



MEMBER MONTHLY

Member Benefits & AzCAN Updates



Arizona FAFSA Challenge and Ask Benji provide six students with money for college

Ask Benji—an artificial intelligence-powered chatbot that provides 24/7 assistance to students completing the free application for federal student aid (FAFSA)—recently sponsored scholarships for students who graduated from one of the six schools that won the **Arizona FAFSA Challenge** during the 2021-22 academic year.

One student from each of the schools was picked to receive a \$500 scholarship sponsored by Ask Benji. To be selected for the scholarship, students had to complete their FAFSA and write an outstanding short essay about the importance of the FAFSA.

[See the winners here](#)

AdviseAZ receives more than \$500k to continue supporting college attainment

AmeriCorps recently announced that AdviseAZ will receive more than \$500,000 to continue its college access work in Arizona.

The funding will help AdviseAZ place 65 advisers in communities across the state. These advisers will work alongside high school or community site staff to encourage students to pursue a postsecondary education.

[Learn more](#)



Voters' Top Issues

- 1** MAKING SURE EVERY SCHOOL HAS **QUALITY TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS**
- 2** HELPING STUDENTS BE PROFICIENT IN **MATH AND READING**
- 3** INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES FOR **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

Voters prioritize key issues for candidates

In a poll commissioned by Education Forward Arizona, voters shared their priorities for education in the state. At the top of their list is the need to address the biggest issues facing education in the state: increasing teacher pay and school funding.

Voters shared strong support for increasing education attainment and closing achievement gaps by providing additional funding for low-income students and giving scholarships to low-income students to go to college.

[Read more](#)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

There are only two more College Access Professional Development Trainings left in 2022!

Our [CAP trainings](#) help college access professionals develop an understanding of their role in developing a college-going mission for all students, particularly students in poverty or facing other barriers in postsecondary planning. There are only two more courses left in 2022 and we promise you don't want to miss them! Registration for the below modules is completely free.

Advancing College and Career Readiness through a Comprehensive School Counseling Program
Sept. 12 - Oct. 21

[Register today](#)

COMING SOON: Advanced Skills in Postsecondary Education and Career Advising
Nov. 7 - Dec. 16

Registration for this course opens on Sept. 1, 2022.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2022 NCAN Conference: Advancing the Right to Postsecondary Attainment



Advancing the **Right to Postsecondary Attainment**

 **NCAN** SEPT. 12-14, 2022 ATLANTA, GA

The NCAN conference is an opportunity to learn from peers and experts. Attendees will have more 80 sessions to choose from, presented by a range of professionals from around the country committed to increasing postsecondary completion for students of color, students aspiring to break poverty cycles and who are first in their families to pursue a postsecondary pathway.

This year's conference is guaranteed to deliver a motivating lineup of courageous speakers, a range of personal and professional networking opportunities, and high-quality learning through numerous workshops and roundtable discussions.

There will also be tons of opportunities to connect with each other in thought provoking, fun, brave and educational spaces as well! You don't want to miss out! **The conference will take place Sept. 12-14 in Atlanta, Georgia. [Register today!](#)**

College Depot Summer Sessions

summer sessions

FREE, summer programs to help students plan & prepare for college. Plan for college this summer! Pick and choose the best sessions for you, or attend them all. All sessions will be hosted both in-person and virtually on the days and times below.



Every summer, College Depot offers **FREE**, fun-filled programs designed to help students plan for college. This year's Summer Sessions lineup will take place **June through August**.

Sessions are open to all students and their parents/guardians. Individuals can pick and choose the best sessions for themselves or can attend them all! This summer's sessions include:

- **[Cómo Pagar para la Educación Superior](#)**, July 9 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- **[Collegepalooza](#)**, July 16 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- **[Presenting Your Best Self: The Anatomy of a Personal Statement and Essay for College Admission and Scholarships](#)**, July 27 from 10:00 a.m. - noon
- **[Understanding College Admissions](#)**, July 30 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- **[Financial Aid and Scholarships](#)**, Aug. 20 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

NCAN UPDATES



Use Fit and Match to Increase Students' Success

By: Bill DeBaun, National College Attainment Network

Among students who entered college in the fall of 2015, **about 60% completed a degree or certificate six years later**. Just three out of every five students who jump through all of the hoops, complete all of the forms, wade through all of the processes and actually matriculate wind up with a credential six years later. It's worth noting that figure varies by state (check out tab 2 in the report's data visualization).

We would never tolerate a leak in our house that let out 40% of our water, but when we consider a leak of this magnitude in our college completion pipeline, policymakers and the public don't seem to consider the problem with the same urgency. They should; stopouts represent lost time for students, significant financial burden in terms of loans, and foregone increases to human capital in the form of health, economic, and civic outcomes. It costs students, their families, and our communities, states, and nation when students don't complete.

Our college completion leak starts well before the first college semester, and there's something we can do to help address it. One of the most important things schools, community-based programs, and everyone involved in advising a student can do is to make sure they wind up at the right postsecondary institution for them in the first place.

[Keep reading](#)

JOB OPENINGS



If you want to be part of making significant changes that benefit all Arizona students, then Education Forward Arizona is the place to do it. A career here is one that gives back every day. It's a place where you can watch your passion for education and Arizona's future grow and make a real impact for all students. Education Forward Arizona is currently hiring the following positions:

- [AdviseAZ Outreach Specialist](#)
- [AdviseAZ Project Coordinator](#)
- [College Knowing & Going Project Coordinator - Yuma](#)
- [Salesforce Development Admin](#)
- [Success Adviser - Maricopa Community Colleges](#)
- [Success Adviser - Native American Scholarship Program](#)



[EducationForwardArizona.org](https://www.educationforwardarizona.org)

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