



MESA ACHIEVES HIGHER EDUCATION TASK FORCE

July 24, 2019

The Mesa Achieves Higher Education Taskforce Advisory Committee of the City of Mesa met at the Mesa City Plaza, 20 E. Main Street, Suite 170 on July 24, 2019 at 1:04 p.m.

COMMITTEE PRESENT

Councilmember Duff, Co-Chair
Councilmember Heredia, Co-Chair
Ember Conley
Richard Haney
Mike Hutchinson
Shane McCord
Elaine Miner
Jaye O'Donnell
Jon Schmitt
Deanna Villanueva-Saucedo
Vince Yanez

COMMITTEE ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Jared Archambault
Lisa Cartwright-Harris
Candice Copple
Jessica Gerspach
Amy Trethaway

1. Call to Order by Task Force Co-Chair.

Co-Chair Heredia called the Mesa Achieves Higher Education Task Force meeting to order.

2. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

3. Revisit and approve new posters re: purpose of the Task Force by the Task Force Co-Chairs, Councilmember's Duff and Heredia.

Sheila Arredondo, Facilitator with West Education reviewed the poster created by the Task Force at the previous meeting, which states the goal of reaching 60% post-secondary education attainment rate by the year 2030. She included the Ground Rules and timeline for the Task Force. **(See Attachment 1)**

It was moved by Committeemember Hutchinson, seconded by Committeemember Villanueva-Saucedo to approve the Ground Rules poster regarding the purpose of the Task Force.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Duff-Heredia-Conley-Haney-Hutchinson-McCord-Miner-O'Donnell-Schmitt-Villanueva-Saucedo-Yanez

NAYS – None

Carried unanimously.

4. Review, discuss, and provide direction on the draft inventory information of post-secondary education services available in the East Valley community including, but not limited to conducting a gap analysis of inventory information, determine if any gaps exist and determining actions necessary to bridge those gaps.

Ms. Arredondo explained she put together a group activity from the inventory template discussed at the June 18, 2019 meeting. She displayed a series of four posters relating to the four pillars of Achieve60AZ along with the 10 strategies within the pillars. She stated she reached out to Rachel Yanoff, Executive Director of Achieve60AZ to get asset and initiative information at the State level so the Task Force can focus on the Local assets and initiatives for today. **(See Attachment 2)**

Ms. Arredondo outlined an ice breaker for the Task Force to complete before discussing the goal for today's meeting. She asked the Task Force to remember what it was like to be a senior in high school and what were their educational experiences and what were the primary things on their mind.

Ms. Arredondo requested the Task Force write down items they think should be listed under the local portion of the Asset and Inventory data board for all 10 strategies. She stated after that, Task Force members will pick the pillar they are most passionate about and collaborate with other members to add the most important assets to the poster boards hanging around the room. She explained once Task Force members have compiled the data at the first pillar of their choosing, rotate through the others and see if there is any information missing or that should be added.

Ms. Arredondo requested Task Force members identify areas of strength that the City of Mesa has specific to one of the four pillars or a strategy.

Task Force members listed areas of strengths within the City of Mesa:

- K-12 School system
- Mesa History
- Loyal Citizens
- Volunteer participation
- Many community activities
- Great Mayor and Council who want Mesa to grow
- Mesa Community College (MCC) is a great college
- Partnerships through Mesa Public Schools (MPS), Mesa Community College (MCC) and Arizona State University (ASU)
- Solid history of collaborations in organizations and non-profits
- Family oriented City

- Open to creating new systems and thinking innovatively
- City has the want for change and growth
- Very aware of issues and willingness to address them
- City of Mesa has great cooperation with all surrounding cities and towns
- Economies of scale – there are things Mesa can do that other cities cannot

Ms. Arredondo asked Task Force members to identify weaknesses, gaps, or areas to improve in the City.

Committeemember Conley commented the homelessness rate is the highest it has been in five years and there are 81,000 residents in poverty. She mentioned just within the MPS district there are 1,300 homeless students. She added opioid overdose death rates have increased and Hepatitis A outbreaks are being reported in Mesa.

In response to a question from Committeemember Hutchinson, Committeemember Conley stated she received the data from The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Co-Chair Duff pointed out there are young adults aging out of the foster care system with nowhere to go and no educational background.

Committeemember Haney identified a lack of mental health services in the City of Mesa.

Committeemember Conley informed Task Force members the East Valley has the highest suicide rate for children between the ages of 10 to 15 years old.

In response to a question from Committeemember Miner, Committeemember Conley explained suicide rates typically are seen in the upper to middle class Caucasian families.

Committeemember Villanueva-Saucedo commented the City has great intentions and great programs that receive small amounts of money, but it is not enough. She stated why not focus on one collective gathering and on specific programs to bring them up to scale.

Committeemember Hutchinson mentioned the City is aging, particularly housing which is hard to address with so many neighborhoods in transition.

Committeemember Villanueva-Saucedo stated the Task Force needs to disaggregate the data they have. She clarified she would like to see what populations are most at risk so the group can pinpoint what needs to happen or change within the City so the attainment goal can be reached by 2030.

Ms. Arredondo requested the Task Force come up with implications for moving forward in recommendations to provide to City Council. She stated she would like to focus on this topic at the next meeting.

In response to a question from Committeemember Hutchinson, Ms. Trethaway explained implications are the opportunity for improvements.

Co-Chair Duff commented the disaggregated data would need to be collected in order to see areas of improvement.

Committeemember Villanueva-Saucedo stressed the need to continue to communicate the importance for post-secondary education to the Mesa community.

Committeemember Miner commented it is possible to impact the education system in a positive way when the community works together.

Ms. Arredondo asked if there is no collective movement, what recommendations would be provided to the City Council.

In response to a question from Committeemember Hutchinson, Ms. Trethaway responded by stating the City is not where it should be in education, and that is a weakness. She added there is progress being made but there is plenty of room for improvement.

Committeemember Conley advised there are plenty of community issues that the City is facing in regard to education and putting the knowledge of these issues into the hands of the general public can lead to great things.

Co-Chair Heredia commented partnering with companies and school systems to build a skilled workforce for the future will allow equal opportunities for all citizens.

In response to a question from Committeemember Hutchison regarding workforce development, Co-Chair Heredia responded stating Mesa is a big City and there are programs out there that address the problems, but he thinks more can be done to develop and grow the workforce. He mentioned there are many families living paycheck to paycheck, are homeless who need help providing meals for their families, and do not have the time or opportunity to consider going back to school to better their future.

Committeemember Haney commented a number of students use the food pantry at Mesa Community College (MCC) and stated the food goes in and out the door quickly.

Co-Chair Heredia expressed concern regarding not having the skilled workforce to support the positions that need to be filled at companies and organizations within the City.

Committeemember Conley pointed out the opportunities that churches bring to the community, such as after school programs for children, counseling, and people who are willing to help those families in need. She stated the community is at such a critical point and there will always be the separation of Church and State but families in need should look into using the resources available from the faith-based community.

Ms. Trethaway explained there are lots of opportunities for food for students, it is just a matter of finding those connections to services and who to call and where to go.

Committeemember Villanueva-Saucedo communicated that she would like to see recommendations specific to the goal of increasing the post-secondary attainment rate.

Committeemember Schmitt commented education is key and the solution to increasing post-secondary attainment is by educating children and their families to break the cycle and create the opportunities for them to succeed.

Ms. Arredondo explained at the next meeting, the Task Force will be sorting through criteria and coming up with recommendations to present to City Council. She mentioned the number one goal will be to meet the 60% post-secondary attainment rate. She will ask the Task Force to pick four different criteria and run strategies through them to see what emerges in high leverage areas.

Co-Chair Duff pointed out if the City does not take action regarding education, the poverty and homeless populations will continue to increase. She stated automation, artificial intelligence and labor type jobs that do not require education are going to disappear, and if you do not have a degree or certification you will not have a job.

Committeemember Schmitt mentioned internships would give a way to match businesses with students to provide opportunities for a better workforce development.

Co-Chair Duff mentioned looking at businesses 10 to 20-year plans and what needs to be done to meet those goals.

Committeemember Conley mentioned the two key positions hired at Mesa Public Schools (MPS), internship coordinator of business partnerships in high schools, and community partnerships that connect the wrap around services in the schools. She stated looking at the economic development and where businesses are headed, have helped the schools look at what industries are going to be around and what types of workforce to train students.

Committeemember Hutchinson expressed frustration with top employers wanting someone else to pay money to have interns when it should be budgeted. He added training interns would be an investment in the community.

Ms. Trethaway explained there is State funding to expand internships for new positions.

In response to a question from Committeemember Hutchinson regarding businesses not providing paid internships, Ms. Trethaway stated it may not have been part of the company budget or company ethics do not allow that opportunity.

Co-Chair Heredia stated the components and balance on how students are prepared for the future work force is important.

Co-Chair Duff suggested looking at criteria to find the best job match to lead the students in the correct workforce pathway.

In response to a question from Committeemember McCord, Ms. Trethaway pointed out the Mesa Chamber of Commerce does have an education committee with the City of Mesa.

Committeemember McCord stated the Gilbert Chamber of Commerce conducted a round table with businesses and Gilbert Public Schools to discuss what needs to be improved before sending young people into the workforce.

Committeemember Hutchinson commented he does not think there is a large amount of money to pay for internships and thinks businesses should budget for them.

Ms. Arredondo concluded she will be compiling all the information provided to the Local Asset and Inventory list so at the next meeting the Task Force can start prioritizing key areas.

In response to a question from Committeemember Yanez regarding the form of recommendations, Ms. Trethaway explained the Task Force will be choosing the most important four to five priorities to forward to Council.

Committeemember Hutchinson commented that Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion is a great strategy and opportunity and would like that as a recommendation.

Ms. Arredondo suggested the first recommendation to Council to be for Achieve60AZ and the right for City of Mesa to partner with them. She then proposed recommending the Promise Program for the City of Mesa to use in helping secure funding post high school education.

In response to a question from Committeemember Hutchinson regarding Achieve60AZ, Ms. Arredondo stated there needs to be a collective voice that says, the City of Mesa should be part of this program.

Ms. Arredondo emphasized the Task Force are the decision makers and will form a plan and make a recommendation to Council. She added if Council wants to continue with the recommendations made, the Task Force will get to see the plan in action.

Co-Chair Duff explained the Task Force has identified the objective of the Achieve60AZ, but the overall reason for the group is to find a way to ensure students have every opportunity to get a secondary education whether it is a certificate or a degree.

Committeemember Conley stated she wants to make high school students aware of what is available to them pertaining to post-secondary education before graduating.

5. Review, discuss and provide direction on the draft format of the "Mesa education dashboard".

Committeemember Villanueva-Saucedo outlined a dashboard for Task Force members to review with key data points from only Mesa specific information for post-secondary attainment rates to use as benchmarks. She also recommended using the sources of the Task Force members around the room rather than going out and gathering the information.

Committeemember Yanez suggested looking at the Arizona Education Progress Meter to gather City specific data points because in the last two months the meter has fluctuated.

Ms. Trethaway noted the Arizona Education Progress Meter does not yet populate for the City of Mesa.

Committeemember Hutchinson responded to Ms. Trethaway's comment by stating the website now populates the information.

Committeemember Villanueva-Saucedo voiced the Task Force needs to stay focused on the data points for the Mesa community and the work that is being done to track progress and then pull district and college data specifically for additional points.

Ms. Trethaway suggested Task Force members provide direction on where the data for the dashboard will come from, to obtain and organize the data in a timely manner. She would like members to choose one place for the Mesa data to be gathered and be consistent with information provided.

Committeemember Haney asked if he could have his data team work with Committeemember Conley's data team to come up with a template for the data dashboard and use the data that Committeemember Villanueva-Saucedo has provided to start with.

Ms. Trethaway explained there needs to be an agreement that states what is going to be happening and where the data is coming from for the purpose of this group.

In response to a question from Committeemember Hutchinson, Ms. Trethaway confirmed that when providing the recommendations to City Council it would be good to have consistency with the data that was gathered and presented. She added it is also important for future comparison purposes.

In response to a question from Co-Chair Duff, Ms. Trethaway stated the Task Force could create its own dashboard, or there is the option to combine information with the City's open data portal. She said it is just a matter of what the Task Force wants the data dashboard to look like, what information is going to be used and where the data is coming from.

Committeemember Yanez encouraged the Task Force to create the dashboard from what data is already compiled for Mesa because it is fresh information and there is no need to create one if the data is already out there.

Co-Chair Duff recommended doing a comparison on how the City is doing compared to other cities, states and on a national standard level.

Committeemember Yanez stated at the decision center FAFSA completion data can be pulled from high schools anywhere in the state and can be identified by income, demographics or by whatever category is provided.

Co-Chair Heredia commented he would like to see what type of recommendation can be provided by the data gathered and what type of data will be needed for the future to continue with post-secondary success.

In response to a question from Committeemember O'Donnell regarding a working group after recommendations have been made, Co-Chair Heredia stated the City will want to have a group organized for reporting metrics and accountability to continue to ensure future success.

6. Review a local College Promise Program and discuss possible assumptions for Mesa.

Ms. Trethaway stated there had been research done on local Promise Programs in Arizona, and it was found that Central Arizona College Foundation offers a program. She added she is currently waiting for information of how many students participate and the cost for model funding. **(See Attachment 3)**

Ms. Arredondo noted there is not a lot of data for Arizona Promise Programs and they do not serve a large number of students.

Ms. Trethaway wanted to inform the Task Force there is an online estimator tool that is being used to run numbers for a few different scenarios for the cost of the Promise Program that will be discussed at the next meeting.

In response to a question from Committeemember Haney, Ms. Trethaway stated the estimator was found on the California College Promise Project page through WestED. She stated the calculator was created for California's Promise Program, but criteria can be changed the type of Program that would be best for Arizona.

Committeemember Haney commented he has a team working on a cost estimate with actual data for Task Force members. He expressed concern about using the online estimator tool because the most critical piece of information is going to be the cost of this program.

Committeemember Viallanueva-Saucedo agreed using Committeemember Haney's data with actual numbers and trend data would be a great way to find out who is eligible and what will be covered.

In response to a question from Co-Chair Heredia regarding a Promise Program estimate, Committeemember Haney stated he hoped to have information gathered for the next meeting.

Co-Chair Heredia expressed the cost of a Promise Program is his biggest fear.

Committeemember Haney agreed that cost is a big issue and to run a program like this would cost a minimum of \$50,000 and that it will serve very few students.

Committeemember McCord commented the Promise Program is like a business investment, it may not pay off right away but is a long term investment.

7. Discuss and provide direction, authorizing Co-Chair Duff and Co-Chair Heredia to review and approve the minutes from today's meeting and forward to the City Council for acknowledgment.

It was moved by Committeemember Schmitt, seconded by Committeemember Conley, that Co-Chair Duff and Co-Chair Heredia review and approve the minutes from the July 24, 2019 meeting, and forward to the City Council for acknowledgment.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Duff-Heredia-Conley-Haney-Hutchinson-McCord-Miner-O'Donnell-Schmitt-Villanueva-Saucedo-Yanez

NAYS – None

Carried unanimously.

8. Approve the next meeting date: August 27, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

It was moved by Committeemember O'Donnell, seconded by Committeemember Villannueva-Saucedo that the August 27, 2019 meeting date be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Duff-Heredia-Conley-Haney-Hutchinson-McCord-Miner-O'Donnell-Schmitt-Villanueva-Saucedo-Yanez

NAYS – None

Carried unanimously.

9. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Mesa Achieves Higher Education Taskforce Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Mesa Achieves Higher Education Taskforce Advisory Committee meeting of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 24th day of June 2019. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.


DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

jg
(Attachments – 3)

Mesa Achieves Higher Education TASK FORCE 2019



By 2030, 60 percent of adults 25 to 64 have a postsecondary credential or degree.

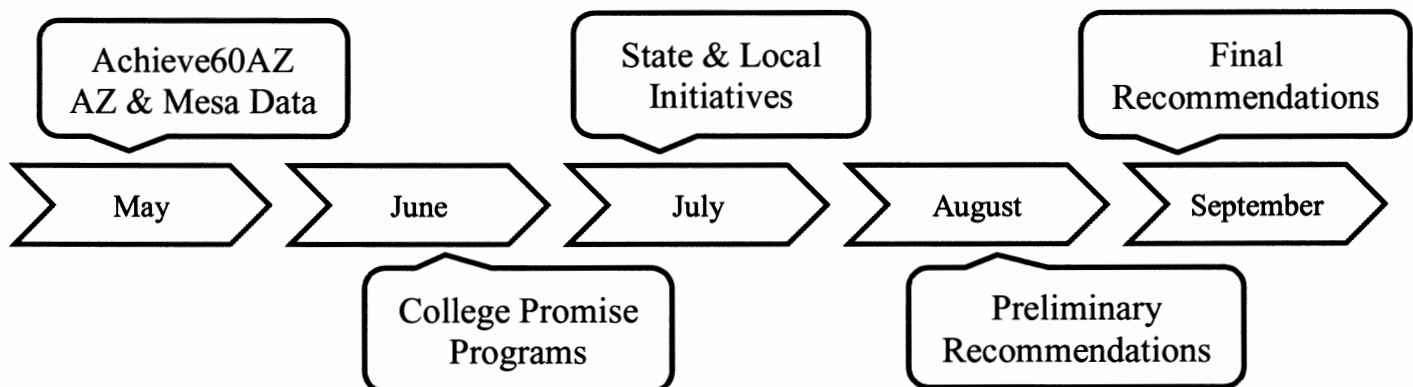


Explore, understand, and determine how to apply the Achieve60AZ strategies to elevate Mesa's educational attainment.

Present to City Council recommendations to achieve the educational attainment goal.

Policy Recommendations

TIMELINE



GROUND RULES

- Participate fully
- Seek participation from everyone
- Listen to understand
- Share relevant information
- Allow time for ideas to germinate
- Explore and try out new ideas
- Build on others' ideas
- Raise issues and express feelings
- Invite and respect different opinions and beliefs
- Support decisions made in your absence
- Share responsibility for the meeting's effectiveness
- Have fun
- Celebrate accomplishments

Pillar 1: Early Childhood through High School				
ACHIEVE60AZ STRATEGIES	STATE ASSETS & INITIATIVES	LOCAL ASSETS & INITIATIVES	IMPLICATIONS	
1. Emphasize high school graduation and promote best practices for certificate, college, and career readiness.	<p>Assets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 78-80% HS grad rate annually, with a goal to get to 90% by 2030 • Robust Career Technical Education infrastructure • Dual Enrollment programs that allow for early college success while students are still in HS • Increased education standards in the last few years (4 years of math, new emphasis on CTE for advanced STEM skills) • Digital learning programs through universities to support students access to advanced classes even without a teacher on site <p>Initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New emphasis with funding from Perkins (Federal money) to have career exploration starting at least in 5th grade for all students • CCRI index for High School letter grades offers new opportunity for schools to promote AP, IB, 			

	CTE certifications, dual enrollment and completing the FAFSA.		
2. Support students through a pathway to certificates, college, and career.	<p>Assets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guided Pathways work at the MCCCDD schools to ensure students have a plan and advising support • East Valley Taskforce (Dean Michael Voss) is working to engage employers to design the courses needed to ensure education leads to immediate job placement • FAFSA completion efforts statewide to ensure students are funded adequately to pursue education. <p>Initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career Counselors in High Schools to support students in making choices that are logical to their life goals • Work-based learning (internships and apprenticeships) are being considered as ways to earn credit while working. 		

Pillar 2: Postsecondary Access and Success				
ACHIEVE60AZ STRATEGIES	STATE ASSETS & INITIATIVES	LOCAL ASSETS & INITIATIVES	IMPLICATIONS	
3. Through policy and innovation, work collaboratively to address barriers to credential and degree completion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FAFSA initiatives and state goal to ensure financial barriers are removed Co-requisite model at higher education institutions to ensure students are successful in credit-bearing courses Summer Bridge programs for students who are first generation college going Online programs so that location and travel are not a barrier to access Advising models at postsecondary institutions are student centered and holistic to support through obstacles Food banks on campuses to support food insecurity 			
4. Ensure pathways and options for beyond high school are available to all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online learning Satellite campuses Free transportation for enrolled students CTE programs are in all counties, however this is still open to conversation whether the programs have true capacity for all 			

5. Champion strategies to make postsecondary educational options more affordable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Institutions get “institutional aid” to support low-income students• FAFSA completion goals for the state and efforts to make completion easier for all• Employers can have up to \$5,250 per year tax free to support employees in going to postsecondary learning.• Clear alignment and mapping between Community Colleges and Universities so that students can complete “2+2” programs• Teacher’s Academy, where a student will have two years of college for free if they commit to working in high need schools in AZ		
Pillar 3: Workforce and Business Development			
ACHIEVE60AZ STRATEGIES	STATE ASSETS & INITIATIVES	LOCAL ASSETS & INITIATIVES	IMPLICATIONS
6. Attract businesses to Arizona with well-educated and highly skilled workers and jobs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arizona Commerce Authority		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater Phoenix Economic Council Arizona State Chamber of Commerce Local community chambers Access to top-rated research universities 		
7. Promote businesses with proven success in fostering certificate and degree completion among employees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult learning initiative with Achieve60AZ and public employers (cities, towns and counties) Homebuilders Association and Governor’s office have a program to support those incarcerated to learn trades in home building Local collaboratives of Cyber security, Financial Services, Healthcare and Construction through the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce to create a talent pool 		
8. Develop and expand partnerships between industries and educational providers to align current and future workforce needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Career Technical Education Quality and Skills Commission is charged to ensure businesses are giving input into what counts as a Career Pathway 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CTE programs at the Community College level require business leaders to support in skills needed for the workplace Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) supplies data regularly on high growth, high demand jobs so that CTE programs at all levels can align 		
Pillar 4: Systems and Structures			
ACHIEVE60AZ STRATEGIES	STATE ASSETS & INITIATIVES	LOCAL ASSETS & INITIATIVES	IMPLICATIONS
9. Utilize metrics and data systems to support thoughtful partnerships and collaboration in pursuit of the 60% post high school attainment goal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision Center for Educational Excellence 		
10. Increase public awareness of the options and value of pathways for education beyond high school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve60AZ Community College and Universities are key communicators of this work Collaboration between MCCC and Phoenix area High Schools to ensure all students know their CC pathway before graduation. 		

--	--	--	--

PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE

For the Future Promise initiative was launched in 2001 by a caring community who believed that college should be a reality for every Pinal County student, regardless of financial limitations.

This program was developed to encourage young people to stay in high school, graduate, and move on to college.

More than a decade later, the promise continues with the original partnership of CAC Foundation, Central Arizona College, and Pinal County middle and high schools.



By promising to stay in school and graduate, Pinal County 8th grade students can earn tuition-free education at Central Arizona College when they fulfill their promise.*



STUDENT'S PROMISE...

- I will stay in school.
- I will perform 20 hours of community service.
- I will graduate from high school with a 2.75 GPA or higher.

PARENT'S PROMISE...

I will support my child so he/she will qualify for the Promise for the Future Program.

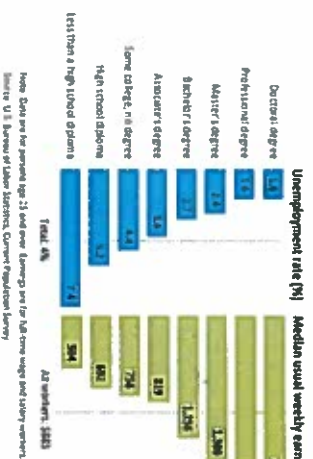
CAC'S PROMISE...

- Tuition-free education
- No credit restrictions per semester
- Timely communication
- An outstanding learning environment

EXPLORE POTENTIAL CAREERS

AZCIS is a free online tool where you can search hundreds of career opportunities. Look for AZCIS Career Planning on the CAC website: www.centralaz.edu.

Unemployment rates and earnings by educational attainment, 2016



FOR MORE INFORMATION



promise@centralaz.edu
520-494-5216

8470 N. Overfield Rd.
Coolidge, AZ 85128

www.centralaz.edu/foundation

- * Students must maintain residency and complete their high school education in Pinal County. See Promise Pledge form for full details.

The Promise for the Future program provides funding for any tuition need that has not been met. Promise for the Future tuition funds will be applied after all other financial aid has been applied to the individual student account (excluding student loans).

STEPS TO COMPLETE THE PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE PLEDGE FORM

Step 1
Visit www.centralaz.edu/promise

Step 2
Click on the "Enroll in Promise" button located on the page to complete your Promise Pledge form.

Step 3
You will be directed to the Prospective Students page, where you will click "Promise for the Future."

Step 4
Complete the Promise Pledge form in its entirety.

Step 5
Student and parents will receive a confirmation e-mail from the CAC Foundation notifying the Promise Pledge form was received (Please keep this document for your records).

Note:
Once confirmation e-mail is received your Promise Pledge process is complete. The College and Foundation will communicate with you during your high school experience to provide reminders on GPA and community service requirements.