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Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee and the AZ529, Arizona's Education Savings Plan Launch Statewide Future Career Art Contest

Arizona Elementary Students Have an Opportunity to Win \$529 Towards Their Future Education and Career Goals

PHOENIX AZ – The Arizona State Treasurer's Office together with AZ529, Arizona's Education Savings Plan, are asking Arizona kindergarten through 6^{th} grade students to picture their future careers and the education they need to achieve their dreams. The fourth-annual AZ529 Future Career Art Contest, which launches today, asks students to bring their dreams to life on paper. Students are asked to draw, paint or find a creative way to make artwork representing their dream job.

A total of 15 winners will be selected across the state and receive \$529 towards opening a new or existing AZ529 Education Savings Plan account. One winner will be selected from each of Arizona's 15 counties and at least one winner each representing a district, charter, private school, tribal school and homeschool will be selected. Winners will be honored by Treasurer Kimberly Yee during a special ceremony at the State Capitol at the end of March.

In all, nearly \$8,000 will be distributed to 15 students to kickstart or contribute to saving for their educational plans beyond high school. Parents or guardians of the winners will be responsible for setting up an AZ529 account if an account does not already exist. All entries must be submitted starting January 27th either online to az529.gov/2025ArtContest or through direct mail. Entries must be received by March 9, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. (MST).

"This is such a wonderful art contest to engage students about planning for their future education. It has been such a success that we brought it back for a fourth year. We are looking forward to seeing the artwork that brings the students' dream jobs to life on paper," said Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee. "It's so important to bring students and their families together to begin creating a pathway for higher education and investing in their child's future with an AZ529 Plan. We look forward to seeing the entries from across the state."

The AZ529 Education Savings Plan offers a tax-free approach to setting money aside for college, community college, vocational training, trade school and other educational avenues for high school graduates. Arizona residents can receive a dollar-for-dollar state tax deduction for contributions made to an AZ529 account each year, of up to \$2,000 per beneficiary or \$4,000 per beneficiary, depending on filing status. Funds earned over time will remain tax-free when used for a wide variety of covered educational expenses. Additionally, 529 plan beneficiaries can now rollover unused funds into a Roth IRA, up to a \$35,000 lifetime limit free of income tax or tax penalties. Friends and family members may also add to a child's AZ529 Plan at any time and earn the same tax benefits for themselves.

For more information about AZ529, visit <u>http://www.az529.gov</u>. For complete contest details and rules, visit <u>http://www.az529.gov/2025artcontest</u>.