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To move Arizona forward, we must move education forward.

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Gearing Up for 2022: Our Advocacy Priorities

Education Forward Arizona believes that there's no better way to improve the lives of individuals and strengthen our economy than increasing educational attainment.

That's why in the coming year, our advocacy priorities will revolve around key issues that impact attainment, from quality early learning opportunities to P-20 funding.

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Issue to Watch – Arizona's School Funding Limit

More than a billion dollars of existing school funding is in jeopardy if the legislature doesn't allow school districts to spend it.

[Learn more about what it means and the potential impact it could have on our K-12 schools.](#)

Education Forward Arizona Engages with Leaders Across the State

Since the launch of Education Forward Arizona in August, we've been eager to share our mission, vision and strategic direction with our partners in every corner of the state, so we decided to do just that with our recent Roadshow tour.

In an effort to create awareness of our work and influence important policy decisions that will strengthen Arizona's P-20 education system, we visited more than 20 communities to spread our message.

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Donate Today to Double Your Impact!

Every student deserves a fair shot at success and each one of us plays a key role in making that a reality.

As an organization committed to improving education outcomes across the state, we make sure every gift made to Education Forward Arizona will have a lasting impact on ALL Arizona students, from the youngest learners to those pursuing college and careers.

We are getting closer to our goal of raising **\$30K in 30 Days**, but still have \$14,912 to go! Help us move all Arizona students forward and improve the quality of life for all Arizonans. [Make your year-end, tax-deductible gift today!](#)

Don't forget! Thanks to the generosity of key anonymous supporters, **every gift made through December 31 will receive a dollar-for-dollar match** up to \$30,000.

[DONATE TODAY](#)

AdviseAZ Provides High School Students with Near-Peer Advisers

When the time comes to apply to college, the best guides can often be students who recently went through it.

One of the ways Education Forward Arizona is working to help students attain a postsecondary education is through the AdviseAZ AmeriCorps program, which places current college students or recent college graduates in low-income (Title I) high schools to act as near-peer advisers.

These advisers work alongside high school counselors and staff to help students navigate the complexities of the college exploration process, admissions tests, applications, and the FAFSA and financial aid, as they pursue post-secondary education.



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Student Success Story: Meet Guillermo Gamez Cordova

As a first-generation college student, Guillermo Gamez Cordova's journey to Arizona State University (ASU) was not easy.

He started his college career at Cochise College in his hometown of Douglas but decided to leave school to work because his family needed the extra income.

Eventually, Guillermo grew to dislike his job and realized he could help himself and his family more if he finished his degree.

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Donor Highlight: Thunderbirds Charities

Formed in 1986 to distribute monies raised through the Waste Management Phoenix Open, Thunderbirds Charities is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to assist children and families, help people in need and improve the quality of life in the Greater Phoenix Metropolitan Area.

Thunderbirds Charities became an Education Forward Arizona mentoring partner in spring 2021 to further invest in the success of their scholarship recipients.

Today, our Education Forward Arizona Success Services team provides wraparound mentoring support services for four Thunderbirds Charities' undergraduate scholars.



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Staff Spotlight: Congrats Grads!

Congratulations to three of our staff members who recently completed their Master's degrees:

- **Shaylinn Aleman**, AzCAN Program Manager, received her Master's in Organizational Management from UArizona.
- **David Aldaco-Ramirez**, College Knowing & Going Project Coordinator, received his Master's in Public Administration with a focus on finance from ASU.
- **Monro Obenauer**, College Knowing & Going Project Coordinator, received her Master's in Secondary Education from ASU.



In the News

Rich Nickel, president and CEO of Education Forward Arizona, recently spoke with the *Arizona Republic* about the new Promise Program and what it will take to reach the state's 60% attainment goal by 2030. Read the stories here:

['This is a promise': Thousands of Arizona students can now go to ASU, NAU and UA for free](#)

['This is a wake-up call': Rate of Arizona students who go to college drops significantly](#)

EDUCATION FORWARD ARIZONA

Our mission is to advocate for and act on education improvements that advance the quality of life for all Arizonans.



educationforwardarizona.org

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