



2020-21
35 Yuma Area Students
Awarded \$60,000

WELCOME
NEW WILDCATS!



“BEAR DOWN”

YUMA UA Alumni Club



Proudly Presents

The

2020-21

YUMACATS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

***CORPORATE SPONSORED
SCHOLARSHIPS***

AMIGO FARMS

KELSEY RAMIREZ MACIAS

PARENTS Sofia and Rafael Ramirez

SCHOOL AWC

GPA 3.813

INTENDED MAJOR/ FUTURE PLANS

· **MAJOR:** Systems Engineering

INTERESTS/ AWARDS

AWC Success Center Front Desk Assistant

Awards: Kofa Academic 'A' Team (Student recognition for having straight A's) / "Over 200 Hours Volunteered at Yuma Regional Medical Center Award" / Arizona Western College Dean's List 2018-2019 School Year/ Arizona Western College Women's Soccer Team - Captain and led team to national tournament debut/ Kofa- Soccer/Golf/Tennis teams- captain on each. Nominated for AWC's

Outstanding Student Worker Award.

QUOTES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

Displays professionalism and positive work ethic. Effective problem-solver; does not give up easily. Flexible, adapts well to last-minute changes. Goal-oriented student leader who has the attitude and aptitude for success. She has proven herself to be intelligent, professional, helpful, and reliable. She has high standards for herself and lifts others up to meet high expectations as well. Leadership-takes the lead on tasks, brings cohesion to the group, always aware of the goal/direction. She is focused and driven, and I have no doubt she will use the scholarship funding to accomplish the goals she has set.

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

"Highly motivated individual, currently pursuing a B.S. in Systems Engineering, seeking an internship position to improve myself and further develop my technical abilities." Growing up in Yuma, I was blessed to know what it is like to live in a family community- I did not want to transfer to a university far away from home. The UofA is known for their incredible engineering program, and I want to study at the best. I am determined and ready to go to Tucson. My mental toughness and willingness to try new things are key factors in why I believe in myself to be able to move to Tucson. Have a great support system within my family. I expect to be challenged and have the ability to grow into the engineer that I hope to be.

1ST BANK YUMA

AILEEN ZEREGA

PARENTS Laura Moreno Zerrega

SCHOOL Yuma High School

CLASS RANK 19/236

GPA 3.67

INTENDED MAJOR/ FUTURE PLANS

· **MAJOR:** Communication

INTERESTS/ AWARDS

Aileen is a well-rounded young woman who has not only been actively involved in school organizations such as; Student Council, Upward Bound, AVID, National Honor Society, and ASU American Dream Academy, but has also been active on the High School Soccer and Tennis Team. Furthermore, she has been active in her community devoting many hours volunteering for different worthy causes including, the Crossroads Mission, Habitat for Humanity, The Yuma Community Food Bank, Children's Festival of the Arts and the Annual City of Yuma Fairy Party. She has received numerous awards, honors and nominations over the years including; Varsity Letter Award, Varsity Soccer Captain, Rookie of the Year award, Class of 2020 Treasurer and Secretary, AASC State Convention, Arizona Girls State Nomination and the A-team. Her activities outside of the above mentioned include chess, poker, and keeping active in the many sports she enjoys.

QUOTES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

“She has clearly defined principles and values and is someone I truly admire. I was greatly impressed with her poise and drive. Aileen shows initiative, commitment and drive in everything she does.”

“I cannot think of a more deserving student than Miss Zerega for this scholarship. As stated before, Aileen is someone who has major potential to thrive at the University of Arizona. She is not the kind of person that is satisfied with mediocrity and dreams of creating a bright future for herself.”

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

AWC- will have 8 credits at the end of Spring 2020 semester with a college GPA of 3.8. Aileen impressed the UA Cats Scholarship Committee with her great smile, appearance and confidence. She provided excellent responses and was extremely personable throughout her interview.

GRIFFIN RANCHES

ABRAHAM PATINO

PARENTS Vanessa & Abraham Patino Jr.

SCHOOL Cibola High School

CLASS RANK 34/576

GPA 4

INTENDED MAJOR/FUTURE PLANS

College of Engineering

INTERESTS/AWARDS

A-Team, National Honor Society, Certified CPR, Boys State,

Explorers Program with Yuma County Sheriff's Office

Completed YPD Summer Academy

QUOTES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

Abraham has a strong work ethic and has a definite grasp on his future aspirations. He is a very responsible and intelligent young man. He is determined to accomplish his post-secondary goals at the University of Arizona. He is very mature and is a great role model for his peers.

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

Besides being an outstanding academic student, he was involved in activities such as Renaissance Club and Science Club; Appointed into Civil Air Patrol Will apply for ROTC at U of A.

MISENHIMER, AIVAZIAN, & TENNANT, P.C.

SABRINA PLACENCIA

PARENTS Placencia and Adelina Carrillo

SCHOOL Yuma High School

CLASS RANK 8/236

GPA 3.85

INTENDED MAJOR/ FUTURE PLANS

- **MAJOR:** Communications
- **LIFE GOALS:** “I want to expand the horizons of my community in Yuma; I want to give them something they've never before seen, whatever that may be.”

INTERESTS/ AWARDS

Sabrina was involved in several academic and extra-curricular activities. These included Upward Bound, Student Council Vice President, National Honor Society, Varsity Cheer Captain, dance, and tennis team. She also volunteered locally with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and the Yuma Community Food Bank.

QUOTES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

“Her passion and eager attitude are apparent and inspire other students.” “Her sunny disposition is always so welcoming.” “Excels in ALL categories.”

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

Sabrina made conversation easy and effortless. She demonstrated a strong desire to contribute to her community and presented herself as a well-rounded and mature young woman.

NATIONAL BANK OF ARIZONA SCHOLARSHIP

JORGE CARLOS GONZALEZ

PARENTS Jorge and Tannia Gonzalez

SCHOOL Kofa High School

CLASS RANK 18/550

GPA 3.738

INTENDED MAJOR/ FUTURE PLANS

- **MAJOR:** Physiology
- **LIFE GOALS:** Become a cardiologist

INTERESTS/ AWARDS

Jorge has participated in the University of Arizona's Med Start program where he participated in conducting research on obesity. He certainly kept busy as he served as Secretary of the Kofa High School National Honor Society and volunteered with local organizations such as Old Souls Refuge, The Humane Society of Yuma, and Crossroads Mission. He also managed to gain work skills and praise from employers as a retail cashier and as an office assistant.

QUOTES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

"Jorge is a self starter and always completes his tasks." "He is a very fast learner and is not afraid to take constructive criticism." "Jorge has an amazing ability to work with and inspire others."

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

Jorge impressed the committee with his professional demeanor and maturity beyond his years. He showed candor and honesty in relation to the challenges he has overcome and those that still lie ahead as he works toward his goal of becoming a medical professional. He showed the ability to communicate clearly and demonstrated an ability to self-reflect. These are valuable traits that will help ensure Jorge's success.

PILKINGTON CONSTRUCTION CO

SHANNA REGISTER

PARENTS Sharon Register

SCHOOL Arizona Western College

GPA 3.8

INTENDED MAJOR/FUTURE PLANS

Information Science and eSociety

INTERESTS & AWARDS

Shanna is a rounded individual who is passionate about making an impact in the world of technology, particularly where it meets consumers in the realm of social media, news consumption, and information. She is excited to share her talents and experiences at the U of A, to make the most of her academics and college experience.

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

Shanna loves to give a hundred percent effort in everything she does, and beams positivity in her interviewing. The scholarship committee loved hearing about how her life path has brought her in alignment with what she hopes to do one day: To work for a media corporation such as BuzzFeed or YouTube.

PINNACLE SEED

MIKO LAMAYO

PARENTS Joy Pastor and Rommel Lamayo
SCHOOL Gila Ridge High School
CLASS RANK 19/516
GPA 3.738

INTENDED MAJOR/FUTURE PLANS

Psychological Science

INTERESTS/AWARDS

Academic Decathlon, Life Scout rank in Boy Scouts

A-team, National Honor Society, An award-winning Swimmer for Gila Ridge and Yuma Heat.

QUOTES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

Miko has the ability to get others to follow him, he has a mild demeanor that shows that he genuinely values others opinions and ideas as her works toward a goal. He has an ability to bring groups of people that do not normally tend to interact or have some kind of issue together.

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

Miko is a Ham Radio Operator. He has in volunteered in a number of clean-up projects, i.e. Mitri Lake, Clear Lake, Squaw Lake. He has volunteered with the Yuma Food Bank. Putting his swimming experience to work he has worked as a lifeguard and taught swimming lessons.

SMITH FAMILY FOUNDATION

ALLYSON MUNOZ

PARENTS Alma A. Ballesteros
SCHOOL Cibola High School
CLASS RANK 22/576
GPA 3.96

INTENDED MAJOR/ FUTURE PLANS

- **MAJOR:** Public Health
- **LIFE GOALS:** to work in the medical field with an emphasis on Global Health

INTERESTS/ AWARDS

Allyson is a Certified Nursing Assistant. She volunteers at YRMC and has over 200 hours of service. She is the Community Service Chair for Cibola Student Council and has coordinated such activities as blood drives, clothing drives, Make-A-Wish Foundation fundraisers, to name just a few. Allyson is the VP of HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America. She was awarded the HEAR T OF YUMA AWARD for Outstanding Youth Leader. Allyson received the Volunteer Leadership Award from YRMC in 2020.

QUOTES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

“Allyson is one of those rare students that teachers will never forget.” “She soaks in new information readily and is very eager to learn.” “She is a truly unique young lady who does not let anything stop her from accomplishing her goals.”

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

Allyson believes that focusing on others is the best way she can most fully accomplish her goals, that to see the world through the eyes of others gives insight. She believes that as we grow we not only become the sum of our experiences but also “we become a sum of the way we perceive and learn from our experiences.”

THOMPSON DESIGN & ARCHITECTS

JOSHUA GONZALEZ

PARENTS Maria Partida & Jose Orlando Gonzalez Garcia
SCHOOL Yuma High School

CLASS RANK 34/236

GPA 3.643

INTENDED MAJOR/ FUTURE PLANS

- **MAJOR:** Architecture
- **LIFE GOALS:** to create and plan to make buildings and make a change in a community

INTERESTS/ AWARDS

AVID Club, Volunteer at Boys and Girls Club (Garbage disposal, helped on homework (Power Hour), assisted in activities). Served my community at Heritage Library (Reshelf, Organize, Dust shelves). My interests include music and soccer. I am bilingual

QUOTES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

Joshua is a perceptive, sharp, quick individual with a high aptitude. He is driven to understand how things work and his strengths are as impressive as his intellectual accomplishments. He is one of the most exceptional students I have encountered in my 15 years of teaching. Great leader who will have great achievements in the near future. Joshua will be greatly missed by all of his teachers at YHS. He is looked upon as a team leader and admired for his educational achievements

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

Learned to work hard for what he wants even if it's frustrating and feels impossible. Gained more confidence in self because learned English. "When I learned English I knew I could accomplish anything"- took eight years to develop proficiency in English. "Out of this experience I understood that nothing is obtainable without hard work and dedication, that even through rough times I need to pull through and persevere." I know The University of Arizona can help me become better.

WEALTHCARE FINANCIAL

OSCAR LOPEZ

PARENTS Jesus E. Lopez and Nohemi Fimbres

SCHOOL San Luis High School

CLASS RANK 3/664

GPA 3.978

INTENDED MAJOR/FUTURE PLANS

Computer Engineering

INTERESTS & AWARDS

Oscar is fluent in both English and Spanish, and has experience in the culinary industry in addition to his stellar academics. His dream is to study computer engineering at the University of Arizona, and he is proud to make that dream come true next fall. At his core, Oscar aims to follow in the footsteps of his father and to hone in on academics to further pursue the next-level possibilities in computer engineering.

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

Oscar is bright and a joyous individual who is looking to constantly evolve. Aside from his academics, he worked hard after school hours and aimed to earn money as a sushi chef.

DONOR SCHOLARSHIPS

CULLISON FAMILY

FIONA MADRID

PARENTS Amanda Quintero Escalanti

SCHOOL Kofa High School

CLASS RANK 52/550

GPA 3.756

INTENDED MAJOR/ FUTURE PLANS

- **MAJOR:** Veterinary Science
- **LIFE GOALS:** Veterinarian for exotic animals but with a focus on barn animals

INTERESTS/ AWARDS

AVID participant

Kofa Regent Marching Band- Squad and Section Leader

Kofa High School A Team, Arizona Girls State,

Special Olympics 2018 - helped set up for events, refereed, and gave out awards

QUOTES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

Always does quality work, creative and hard working. Has the ability to light up anyone's day and still focus on what she needs to do. Responsible, diligent and persevering. Able to work with others and can take the leader role easily. Goal oriented and problem solver.

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

Intends to participate in the Pride of Arizona Marching Band. KHS Marching Band has taught me many things like leadership, communication skills, and most importantly family isn't always just through blood. You form a bond with your section that makes you even closer than you could imagine, and a close bond with another 80 people. For the past two years I have had the honor to be in Unified Sports, which is Physical Education with Special Needs students. I am extremely grateful to get to know all the athletes and have a friendship with them. And watch all their amazing, lovable, and funny personalities shine through.

AUTUMN MCINTOSH

PARENTS Jodi & Sam McIntosh

SCHOOL Kofa High School

CLASS RANK 8/550

GPA 4.0

INTENDED MAJOR/ FUTURE PLANS

- **MAJOR:** Physiology
- **LIFE GOALS:** obstetrics

INTERESTS/ AWARDS

Straight A's/The "A" Team every year 2016-2020. Top ten in graduating class of 2020. Performer of the Year 2019-2020. Interests- Dance, Humane Society.

QUOTES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

Very organized and has great time management. Complete quality work and is always a team player - able to work and collaborate with all team members. Autumn is a natural leader, encouraging others through her behavior, words, and actions to pursue excellence for themselves - Fantastic student who continuously does her best in the classroom and out. Autumn is passionate about

working in Health Care Industry, she holds herself accountable and to the strictest standards of professional behavior. She uses appropriate language at all times and presents herself with integrity and respect.

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

Desired an exceptional university that was not too far from home. I have identified my strengths and weaknesses to self reflect and improve my work ethic. Even in times of struggle, I always find a way to work through and overcome it. Dance has been a hobby that takes my mind off of the harsh reality around me and gives me more room to grow. The University of Arizona is my valuable connection between my 17 year-old-self with a dream and my 30-year-old self with a career. I look forward to being a bright-eyed Wildcat.

ELIZABETH MOORE

PARENTS Jana and Steve Moore
SCHOOL Gila Ridge High School
CLASS RANK 3/516
GPA 4.0

INTENDED MAJOR/ FUTURE PLANS

- **MAJOR:** Journalism
- **LIFE GOALS:** combining writing, creativity and technology will allow her to impact the world

INTERESTS/ AWARDS

Elizabeth is multi-faceted. She is academically excellent, involved in the arts as a ceramist and as a volunteer in ARTbeat, a member of Ballet Yuma Academy, dancing 6 days a week, as well as working on many other aspects of Ballet Yuma, is an entrepreneur—starting a business of transporting students to lessons and other activities after school. And she is also a student worker in the Yuma School District Athletics Department

QUOTES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

“Extremely diligent and focuse,” “main abilities reside in her effective written and oral communication skills.”

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

Elizabeth has a diversity of experience with a specific focus on the arts, dance, ceramics/studio arts and writing. She sees how combining her skills will open up many opportunities in career choices. With all in which she is involved, I wonder when she sleeps!

YESENIA SIEMENS

PARENTS Olga Moreno-Urquiza and Mark Siemens
SCHOOL Cibola High School
CLASS RANK 6/576
GPA 3.9

INTENDED MAJOR/ FUTURE PLANS

- **MAJOR:** Biology/Medicine
- **LIFE GOALS:** “To use my science knowledge instead of letting it hoard like a dusty dragon’s treasure trove.”

INTERESTS/ AWARDS

Yesenia received the National Hispanic Merit Award 2019, National Commended Scholar, participated in Academic Decathlon, receiving high honors. She has received multiple ribbons at the Yuma County Fair in several home economics areas and photography. She is also interested in gardening and “all living things.”

QUOTES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

She has a “desire for knowledge in order to understand the world she lives in and not just to get a good grade. That’s refreshing!” “Yesenia is an excellent and focused student who has been an anchor in my Academic Decathlon team for 3 years.” She is creative and inquisitive.

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

Yesenia is a volunteer at YRMC. She is an intern in the Plant Pathology Diagnostics Lab at UA Yuma. She tends to be involved in activities and hobbies that require attention and care of living things.

DIANA VALENCIA

PARENTS Monica Cruz Valencia

SCHOOL Cibola High School

CLASS RANK 25/576

GPA 3.913

INTENDED MAJOR/FUTURE PLANS

· MAJOR: Biology

INTERESTS/AWARDS

A-Team,

County Science Fair Research Project on Diabetes

Diana was involved in Cross Country, AVID, Diabetes Awareness and Support

AWC Talent Search

QUOTES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

Diana is strong and intelligent, two attributes much needed for a future doctor. She is also kind and compassionate, Diana keeps working through difficulties and comes out even stronger and more determined in the process. She follows through on every opportunity that is presented to her.

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

Diana has been involved in many hours of volunteering for her church. She also tutored students in Math and English and assisted kindergarten teachers with activities and assignments.

JOHNWESSLEY YOUNG

PARENTS John and Denise Young

SCHOOL Yuma Catholic High School

CLASS RANK 1/100

GPA 4.0

INTENDED MAJOR/ FUTURE PLANS

· MAJOR: Undecided / Aerospace, Aeronautical, and Astronautical Engineering

· LIFE GOALS: Aerospace Engineer

INTERESTS/ AWARDS

JohnWessley is very active in several areas, including school, church, and community. His extracurricular activities include student government (3-time Class President), track, football, campus ministry, and National Honor Society. Awards include the AWC Dean's List and the St. John Paul II Youth Award.

QUOTES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

"JohnWessley has a zeal for being a leader inside the classroom and outside the classroom."

"JohnWessley is the kind of student you are grateful to have in your career." "He is a responsible leader and is always there to help others who are in need."

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

JohnWessley has already completed 67 college units. While his academic resume speaks for itself, he presents himself as a mature young man who is prepared to succeed. He demonstrated a level-headed and thoughtful disposition that will serve him well as he pursues his career goals.

LILY MCNAIR

PARENTS W. Russell and Leah McNair
SCHOOL Home Schooled & AWC
GPA 4.0

INTENDED MAJOR/ FUTURE PLANS

- **MAJOR:** Biochemistry/Medicine
- **LIFE GOALS:** To protect and improve the health of individuals and the public

INTERESTS/ AWARDS

Lily also has earned over 100 credits from AWC as an Honor Student. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society as well as being on the Dean's List every semester. Her Honors Capstone project entitles Dehydration in Southwestern Arizona: An Educational Approach to Vulnerable Populations. At AWC she was a student instructor for General Chemistry I and a Math and Science tutor. She is a cellist and a member of the AWC String Ensemble.

QUOTES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

"Lily was one of my brightest and most committed students...I have never had a student more dedicated in reaching her goals..." Her abilities are her intellectual gifts...her breadth of interests and knowledge and her moral and spiritual grounding." "You will find her an honorable and reliable person who wishes to achieve the very most with her life."

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

She is the founder and editor of The Pillar, the Phi Theta Kappa newsletter. Lily will receive from AWC an Associate of Science and an Associate of Arts degrees, both with Highest Academic Distinction.

NICHOLAS BEHR

PARENTS Jamie and Glenna Behr
SCHOOL Gila Ridge High School
CLASS RANK 4/516
GPA 3.97

INTENDED MAJOR/FUTURE PLANS

College of Engineering

INTERESTS & AWARDS

Nic Behr is an academic ace that is at the top of his class at Gila Ridge High School. He earned A-team awards all four years in high school, was on the Academic Decathlon Team, and achieved honors status in advanced placement courses. In addition, he is a cross-country runner and has served as a lifeguard.

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

Nic is fascinated by science, coding, technology and how it is all intersecting with future developments for society... we have no doubt that coupled with his dedication to academics and professionalism, Nic will accomplish incredible things at the UA.

LAU FAMILY

KAREN ORNELAS

PARENTS Angelica Ornelas
SCHOOL Kofa High School
CLASS RANK 5/560
GPA 3.98

INTENDED MAJOR/ FUTURE PLANS

- **MAJOR:** Biology
- **LIFE GOALS:**

INTERESTS/ AWARDS

Karen has an impressive resume highlighting her many activities including; Avid, French Club Treasure, VP of JSA Kofa Chapter, SkillsUSA, and Treasure of Veterans Heritage Project. Additionally, she has volunteered many hours with Old Souls k9 Rescue, selling concessions at high school games, Skills USA, taking senior portraits, Kohl's Cares and helping her family at their farm in Mexico. She is top ten in her class, has been on Academic Honor Roll since 2016 and has taken 8 AP classes throughout her high school career.

QUOTES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

"Karen is a gifted and well-rounded student. Her most impressive talents are her creativity and her ingenuity. She has a curiosity that drives her learning and is eager to always be improving."

"Karen was one of my best students last year in AP Literature and Composition. She did not shy away from material that had a lot of conflicting messages and themes. She was innately curious about the worlds we read about and how characters behaved in various situations. She is one of the few students who already had high expectations for herself and knew what she wanted out of her time at Kofa High School. She will carry that ethic with her to her next academic choice."

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

Throughout her recommendations, Karen's dedication, work ethic, creativity and curiosity to learn is highlighted on several occasions. Karen's love for photography stood out during her interview along with her love for biology and math and the various career choices that can stem from these fields. She is number 5 in her high school class and will have 6 college credits by the end of Spring 2020 semester.

ADRIANA MEDINA

PARENTS Juana and Octavio Medina
SCHOOL Kofa High School
CLASS RANK 6/550
GPA 3.951

INTENDED MAJOR/FUTURE PLANS

· MAJOR: Pre-Nursing

INTERESTS/AWARDS

National Honor Society, A-Team
Heart of Yuma Award, Nominated by Director of the Volunteer Services at YRMC
"Outstanding Young Leader "of Yuma Arizona

QUOTES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

Adriana is very personable and knows the importance in providing excellent customer service. She knows, understands and exhibits our primary value, which is the patients come first, and she makes every effort to make that a priority.

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

Adriana was part of the U of A Med-Start Project on obesity; she was part of creating this project for our community. Adriana was part of the Mentor Me MD at YRC and attended monthly meetings with the Family Medicine Residents. Adriana was a camp facilitator for the Health Care Career Camp summer of 2018 and 2019.

DEVON WHEELER

PARENTS Jamie Kearney
SCHOOL Gila Ridge High School
CLASS RANK 2/515
GPA 4.0

INTENDED MAJOR/ FUTURE PLANS

· MAJOR: Biochemistry and Molecular and Cellular Biology
· LIFE GOALS: Devon would like to be a pre-med student so he can then become a radiologist and open up his own practice.

INTERESTS/ AWARDS

Devon wants to pursue a career in medicine, inspired not only by his life experience, but also by his parents. He believes that education, compassion, and empathy are the embodiment of who he wants to be as well as the same qualities he wants to incorporate into his career. Devon is also a varsity member of the Gila Ridge Swim Team, co-captain of the swim team, and a member of the Academic Decathlon and the National Honor Society. He is also a volunteer for Saddles of Joy and the Yuma Armed Forces Memorial Park collection of 2017.

QUOTES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

“Devon will always be one of my most memorable students,. He is hardworking and driven, as well as being a great motivator of his peers. When he gets a great idea, he will figure out a plan of action and will get the task done. No matter how daunting a challenge is, Devon will figure out how to surpass It.” - Tia Fritz, Science Department Chair and Teacher

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

It was a true pleasure to interview Devon. He is a determined young man, and you can tell that the challenges he has surpassed have led him to where he is today. He was very respectful, extremely well spoken and a true joy to spend time with. Devon will go far in this world.

RUSTY & ANN MCBRIDE

FRIDA FRAGOSO

PARENTS	Rafael and Cristina Fragoso
SCHOOL	Yuma Catholic High School
CLASS RANK	32/96
GPA	3.6512

INTENDED MAJOR/FUTURE PLANS

To become a clinical psychologist

INTERESTS & AWARDS

Frida is a strong-willed and dedicated Yuma Catholic graduate aiming to better the world attaining an academic education that would allow her to delve into the field of psychology. A bilingual student who is proud of her heritage and continues to strive to polish her leadership and professional skills through an array of clubs and chapters, Frida is also an active member of her community where she partakes in giving back through Campesinos Sin Fronteras. She's a cheerleader, volleyball player, school newspaper reporter, and the winner of multiple academic awards during her time at YC.

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

In addition to graduating from Yuma Catholic, Frida has 60 credits from Arizona Western College under her belt.

ALEXIS RASCON

PARENTS	Ricardo Rascon
SCHOOL	Gila Ridge High School
CLASS RANK	149/517
GPA	3.471

INTENDED MAJOR/ FUTURE PLANS

- MAJOR: Nursing
- LIFE GOALS: nurse practitioner

INTERESTS/ AWARDS

I spend about 7 hours a week participating in drama depending on the play. In three years of being apart of FFA she participated in several different team competitions that included Food science, Dairy foods, and Aquaculture. HOSA stands for future health professional students of America- place 5th in a team competition in health career display board. CNA Certified

QUOTES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

Innate leadership and friendliness, energy and willingness to serve. Has an educational goal and a plan to achieve that goal. Can be bold and direct and speak her mind, while allowing others to do so as well. Can focus specifically on a task and can work on multiple tasks at one time. Her genuine nature allows her to fit into distinct and disparate groups without rancor or disrespect. Leads by example and graciousness. She knows what she wants and will succeed in getting there. Her abilities are communication, hard work, dedication and drive.

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

Completed 60 units at Arizona Western College ...I knew I wanted to go to UA, I always wore and owned different UA merchandise and everyone knew that was my dream school. The moment I found out I got into UA I cried because this was the school I wanted to go to since I knew what college was. Very bubbly happy person that people are easily drawn to, very accepting of everyone.

YUMA REGION BICYCLE COALITION

PALOMA VALENCIA

PARENTS Rodrigo Valencia and Leticia Valencia

SCHOOL Cibola High School

CLASS RANK 18/576

GPA 3.953

INTENDED MAJOR/ FUTURE PLANS

- **MAJOR:** Biomedical Sciences
- **CAREER GOALS:** Medical School to fulfill her dream of becoming a Cardiologist.

INTERESTS/ AWARDS

Paloma has been very involved in many leadership activities throughout her high school career such as; Student Council, 4-H, Science Club, Swim Team, Performing Dance and the Track and Field Team. Due to her involvement, she has been able to participate in experiences like Youth Leadership Conference at Stanford University, the State Student Council Conference and the Arizona State University Medical Program.

Additionally, Paloma has given back to her community through her regularly volunteering at Yuma Regional Medical Center in their surgery department. She has also volunteered for the Caballeros de Yuma and Yuma Firefighters Association in their many events in Yuma throughout the years.

QUOTES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

“Paloma is one of the most well-rounded students I have ever had with high academic achievement, being an excellent leader in Student Council, and being a part of a phenomenal dance team here at Cibola High School. Having one conversation with her could change any person’s mindset about this future generation of teens. I know that Paloma is going to be extremely successful in the medical field, and whatever she sets her mind to.”

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

Paloma has completed 10 college credits at AWC while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. She has been part of the Honors High School Society since 2018 and has been awarded Cibola’s High School Academic Excellence Honors Award from 2016-2019. Paloma was very professional throughout her virtual interview and did an excellent job providing thorough and well thought out answers. She is going to make an excellent wildcat!

DANIELLE MONROE

PARENTS Shelley and Michael Monroe

SCHOOL Gila Ridge High School

CLASS RANK 27/516

GPA 3.857

INTENDED MAJOR/FUTURE PLANS

- **MAJOR:** Animal Science

INTERESTS/AWARDS

Danielle was a scholar athlete in Tennis and Volleyball.

Danielle has been a leader in 4H as a president of Desert Pride 4H, and a Yuma County 4-H Ambassador. She was an FFA Greenhand Officer.

She had Grand champion 4-H Swine, Reserve Champion Market Swine.

QUOTES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

Danielle is hardworking, highly organized and willing to share her knowledge and talents to help those around her. She works well in a team setting and yet is a natural leader. She is intelligent and polite.

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM Application AND/OR INTERVIEW

Danielle has been very involved in our community volunteering for various organizations, i.e. Blanket Project for the Salvation Army, Copper Hills Retirement Home, Yuma Community Food Bank.

GEORGE ROMERO

PARENTS George and Raquel Romero

SCHOOL Kofa High School

CLASS RANK 5/550

GPA 4.0

INTENDED MAJOR/ FUTURE PLANS

- **MAJOR:** Law / Political Science
- **LIFE GOALS:** Practice law

INTERESTS/ AWARDS

George earned several distinctions, including the National Hispanic Recognition Program, AP Scholar with Distinction, and the Kofa High School "A-Team." He participated in extracurricular activities such as basketball, National Honor Society, and Junior Statesmen of America. He volunteered at the Yuma County Library and also promoted local music concerts.

QUOTES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

"George displays integrity of the highest order." "Academically he strives to exceed beyond what it expected of him." "He is always willing and able to learn new tasks and to be trusted with duties of high difficulty."

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

The committee was impressed with his ability to carry a conversation and quickly relate to others. He carried himself well and appeared professional, mature, and genuinely excited about this next phase of his life. His enthusiasm was unmistakable!

AIDEN COCKBURN

PARENTS Abby and Tom Cockburn

SCHOOL Gila Ridge High School

CLASS RANK 1/517

GPA 4.0

INTENDED MAJOR/ FUTURE PLANS

- **MAJOR:** Undecided but interested in pre-law
- **LIFE GOALS:** Aiden aspires to be an attorney

INTERESTS/ AWARDS

Aiden has been very involved at Gila Ridge High School. Not only was he captain of his chess club, but he also took part in Junior State of America, winning the best speaker award at Spring Congress. Aiden also took part in Boys State Arizona, holding trial in the mock Supreme Court and running a mock reservation. Aiden also volunteered for the Gila Ridge marching band and enjoyed his time with Gila Ridge Theater Arts.

QUOTES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

"Additionally to Aiden's great deal of academic excellence, he has impeccable character. Aiden is smart, as aforementioned; but he is also humble about his abilities. He also knows how to be strong,

firm, and confident in his communication. Aiden's communication is always polite and with intention."

- Danny Marron, YUHSD Counselor

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

Aiden is a fine young man that will do very well at the U of A, based on how well he has already done in high school. He has been able to overcome his personal challenges to rise to the top of the class. He will be someone to watch out for in the future.

YUMACATS CLUB SCHOLARSHIPS

SID WOODS MEMORIAL

PAIGE JOHNSON

PARENTS Sabrina Johnson

SCHOOL AHS

CLASS RANK 4/60

GPA 3.87

INTENDED MAJOR/ FUTURE PLANS

- **MAJOR:** Agricultural Technology Management & Education
- **LIFE GOALS:** To become an Agricultural Education Teacher

INTERESTS/ AWARDS

Paige is very involved in FFA—Arizona State FFA Degree, Grand Champion Production Steer Showman and has placed 1st and 2nd in a variety of Yuma district FFA competitions. She has also held various leadership posts in the Yuma District and is Chapter President this year. In the Yuma County Fair she has had entries in both Swine and Beef Production. At AHS she is a member of Student Council and played both Varsity Volleyball and Softball.

QUOTES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

"She is a natural born leader. Paige has the ability to get along with all of the different groups on campus and to be an effective leader." "I cannot say enough what a tremendous young lady she is." Her work ethic and drive to be the best version of herself has already made her successful in high school." "If I had to pick out one out of all the amazing students I've taught, it would be Paige!"

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

Paige has been involved in many volunteer projects in Wellton. She has several siblings currently attending college. But she says that she wants to be the first in her family to live out their dream at UofA...she is "ready to be a Wildcat!"

ROBERT J. MOODY MEMORIAL

CRYSTAL BECERRA LOPEZ

PARENTS Angeles Lopez

SCHOOL AWC

GPA 3.27

INTENDED MAJOR/ FUTURE PLANS

- **MAJOR:** *Nutritional Sciences/ Dietetics*
- **LIFE GOALS:** career in Dentistry or become a Registered Dietician

INTERESTS/ AWARDS

Presenter at the Pebble Beach Authors & Ideas Festival at the Stevenson School in 2015. Participated in the Flamenco Dance program in San Luis, AZ. Attended the Math and Computer Science (MACS) summer program directed by the California State University Monterey Bay and Hartwell College.

Worked in fields with grapes (42-57 hrs /week)

QUOTES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

A very resilient person who has learned to overcome obstacles and barriers every time she has been faced with them in order to pursue her academic goals. A charismatic, persistent and creative individual. Humble and caring, seeks out new opportunities for her and her younger siblings. She was often the “primary caregiver” for her younger siblings as her mother worked long hours in agriculture. Responsible, dedicated and smart. Open to feedback. Mature, caring and open to new ideas. She is compassionate and helps those in need.

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

I will be a first-generation university student in my family, and I want to be a role model to my siblings, cousins, and even aunts and uncles to show them that with dedication and hard work, anything is possible.

JOHN WILHELMY MEMORIAL

FELIX FISCHER

PARENTS Ulrich & Junya Fischer

SCHOOL Cibola High School

CLASS RANK 23/576

GPA 3.95

INTENDED MAJOR/ FUTURE PLANS

- MAJOR: Biology (College of Science)

- LIFE GOALS: Felix has been accepted into the honors college and plans to secure a bachelors degree in nursing before enrolling in medical school to become an orthopedic doctor.

INTERESTS/ AWARDS

At a very young age Felix had a strong interest in health related topics, dating back to when he attended The University of Arizona PharmCamp. His interests only grew after taking anatomy and physiology courses. Felix is a basketball coach, the president of his school’s robotics club and a tutor. He also participated in SkillsUSA for three years. Felix has also volunteered for almost 100 hours at Yuma Regional Medical Center’s pharmacy and gift shop.

QUOTES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

“Felix sets his goals far beyond what normal students do as he wishes to stand out. During class one day he told me that he lives by one of my favorite quotes. ‘Shoot for the moon, for if you miss, you will land among the stars’. He is one of the most diverse students I have ever had with high academic achievement.” - Anthony Clayton, YUHSD Teacher

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

Felix is a driven student with a bright future. He knows what his goals and dreams are, and knows the hard work and dedication it will take to make them a reality. He is helpful to his peers and an all-around worthy recipient of this scholarship and more.

J.R. CULLISON MEMORIAL

PRISCILLA GIA BARRAGAN

PARENTS Paul and Blanca Barragan

SCHOOL Yuma High School

CLASS RANK 12/232

GPA 3.756

INTENDED MAJOR/ FUTURE PLANS

- MAJOR: Criminal Justice Studies

- LIFE GOALS: Career in Forensic Identification and Social Work

INTERESTS/ AWARDS

Priscilla has served several leadership roles, including Secretary of State for Arizona Girls State and Student Body President. She was involved in the National Honor Society and Yuma Youth Leadership. During her time at Yuma High School, she was captain of both JV and Varsity Cheer squads. Her

volunteer work included time at the Yuma Police Department Forensics Laboratory, which remains an area of particular interest and future career field for Priscilla.

QUOTES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

“She is very pleasant, self-assured, responsible, and cooperative when working on a project with others.”

“Her passion and eager attitude are apparent and inspire others.” “Priscilla is a smart young lady ready to capitalize on her future with any opportunity given.”

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

In addition to Priscilla’s impressive and well-rounded resume, she demonstrated a positive attitude and a strong desire to pursue higher education. Her potential to serve as a leader and contribute to the community were clear. Priscilla showed that she will represent the YUMACATS well in her future endeavors!

RUTH (McKALE) & RAY CONWAY MEMORIAL

MANNY ACOSTA

PARENTS	Maria Acosta
SCHOOL	Cibola High School
CLASS RANK	5/576
GPA	3.77

INTENDED MAJOR/FUTURE PLANS

Pre-Pharmaceutical Science

INTERESTS/AWARDS

National Honor Society, A-Team, GATE member.

Explorer Program for Yuma County Sheriff’s Office

QUOTES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

Manuel’s main talent and abilities are his initiative to challenge himself and his desire to learn new things. Manuel is one of the most outstanding students that I have taught. Some words that describe him hardworking, respectful, intelligent, and self-motivated. He is also honest and sincerely a nice person to be around. Manuel sets the bar high for himself and it is evidence in his schoolwork.

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

In his spare time Manuel enjoys restoring classic cars with his father and grandfather. Manuel hopes that the classic cars that he has helped to restore will become family heirlooms.

BARBARA MAJOR MEMORIAL

BRIANNA SALAZAR

PARENT	Alicia and Fernando Salazar
SCHOOL	Cibola High School
CLASS RANK	52/576
GPA	3.86

INTENDED MAJOR/ FUTURE PLANS

· MAJOR: Studio Art

· LIFE GOALS: To help people connect & understand themselves better through art & music.

INTERESTS/ AWARDS

Brianna’s diverse interests have been highlighted in her resume showing her involvement in her high school Dance team, a local dance company, the Yuma Orchestra Association, Yuma County Fair, the Arizona AMAE All-State Orchestra Festival and Southwest Technical Education classes. She works as a Violin Mentor helping students ages 5-40 on their violin performance, music theory/reading and technique and enjoys Drawing/Illustrating with a focus on Digital and Traditional Sketch. Her experience is with acrylics, oil pastels, colored pencils, watercolors, graphite, scratch-media, sumi-ink and ceramics. She was awarded a Top Class and Cash Award for her Digital Illustration that was in the 2019 Yuma County Fair and was part of the A-Team at Cibola from 2016-2018.

QUOTES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

“Brianna is creative, independent, and is an analytical problem solver.” Brianna always takes calculated risks; she knows her limits, but always does more in an effort to grow wiser. She is realistic and humble to learning from others. She values knowledge and is hungry for it. Her creativity is limitless and has led her to earn creative awards in our community.”

“She shows great work ethic, responsibility and creativity to solve any problem that may come her way. She is great artist and student.”

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

Brianna has completed 8 AWC college credits and has 10 in progress. She was engaged and honest throughout her interview about some of the challenges she has overcome and how that has strengthened her as an individual and has fueled her passion to help others. The committee was impressed with her responses and her expertise in the arts.

DON McCAIN MEMORIAL

TATUM BINGHAM

PARENTS Doug and Diana Bingham

SCHOOL Gila Ridge High School

CLASS RANK 11/516

GPA 3.92

INTENDED MAJOR/ FUTURE PLANS

- MAJOR: General Studies (College of Humanities)

- LIFE GOALS: Tatum’s life goal is to do something she is passionate about. Her mother and father have been the most important mentors in her life, showing her what hard work is, and how special it is to do something that you love. Tatum has a deep love for Yuma, and not only was she involved in ballet for 10 years, but she’s currently working with her FFA chapter and also works a part-time job.

INTERESTS/ AWARDS

Tatum was awarded the Arizona FFA Association State Degree in 2019. She was also the Gila Ridge FFA Chapter student adviser, parliamentarian and historian, as well as the greenhand reporter. She also made the A Team every semester at her school. Tatum also took part in the annual Harvest Dinner and was a clerical assistant at Realty Executives.

QUOTES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

“Tatum is one of the most engaging and enjoyable young ladies I have ever met. She shows great leadership skills while being considerate of others around her. She is engaging, fun and has a great sense of humor. She is compassionate, kind and always considers others when making decisions.”

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

Tatum is a bright student that has the world ahead of her and is open to see what is in store. She is determined to find what she is passionate about and doing whatever she can to make that her dream career. We are confident that Tatum will do a stellar job at the U of A and represent Yuma well.

SUE CANDREA MEMORIAL

JADE BUTCHER

PARENTS Brian and Julie Butcher

SCHOOL Cibola High School

CLASS RANK 2/564

GPA 3.956

INTENDED MAJOR/ FUTURE PLANS

- MAJOR: Dance

- LIFE GOALS: Dancing professionally with a ballet company or touring on Broadway before running her own business.

INTERESTS/ AWARDS

Jade is a senior company member with Ballet Yuma, mentoring young dancers by assisting them with stage productions. She also performed with the company in events throughout our community, giving her time so others can enjoy the art of dance. She is also the president of the Raider Tutoring Exchange, helping students learn mathematics on a weekly basis. She also manages all activities, meetings and fundraisers for the exchange. She was an Arizona Girls State Delegate and also a National Honor Society member.

QUOTES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS

"It's Jade's commitment that impresses me most and makes her stand out from other students. Jade has had to sacrifice time spent with friends and time spent becoming involved in on-campus extracurricular activities, in her decision to give all of herself to dance. Jade shared, it has been difficult to try to be a normal teenager, but she's grateful for all of the opportunities she's gained through dance." - Karie Lofton, Cibola High School Counselor

INFORMATION FOUND IMPRESSIVE FROM APPLICATION AND/OR INTERVIEW

Jade is passionate about dance. She started dancing at an early age and is still hitting the dance studio to this day. Being on the stage gives her life, and it's evident when you talk to her about her passion. She is very driven, and will succeed not only in dance but also as a smart and savvy businesswoman, another dream of hers. We hope to see her on a prominent New York City stage dancing her heart out soon.

YUMACATS HONORS

35 Yuma Area Students

***3 AWC students *32 HS students**

\$60,000 AWARDED

