

*Preparing Every Student for Success*

*In College, Career and Life.*

PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

# NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release** May 15, 2015

Contact: Craig Pletenik (602) 764-1530

 Michelle Halama-Alcantar (623) 845-4771

**Phoenix Union College-going Seniors Helped by Foundation Scholarships**

**PHOENIX--**The Phoenix Union Foundation for Education awarded scholarships this year totaling $88,000, assisting 60 District seniors in furthering their education at Arizona colleges and universities next year. The amount was $18,000 more than last year.

The Foundation for Education, a 501 (c) (3) that supports pathways to success in college, career and life, and provides support for District-wide, college-going student programs and college scholarships, began in 1985 as the Phoenix Union Partnership of Business and Education. In recent years, it has concentrated on generating need-based scholarships for PUHSD students.

Scholarships ranged from $100 annually to $8,000 over a four-year academic career, distributed from a pool of scholarship resources, from individual and organization donors to employee contributions and fundraising events.

Five seniors received four-year scholarships of $8,000 each--**Joy Cocone**, Alhambra; **Omar Tay**, Carl Hayden; **Lal Len Mawi**, Camelback; **Jesslynne Alvarez**, Central and **Edwin Perez**, Trevor Browne. A new donor, the Dr. Mehrdad Shafa Medical Scholarship Foundation, awarded $19,000 to 14 students who plan to study in the medical, nursing or allied health sciences next fall.

Named scholarships to nine students totaling $11,500 were supported by various community, business and PUHSD staff, family and friends to recognize loved ones, support students, or as part of a fundraising sponsorship.

Ten students benefited from the generosity of Phoenix Union employees whose contributions were used for “Invest in the Best” Scholarships of $1,000 each. The Phoenix Union Black Alliance Scholarship awarded $3,000 to five students, and 18 Betty Fairfax students earned $4300 through proceeds from its golf tournament.

Proceeds from the 2014 Phoenix Union Scholarship Dinner and the Foundation Scholarship Open Golf Tournament generated almost half the scholarship funds. Proceeds from this year’s Dinner in February and Golf Tournament in May will be used for next year’s scholarships. These two Foundation fundraisers are also building an endowment fund that is over $280,000, with a goal of $1 million.

The Phoenix Union Foundation for Education has provided over $950,000 in scholarships in the past 26 years. Scholarship applications are distributed to all District employees and are due in April. Volunteer business, community and education members read and score the applications which are awarded in May. Individuals or businesses interested in volunteering or making a scholarship donation can visit [www.foundation4education.org](http://www.foundation4education.org).

-30-

***Phoenix Union Foundation for Education 2015 Scholarship Awards***

**$40,000 Phoenix Union Foundation Scholarships- $8000 Awards; $2,000 each yr.**

Joy Cocone                                         Alhambra High School

Omar Tay                                             Carl Hayden High School

Lal Len Mawi                                              Camelback High School

Jesslynne Alvarez                                             Central High School

Edwin Perez                                             Trevor G. Browne High School

**$10,000 Invest in the Best (PUHSD Employee Donations) Scholarships- $1,000 Awards**

Barbara Olachea Alhambra High School

Ana Aguilar Bostrom High School

Miriam Ornelas Camelback High School

Ronald Harris Cesar Chavez High School

Salin Lin Betty Fairfax High School

BrieAnna Frank Maryvale High School

Jesusita Espinosa Metro Tech High School

Juan Panduro Metro Tech High School

Lylaine Flores North High School

Arminda Zepeda South Mountain High School

**Giving Back Pays Forward Scholarships- Amounts and Donors Vary**

**Dr.Mehrdad Shafa Medical Scholarship**

Estefanic Montes $2,000 Betty Fairfax High School

Leslei Muro $2,000 Betty Fairfax High School

Jennifer Nunez $2,000 Carl Hayden High School

Briana Diaz $2,000 Bioscience High School

Tahmina Stanikzai $2,000 Bio Science High School

Lylaine Flores $1,000 North High School

Mariela Camacho $1,000 Central High School

Tzitlalli Ocegueda $1,000 North High School

Maritsa Romero Trejo $1,000 South Mountain High School

Karyna Rojas $1,000 Metro Tech High School

Jesus Espinoza $1,000 Metro Tech High School

Ashley Lazaro $1,000 Betty Fairfax High School

Vanessa Casarrubias $1,000 Camelback High School

Alejandro Cruz $1,000 Trevor G. Browne High School

**Blue Cross Blue Shield Scholarship $1,000**

Vanessa Salgado Trevor G. Browne High School

**Honeywell Scholarship $1,000**

Zhi Lan Central High School

**Hillyard Scholarship $1000**

Jesus Mendez Alhambra High School

**McCarthy Construction Scholarship $1,000**

Jailene Duarte Franklin High School

**JIHL-FIPE STEM Scholarship- $1,000**

Azucena Fuentes Bioscience High School

**Ramsey/Hamilton Scholarship $2,000 ($1,000 x 2 years)**

Jasmin Perez Central High School

**Norma Tisdell Memorial Scholarship $1,000**

Nataly Banulos Camelback High School

**Kathy Back Memorial Scholarship $1,500**

Nalleli Ordondez Trevor G. Browne High School

**Gabriel Villa Memorial Scholarship $2,000**

David Hernandez Metro Tech High School

**Phoenix Union Black Alliance Scholarships $3,000**

Jakarra West Trevor G. Browne High School  $600

Eryk Gammage Betty H. Fairfax High School $350

Israel Kiyogera Gael Betty H. Fairfax High School $350

Aroe Phoenix Talbot Central High School  $300

Rebekah Patterson  Central High School $200

Obiomachi Joshua Megwa Central High School $200

Sara Woldegeriel Central High School $350

Danielle Ellsworth Cesar Chavez $400

Ropnald Harris, Jr. Cesar Chavez $250

**Betty Fairfax High School Scholarships $4,300**

Kenji Doi $2,600

Mariam Gutierrez $100

Israel Kiyogera $100

Denisha Gregory $100

Juliann Salazar $200

Cynthia Coplen $100

Alyssa Eoff $100

 Laila Grace Kabongi $100

Samantha Madrid $100

Guillermo Gutierrez $100

Nancy De Loe $100

Vanessa Carver $100

Randy Alvarez $100

Suhey Ortega $100

Aiysha Arriago $100

Austin Harwood $100

Gabriella Lopez $100