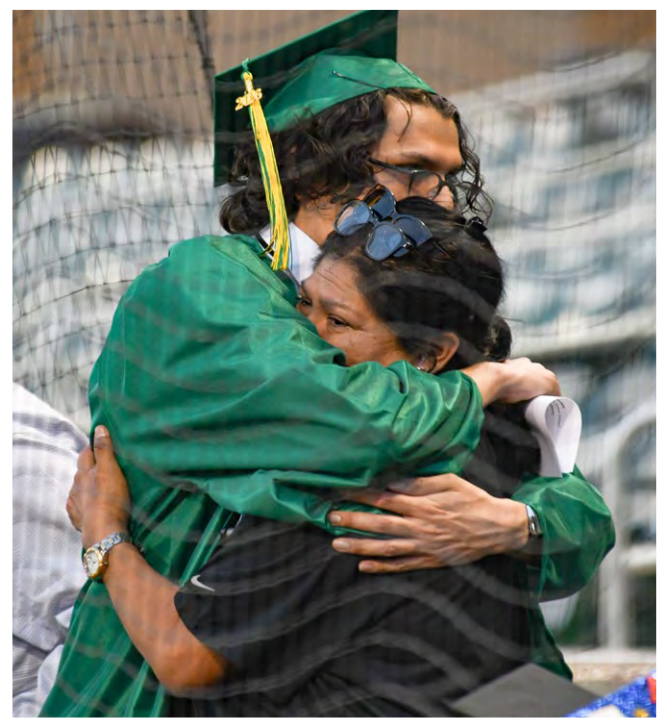


Franchell Young

SCOTTSDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SCOTTSDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGES NATIVE AMERICAN CONVOCATION



BERNADETTE HILL

Smith Chason College; Associates in Science/Major in Diagnostic Medical Sonography



Can you summarize your educational background?

I graduated from an online high school in 2017, when I was 24 years old through an adult education program. I graduated from Southwest Institute of Natural Aesthetics in 2019, and currently still hold my Esthetician's license. I always wanted to be in healthcare and decided to enroll in college late 2022 and graduated with my Associates degree in Science for Medical Diagnostic Sonography in 2025. I earned my ARRT credential in January of 2026.

Describe your most rewarding college experience?

Knowing that I didn't give up and worked hard.

What are your future plans?

To be proficient in my field and help as many people as possible.

What do you hope to accomplish in the next ten years?

I am currently employed at River People Health Center, and I plan on staying there to help my Community.

Who or what influenced you to go to school?

I wanted something that would challenge me.

Did you face any obstacles while attending college/university, and how did you get through it?

I failed a semester and had to retake it. I put in extra time to understand the material and would study for hours.

What advice would you give people considering higher education?

It's never too late to start.

Is there anyone you would like to thank?

Joseph for paying the bills while I went to school.

Who are your parents and grandparents?

Rosemary Garcia and Robert Hill are my parents. Marie Hill is my grandmother, and Veronica Hill is my great grandmother from SRPMIC.

PAMELA A YOUSE

Scottsdale Community College; Associates in English with an Emphasis in Creative Writing



thrive in the sciences, which I have grown to truly love.

What are your future plans?

As an older community member, I am looking for opportunities to continue writing and publishing my books while giving back through mentorship, helping SRPMIC students pursue and succeed in forensic science.

What do you hope to accomplish in the next ten years?

I am committed to continuing my academic journey, pursuing additional degrees, mentoring others, and advancing my education toward a doctorate in English.

Who or what influenced you to go to school?

I am disabled, and I was clogging my mind with endless TV and internet. My brain was rotting, and I watched a show that had an older woman who went back to college and achieved her goals and dreams regardless of her disabilities. I aspire to that.

Did you face any obstacles while attending college/university, and how did you get through it?

As a student with a disability, I have faced challenges that made college more difficult at times. There were

moments when I felt physically and mentally drained, and it would have been easy to give up. Instead, I made the decision to keep going. I adjusted my study habits, stayed organized, and learned to ask for help when I needed it. Having a strong support system, especially my family and professors, made a big difference. These experiences taught me resilience and showed me that I am capable of more than I once believed.

What advice would you give people considering higher education?

My advice is to stay curious and stay committed. Higher education will challenge you, but it will also open doors you did not know existed. Ask for help when you need

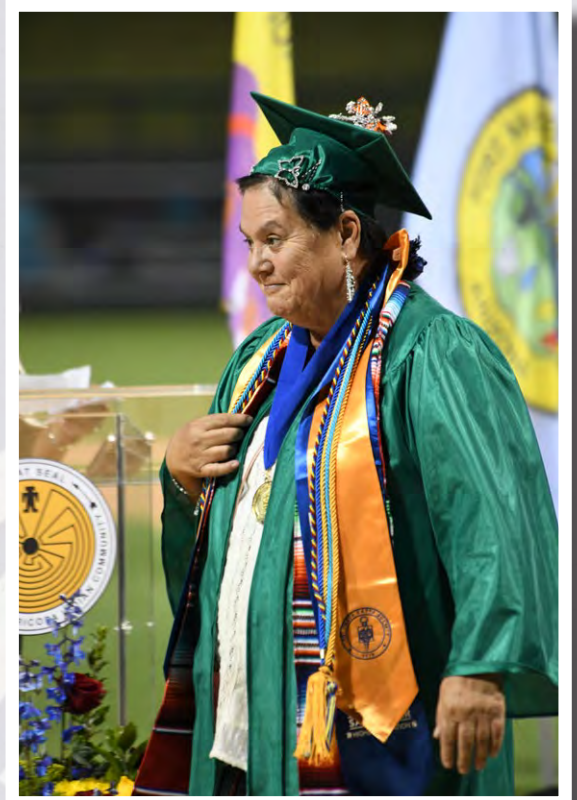
it, take your work seriously, and remember why you started. No matter your background or obstacles, your goals are still within reach if you keep showing up.

Is there anyone you would like to thank?

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my husband, Troy, for his unwavering support and for being by my side as I manage my disabilities while I crave more in life and thirst for knowledge. I am especially thankful to Jamie Lynn Cooner, my forensic science professor, who helped me realize that my abilities extend beyond creativity and into the sciences. I also appreciate my children for their understanding and patience, even during my late-night bursts of inspiration.

Who are your parents and grandparents?

My grandparents were amazing people when they were alive, their names were Mark Vest and Flora Vest-Montague



Can you summarize your educational background?

I earned my degree in English with an emphasis in Creative Writing, and I am currently continuing my education in two fields: Film with a focus on Screenwriting and Forensic Crime Scene Investigation.

Describe your most rewarding college experience?

Winning 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and an honorable mention in The Vortex Literary Journal competition over two years validated that my writing is meaningful and relevant. Another defining moment was when my professor, Jamie Lynn Cooner, asked me to assist in her forensic labs for FOR 105 and 106. That opportunity showed me that my creativity is not limited to writing, but can also

CONGRATS, GRADUATES!



Berlyn Cooper
Westwood High School

We are so very proud of you Berber! Your journey has just begun, we can't wait till you get your doctorate! We love you so much Berlyn! - The Buenos



Berlyn Cooper
Westwood High School

We are so proud of you, we look forward to your many accomplishments ahead, love you grandma and papa



Kingston Thomas
Westwood High School

Congratulations nephew! Can't wait to take your culinary dishes you will create love auntie Blanche and papa Daniel



Kingston Thomas
Westwood High School

You did amazing King! We're super happy for you! Love The Buenos!



Kevin Smith Jr.
Coronado High School

Congrats Bubba! Your family is very proud of you. We are excited to see what you do next. We love you!



Elijah Arthur
Kino Junior High

Congratulations Grandson Very proud of you. Looking forward to see you achieve in high school. Love Grandma Felicia



Lexi Alvarez
Choice Learning Academy

Congratulations to My Granddaughter Lexi heading on to high school DREAM BIG, WORK HARD AND SUCCEED

ANTOINETTE ANTONE

Rio Salado College; CCL Addiction/Substance Use Disorders L1



Can you summarize your educational background?

I graduated high school from Salt River Accelerated Learning Academy in 2010. I am now being awarded a certificate in addiction/substance use disorders level 1.

Describe your most rewarding college experience?

My rewarding college experience has been able to do everything online with the laptop the community provided for me. I have a big family and having the opportunity to do my schoolwork online has allowed me to be home and still take care of my family.

What are your future plans?

A future plan will be to get my associate's degree in addiction counseling and get a job within the community. I know now what to expect when it comes to doing school-

work online. As of right now, I might just let my brain take a break from assignments.

What do you hope to accomplish in the next ten years?

I would like to have gained more knowledge with college courses and be working at a job in the community helping our community members.

Who or what influenced you to go to school?

I would like to share that the community influenced me to go to school, specifically community employment. I have my own experience in addiction and substance use which I overcame. I completed my time at JTR and moved on to get peer support specialist certified, shortly after I started working and eventually got my sons and daughters back in my life. I turned into a stay-at-home mom with a four-year-old I kept home with me. I was scrolling through social media and seen community employments post about this opportunity to do online schooling for addiction and substance use disorders. I took the opportunity and signed up. Two years later I've completed my certificate.

Did you face any obstacles while attending college/university, and how did you get through it?

I faced no obstacles except the time when I spent 45 minutes typing an assignment only to have accidentally deleted it and then had to rewrite and type it up again.

What advice would you give people considering higher education?

I highly recommend it to everyone; I didn't know what to expect when I signed up but it turned out to be very doable and worth the experience.

Is there anyone you would like to thank?

I would like to thank my best friend Brice for supporting me through all this. You've helped me stay on track and encouraged me to do better. Also, for being my guinea pig on some of my class assignments. Thank you!

Who are your parents and grandparents?

My parents are the late Spencer and Lola Antone; maternal grandparents are the late Jonah and Mary Ray; paternal grandparents are the late Melvin and Peggy Antone.



PHILLIP L. RAPHAEL JR.

Arizona State University; M.S. American Indian Studies



better myself every day and educate myself in my field respectively.

What do you hope to accomplish in the next ten years?

Don't have a definite answer for that, but I would like to continue to build a stable life for my kids while continuing to grow professionally in my work within my community. I plan to keep learning and educating myself about our culture and O'odham language and share this knowledge with my son and nephew. These are vital to or identity.

Who or what influenced you to go to school?

Life experiences, working dead-end labor-intensive jobs for little pay. Living a dead-end life that felt unfulfilled and knowing there was something somewhere I had a responsibility to fulfill.

Did you face any obstacles while attending college/university, and how did you get through it?

Yes, I faced many obstacles, personal hardships, loss of close friends and family, no motivation, and intense stress levels. All this and more. I sought out counseling, found mentors and advice from a different crowd (academics, O'odham spiritual advisors, and women business owners) as well as close friends/family, I then looked inward and focused on myself, my responsibilities, my role, and my priorities in life reminding myself that giving up is not an option. Also, I placed my faith in creator and his plan for me and started exercising as a physical outlet.

What advice would you give people considering higher education?

Sot'tom! We're not getting younger. But seriously: You can do all things you put your mind to. Another one I remember hearing a lot but is true: If I can do it, you can too, go ahead I believe in you! and one more phrase: "Mistakes are proof you are trying" J. Lim.

Is there anyone you would like to thank?

I have to acknowledge my community that sup-



ported me all the way through college, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC), Salt River Schools Higher Education/WIOA program that assisted me as well, my native instructors (some doubled and became mentors in a lot of ways). Our ancestors whose shoulders I stand upon, and creator.

Who are your parents and grandparents?

My Father (bot) - Phillip L Raphael Sr. My Mother (bot) - Verna J. Lash. My paternal grandmother - Unknown My paternal grandfather (bot) - Unknown. My maternal grandmother - (bot) - Rachael LeBlanc. My maternal grandfather (bot - Donald Lash)

Can you summarize your educational background?

G.E.D. 2009, Associate in Arts from Scottsdale Community College 2021, Bachelor of Science in American Indian Studies from Arizona State University 2023, Master's of Science in American Indian Studies from Arizona State University 2025.

Describe your most rewarding college experience?

There are many that come to mind but being able to use what I learned in my classes, American Indian history especially O'odham histories, in the work I do within my community has been my most rewarding college experience. Studying American Indian Studies and working in my community helped me understand that education is not just about earning a degree or getting a good job. For me, education became a way to empower myself and help preserve and protect our histories, language, and culture for future generations. So, what made it the most meaningful was being able to apply what I learned in the real world and connect it back to our Himdag.

What are your future plans?

I still don't the answer for that, but I plan to continue to



We are so proud of you and all your achievements and accomplishments with being Student Council President to getting all year Academic Excellence! Keep reaching for the stars baby, We Love you!

Caesar Martinez Jr. Lehi Elementary



Julianna, your strength, perseverance, and heart brought you to this incredible moment. Never forget how loved and remarkable you are. Congratulations, Graduate — I'm beyond proud to call you my daughter. Love, Mom

Julianna Ruiz Grand Canyon University



You did it! It's been an amazing 18 years. To your first day of school to your last day of high school. The family wishes you much success. Love you!

Odessah Herder Mesa High



Congratulations on each of your achievements and accomplishments this year. Proud of you and excited for your future journey. Love Mom and Dad.

Kaleb, Aubrey, & Julian Noah Webster

GEORGINA N. NUNEZ

Arizona State University; Master of Social Work (MSW)

Can you summarize your educational background?

My name is Georgina Nunez, and I am an emerging social worker committed to empowering and supporting individuals, families, and communities. I was born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona, where my strong connection to family and community shaped my values and passion for social work. I began my academic journey at Estrella Mountain Community College, earning my Associate's degree in 2023, and later transferred to Arizona State University, earning my Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) in 2025 and continuing into the Master of Social Work (MSW) program, with an anticipated graduation in 2026. My identity and background have influenced my commitment to culturally responsive practice and advocating for underserved populations.

Two core social work ethical values that resonate most with me are service and the dignity and worth of the person. The value of service is important to me because it reflects my desire to support individuals during vulnerable times and contribute to meaningful change in their lives. I have seen firsthand how access to support and resources can impact a person's well-being, which motivates me to remain dedicated to helping others. The dignity and worth of the person are equally important because they emphasize respect for each individual's experiences, background, and strengths. This value guides my approach to building trust, creating safe spaces, and meeting clients where they are without judgment.

Describe your most rewarding college experience?

Throughout my academic journey, I have gained hands-on experience through multiple practicum placements and related work. During my BSW practicum (SWG 541/542), I interned at an elementary school, where I supported students' social-emotional and behavioral needs through individual and group interventions. I also gained experience in supervised visitations, facilitating structured and safe environments to support family connections. In my advanced MSW practicum (SWG 645/646) at Avenir Behavioral Health, I worked in an inpatient behavioral health setting, where I facilitated group sessions, conducted individual assessments, assisted with treatment planning, and supported patients experiencing mental health and substance use challenges.

Through these experiences, I have developed key practice skills essential to my professional growth. These include strong communication and active listening skills, group facilitation, crisis intervention, assessment and treatment planning, and the application of evidence-based practices such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), trauma-informed care (TIC), and person-in-environment (PIE). My final practicum especially strengthened my ability to work in high-level environments, collaborate with interdisciplinary teams, and support individuals in managing emotional distress and developing coping strategies.

What are your future plans?

After graduation, my goal is to continue working in the behavioral health field, providing direct clinical services to individuals experiencing mental health and substance use challenges. I also have a strong interest in hospice social work, where I can support individuals and families through end-of-life care with compassion and dignity. I plan to pursue licensure and further develop my clinical skills to provide effective, evidence-based, and culturally responsive care. I aim to make a meaningful impact by supporting individuals in achieving stability, building resilience, and improving their overall quality of life, while also providing comfort and support during end-of-life transitions, as I continue to grow as a compassionate and skilled social worker.

What do you hope to accomplish in the next ten years?

In the next ten years, I hope to continue growing in the field of social work and build on the experience I've already started gaining during my practicum at Avenir Behavioral Health. Right now, I'm learning a lot through direct practice, especially facilitating CBT-based group sessions and supporting clients with anxiety, trauma-related symptoms, and co-occurring disorders, and I want to keep strengthening those clinical skills. Long term, I see myself becoming a licensed master's of



social work (LMSW) and taking on more advanced roles where I can provide deeper therapeutic support to individuals and families. I also want to continue gaining experience across different settings, including behavioral health and child and family work, since I've also been exposed to supervised visitation and really value that type of work.

Eventually, I hope to be in a position where I'm not only working directly with clients but also mentoring newer social workers and contributing to program development or leadership. Most importantly, I want to feel like I'm making a consistent, meaningful impact while also maintaining balance in my personal life and continuing to grow professionally and personally.

On a personal level, a big part of my motivation is wanting to make my nana Linda and my tata George proud of my achievements. I carry them with me in everything I do, and I want my growth and success in this field to reflect the values and strength they helped instill in me.

Who or what influenced you to go to school?

I decided to go to school because I wanted to create a better future for myself and build a career where I could genuinely help people. Over time, I became especially drawn to social work because I've always been the kind of person who naturally listens, supports others, and wants to make a difference in people's lives. A big influence on my journey has been my family, including my sister Linda, my nana, my mom, and other close relations, friends, and family members who have consistently supported and encouraged me along the way. They have all played an important role in shaping my values, strengthening my work ethic, and motivating me to keep moving forward, even during challenging times. My middle school teachers and college professors have also had a significant impact on my growth, pushing me to go further academically and professionally and helping me believe that I could achieve my goals as a social worker. Altogether, my support systems have helped me build confidence in myself and in my ability to achieve my goals and even bigger goals as a social worker.

These experiences, along with the encouragement I've received throughout my life, have reinforced my decision to pursue higher education and stay committed to my goals. Being able to see how education connects to real-life impact has helped me stay focused and motivated, especially when facing challenges along the way. Overall, going to school has been an important step in my personal and professional development. It has given me the opportunity to grow, learn, and prepare for a career in social work where I can continue to support others and make a meaningful difference in their lives.

Did you face any obstacles while attending college/university, and how did you get through it?

I faced obstacles while attending college, especially because I started college right before COVID-19 began. Not long after I started, everything quickly shifted to online learning, which was a major adjustment. The courses felt rushed online, and it was difficult to adapt to a new learning environment without the structure

and support of in-person classes. During that time, I struggled academically and ended up failing three courses, which was a very difficult and discouraging experience.

However, I didn't give up. I retook those courses and focused on improving my study habits, time management, and overall approach to learning. I made sure to stay more organized, communicate with professors when I needed help, and take more responsibility for staying on track with my work. I also leaned on my support system, including my family, to stay motivated and keep pushing forward.

Although it was a challenging period in my college journey, it became an important learning experience for me. It helped me develop resilience, accountability, and perseverance. Overcoming those setbacks strengthened my confidence and reinforced my commitment to continuing my education and pursuing my goals in social work.

What advice would you give people considering higher education?

If I could give advice to someone considering higher education, I would tell them to believe in themselves even when things feel uncertain or difficult. Starting school or continuing your education can feel overwhelming at times, but growth often comes from pushing through those moments instead of giving up on them. There will be challenges, but those challenges are what help you build strength, confidence, and resilience.

I would also say don't be afraid to ask for help and lean on your support system. Whether it's family, friends, teachers, or professors, having people who encourage you and guide you makes a huge difference. You don't have to do it alone, and reaching out for support is a sign of strength, not weakness.

Most importantly, I would remind them that setbacks don't define you. You might struggle or even fail at times, but those experiences can become turning points if you choose to learn from them and keep going. Education is not just about getting a degree; it's about discovering your potential, growing as a person, and creating opportunities for your future. And honestly, keep going because trust me, once you hit the finish line, everything you went through will feel worth it.

Is there anyone you would like to thank?

Yes, there are many people I would like to thank. First and foremost, I want to thank my family, including my mom, my sister Linda, and my other close relatives, friends, and family members who have consistently supported, encouraged, and believed in me throughout my journey. Their love and motivation have played a huge role in helping me stay focused and keep pushing forward, even during difficult times.

I would also like to thank my middle school teachers and my college professors who took the time to invest in me, challenge me, and push me to go further academically and personally. They helped me build confidence in my abilities and encouraged me to believe that I could achieve my goals as a social worker, even when I doubted myself.

Lastly, I want to thank myself for not giving up. For pushing through challenges, learning from setbacks, and continuing to move forward even when things were difficult. It took resilience, patience, and determination to get to where I am today, and I'm proud of how far I've come.

Who are your parents and grandparents?

My mom is Lillian. She has been a strong source of support, love, and guidance throughout my life and has always encouraged me to keep working toward my goals.

My dad is George, who has played the role in my life as an emotional support system during my college journey.

My nana is Linda, who has also had a meaningful impact on my life through her love, guidance, and support. She continues to be someone I carry with me in everything I do and someone I strive to make proud.

My tata was George, who passed away when I was young. Even though he is no longer here, he still holds a special place in my life and continues to inspire me through the values and memories I carry with me.



Dionicio Corral
Poston Jr High

Watching you and your brothers grow has been one of the greatest joys of my life. As you start high school, always remember that you are loved, supported, and capable of amazing things. We are so proud of you and we love you. Always Your Mama Cole



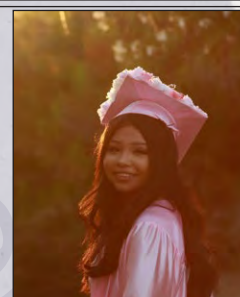
Gilbert Corral
Mesa High School

Watching you grow and graduate has been one of my greatest blessings. I'm beyond proud of the young man you've become, and I hope you always remember how much I love you. Always Your Mama Cole



Ruben Martinez
Poston Jr High

I'm so grateful I had the chance to care for you and watch you grow. As you start high school, know that I'm proud of you and excited for all the great things ahead, I'm always here for you. Always Your Mama Cole



Brielle Juan
EVIT

Your mom, sister, and I are proud of you and all the hard work you put in finishing the nail tech program and lash course. We love you! From Dad

CONGRATS, GRADUATES!



Rosemarie Antone
East Valley Academy

Big congrats to this incredible young graduate! This is proof of your strength, resilience, and dedication. The future is bright, and we can't wait to see all the amazing things you accomplish next! Keep going- you're just getting started! We are proud of you.
- The IL Team



Rosemarie Antone
East Valley Academy

Congratulations on your achievement. Graduating early is a distinguished honor and a testament to your determination and perseverance. Despite all the challenges, you embody the true meaning of "anything is possible." Words cannot express how sincerely proud I am of you.
Much love, Erica Daniels



Marcus Cain Rosalez
Collier Business Academy

Congratulations on surviving middle school! Be proud of how far you've come and excited for everything ahead. High school is a brand-new adventure, and we know you're going to do amazing things.
Love always, Mom, Dad, Lex, Nate, Amari, and Ayden I am of you.



Romeo Gonzalez
Gilbert High School

Romeo, you have reached a milestone, but your journey is far from over. Continue to strive for excellence and never give up on your dreams. You will have the guidance and support from us always! We love you to Infinity and Beyond.
Love, Mom, Dad, Joseph, Eliza, Nefi, Jacob and your entire family



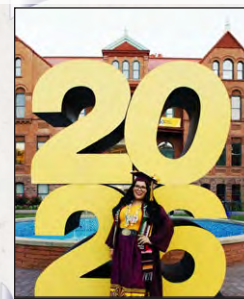
Yliana Pablo
Maryvale High School

During the past four years I've learned and grown so much. I am excited to further my education and go to college. I encourage my generation and younger generations to continue school and achieve your goals. Despite challenges, it is so refreshing to finally say I did it. Education is power! Stay strong and keep going!



Kaydance N. Thomas
Clemson University (B.A. Language & International Business, Focus Japanese)

Our dearest daughter, No matter where life leads you, carry your story, your heritage, and your strength with you. They are not just part of your past—they are guiding lights for everything ahead.
With all our love,
Mom and Dad



Yesenia Armanda Cramer Alvarez
Arizona State University

I am the strength of my ancestors, walking forward with purpose, resilience, culture, and pride. Never giving up on the future I was meant for, and never too old to dream, learn, grow, and rise. My journey has no expiration, only purpose, strength, and endless possibility ahead.



Ariyah Alexander
Salt River Elementary

Congratulations RiRi we are so proud of you... my baby girl growing up so fast...middle school here we come!!! Love Mom Nick and family



Ava Skyy Alofameni Lerma
Westwood High School

Congratulations Ava We are all proud of you Love dad, Ernie, Juk, & Kamiah
CLASS OF 2026



David R. Garcia
Gateway Community College

Congratulations on your graduation as a Pharmacy Technician, David. We are so proud of your accomplishments!
Love, your family.



Taylor J. Moore
Westwood High School

So proud of you Taylor! Your hard work, determination, and heart got you here. This is only the beginning of the amazing things you will accomplish! Mom



Taylor J. Moore
Westwood High School

Way to go, Tay Tay! We are beyond proud of you and love you so much! Remember, the sky is the limit! Love, Manne, Nussy & the kids



Noah Cash Lasiloo
Westwood High School / EVIT - HVAC-R

Noah, we are so proud of you and excited to see what the next chapter brings. Make good choices! Love you, Mom, Kelly, Marcus, Vii, Malay & Ozzy



Noah C. Lasiloo
Westwood High School

Congratulations, Cashy! We're proud of the young man you've become! Keep chasing your dreams; your future is bright beyond measure. We love you so much! Love, Dad & Nussy



Ava Rose Leon
Xavier College Preparatory

Congratulations baby girl! We're so proud of you. May you continue to chase your dreams and make a positive impact in the world. Wishing you all the success and happiness in the next chapter of your life. Love, Dad, Mom, your sisters, Joanna and Baby Frank



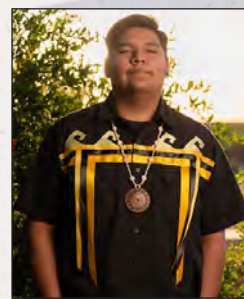
Liana Olmedo
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Congratulations Liana! on graduating in aeronautics and earning your pilot's license! Your dedication, discipline, and passion have taken you to new heights. Wishing you clear skies, successful flights, and an incredible aviation career ahead. You have made us proud!



Iayannah Carlisle
Accelerated Learning Academy

I am beyond proud of myself for accomplishing 12 years of schooling, overcoming everything I thought I couldn't with the help of my supporting family, friends, teachers, counselors to help me get to where I am today. Not only do I do this for my self but for my son and future ahead much love!



Joshua Hood
Saguaro High School

Congratulations Son! We love you and we couldn't be more proud of this wonderful achievement! We can't wait to see what the future holds for you! We are always here for you! We hope you have all fun with each celebration! WE LOVE YOU! Congratulations Son!



Duryus Burke
Accelerated Learning Academy

Congratulations son. You did it!! As you embark on the next chapter of your life, be strong, motivated, determined, and work hard for what you want. Believe in yourself. Always remember we'll be here for you. We love you and are proud of you. -Mom & Dad-



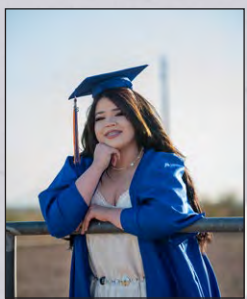
Renzee Nash
Camelback High School

The Year of the Ren! Renzee, we are so proud of you! We are so excited to see what your future holds. Go my son, go and climb the ladder.



Taylor Rain Williams
Guerrero University of Montana

Taylor, I am so proud of you for graduating, with not 1, but 2 degrees from the University of Montana. You are an amazing kid and it's hard to believe how fast the time has flown. Never stop learning and growing. Love you forever, Mom.



Angel Faye Ruiz
Westwood/East Valley Institute of Technology Aesthetics Program

Angel Faye, we are sooo proud of you and what you have accomplished. Please continue on your aesthetics journey. You have the touch!!! Your dad would be so proud!!!



Cameron Track
Desert Vista High School

Son, we are so proud of the man you've become. Your strength, kindness, and determination shine. Keep chasing your dreams with courage and heart. We love you always. Mom and Dad



Alva J. Silverhorn
Saguaro High School

Congratulations Alva! We are proud of you; you have done a good job working so hard; we look forward to what you do in the future. Love your entire family!



Ozzie Patrick Jr.
Kerr Center for Agriscience to Jr. High

OJ, we are sooo proud of you. Jr. High here you come!!! Keep playing your sports and participating in cultural activities. You are doing great!!!



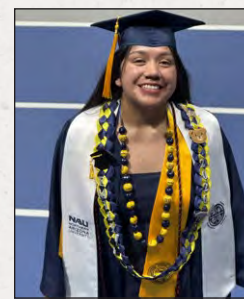
Danica Garza
Redeemer Christian School

Congratulations on graduating high school we are VERY proud of you. Me, Dad and your siblings are here to support and encourage you and we look forward to witnessing your bright future. Remember to keep GOD first in everything you do!



Emily Vicente
Northern Arizona University

Congratulations Emily Janelle Vicente! Nana, Papa & the whole family are so proud of you. Your hard work through dual Bachelor's degrees paid off. Now relax before joining the workforce haha. We love you Emmy!



Emily Vicente
Northern Arizona University

Congratulations Emily on getting your 2 degrees! We couldn't be prouder of you!!! We know you're going to do great things!!! We Love you!!! Mom & Sisters



Analayah Jackson
Westwood High School

Congratulations Baby Girl! You did it!!



Marley Dallas
Accelerated Learning Academy

Congratulations, Marley!



Genesis Ann-Marie Cook
Santan Headstart District 4

Congratulations to you my sweet girl. Off to kindergarten you go! I'm always proud of you!



Victoria Elmer
Noah Webster School

I want to say how amazingly proud I am of your accomplishments and how hard you work at school. Keep going baby!



Sozin E. Manuel
ECEC

We are so proud of you Sozi Bear!



Vivianna Kelly
Coronado High School

We are so proud of Vivianna, keep going for your dreams, we love you



Adrianna Ramirez
Salt River Elementary School

Congratulations to our LoveBug! Yeah 1st grade here she comes. We love you baby girl. From Mom/Dad & Siblings

CONGRATS, GRADUATES!



Taylor Wood
Rancho Solano Preparatory

Uncle Brian and I are so proud of you! Can't wait to see where God leads you. We love you. Love, Auntie Sarah, Uncle Brian, and Lola God is with her she will not fail. -Psalm 46:5



Taylor Marie Wood
Rancho Solano Preparatory

To our amazing daughter Taylor...We are beyond grateful and amazed at all of your accomplishments and future endeavors. You are going to do more amazing things at SDSU and your future awaits! Love, Mom and Dad



Giada Constantine
Westwood High School

Our sweet daughter & sissy; we are so proud of you and all you have accomplished. Always know your worth and never let anyone dull your shine!!



Ramona Manuel
Lincoln Elementary

To our little princess we love you and we are very proud of you. I know it's hard sometimes, but we know you are doing a great job. We love you from mommy and daddy.



Ramona Manuel
Lincoln Elementary

Congratulations for graduating kindergarten. Princess, we love you and you are doing an amazing job. Can't wait for next year to see what happens next. Mommy and daddy love you dearly.



Malachi Manuel
Salt River Elementary

Congratulations graduating third grade Son, we are very proud of you. You've come so far. And I know you have a bright future ahead of you. We love you, mom and dad.



Gavin Kisto
Accelerated Learning Academy

2026 Graduate ~ ...Wooo... You did it Gavin!!!... We are Proud of You!!!... Love Yooooo...FR: Mom & The Fam...



Violet Andrews
Salt River Elementary

Congrats to our Violet! We are so proud of you for reaching your academic goals at SRES, feels like you just started kindergarten. Our girl is now a CARSON COUGAR!



Marley Reyes
Mountain View High School

We are so proud of you! Congratulations on your achievement! We are excited to see what you will accomplish next! We love you Marz! Mom & Brother



Peyton White
Salt River Elementary School

Congratulations My Sunflower on promoting to Jr High! We're so proud of you. Keep reaching for your goals and dreams. We love you!!! From All of Us



Kambriella Elmer
Noah Webster School

To my baby, reach for the stars! You can do anything you put your mind to. You are smart, brave and strong! Keep doing your best in school, you have such an amazing spirit and joy you bring to this world.



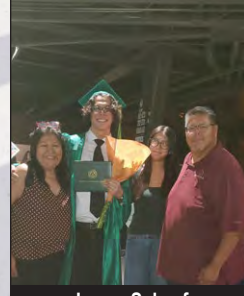
Nadia Trujillo
Chandler High School

Just want to say to my niece, you are awesome! So proud of you to get this high school diploma! Your hard work and dedication paid off. I can't wait to see what's next for you. The possibilities are endless. We love you so much!



Leevi Walker
8th Grade Promotion Sequoia Charter School

Congratulations my son I am so proud of you. Keep reaching for the stars. I love you.



James Schaff
Scottsdale Community College

Graduating with Honors AND Phi Theta Kappa Member!!!! We are so proud of you and the journey you are on...we love you more than words. Love Dad, Mom, Ava and Grandma Pat!!!!



Gabriel Valencia
Maricopa Community College

You graduated high school, and now you've earned an Associate's Degree in Applied Science for Welding. Keep achieving all your goals! Keep making the Valencias shine! We love you!



Joaquin 'JJ' Valencia
AZ Aspire Academy

We're so proud of the hard work and determination you showed throughout school, all while keeping a smile on your face. You have a blessed future! Love you so much!



Paul Valencia
Queen of Peace Catholic School

Keep giving to the world, the Creator will magnify it. "And whoever will not receive you... when you depart... shake off the dust from your feet." God bless you, son!



Joaquin, Paul, & Gabriel Valencia
High School, 8th Grade, & College

Valencia Boys, you are the pride and joy of your Tata Danny! He is smiling from heaven.



Genesis Anton
Early Childhood Education Center

Congratulations Genesis! Keep shining, learning, and dreaming big. Your journey is just beginning, and we are so proud of our sweet Pre-K graduate! Love, your Family!



Ambrielle Herrera
SRES

Through every challenge, you stayed strong and kept going. We are beyond proud of you. Congratulations on your 6th grade promotion and your journey to junior high! Love, Mom & Dad



Patricia "Patty" Woody
New School for the Art and Academic

Patricia you worked so hard to bring your dreams to life and we are always amazed by the incredible person you are and your artistic talents. We love you so much Congratulations from Mom, Dad, Sister, and your humongo army of a family.



Malcolm Lee Kuwanvama Jr
Universal Technical Institute

Mal Mal, I am so proud of you and all you have done!! Keep reaching for the stars, baby. I love you so much, Mom.



Charlie Clark Hillan
ECEC

Way to go Charlie! We're so proud of you and can't wait to see you crush kindergarten. Love Mom, Dad, Dan, Ray, and Papa



Noah Cooper
ECEC

I'm going to cry the first day of kindergarten as you climb on the bus stairs, I know you're going to do great!



Noah Cooper
Early Child Education Center

Yay Noah! On your way to Kindergarten! We love you -The Buenos



Makayla "Kaya" Willeford
Red Mountain High School

We are proud of you and can't wait to see what the future holds for you! Love you to the moon and back! Love Mom & Dad



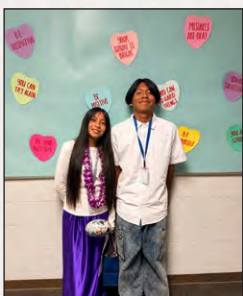
Jaheim Anderson
Mountain View High School

So proud of you son for persevering through all the challenges and getting to graduation!



iDen Burke
Michael T. Hughes Elementary School

...Wooo...Next Stop Jr. High!!!...Congratulations Bubbz!!!...We Love Yooooou Sonny!!!...From Grandma Jonell & Family...



Iszabelle Herrera & Zaiden Pedro
Hermosa Vista Elementary

Congratulations Iszabelle & Zaiden! May junior high bring new adventures, big dreams, and unforgettable memories! Love Mom, Mossimo and Ambee!



Zaiden Pedro
Hermosa Vista

We are so proud of you, Zaiden! And making the Principal's List...Love Mom and Dad...your brothers & sisters...Love Granny!!!



Dean Roy Carpenter III
Saguaro High School

We are proud of the young man you've become. Your determination, persistence, and strength reflect your character. Keep striving to become all you're meant to be. With love, Mom and Dad



Angelina Montoya
Scottsdale Community College - Associate in Arts, Emphasis in Psychology

Con-GRAD-ulations! We're so proud of you and all that you've accomplished. We can't wait to see where life takes you next and all the amazing things you'll achieve. Keep shining bright. Love Mom and Dad



Maylanie Osife-Reid
ECEC

Tiny cap, big dreams! We are so proud of you shining bright and walking confidently toward your future. Class of 2038 already making us smile with pride and love. - Love GG



Hosteen Judum Smith
Northern Arizona University

"I'll love you forever, I'll like you for always, As long as I'm living my baby you'll be..." You kept your self-promise. It's amazing to witness as a family & as other human being. Congrats Hoss!



Jeycob Sanchez
Sherman Indian High School

You did it Jey Bear. I'm so proud of you and all that you've accomplished these past 4 years attending Sherman. Keep striving and giving it your all in everything that you do in your next season. I love you always, Mom, Rj and Eyan