



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Achieve60AZ Announces Collaborative Partnership with College Success Arizona**

**Phoenix, AZ** – Achieve60AZ announced a collaborative partnership with College Success Arizona, today, which will oversee the initiative’s operations. The collaboration will formally begin November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Achieve60AZ was launched in September of 2016 and serves as an independent alliance of over 70 community, philanthropic, nonprofit and education organizations aimed at making Arizona more competitive through the power of education. The effort is supported by Governor Doug Ducey and communities and organizations across the state.

College Success Arizona is an Arizona-based, statewide, non-profit organization working to make postsecondary education more accessible for students. Since 2005, College Success Arizona has provided over \$16.7 million in scholarships and specialized success services to nearly 1,300 Arizona high school students attending Arizona colleges and universities.

“We’ve been working with the Achieve60AZ initiative since its inception, and we’re honored to continue our work by providing managerial support of the program through this collaboration,” **said Rich Nickel, President and CEO of College Success Arizona.** “The goals and objectives of our organization go hand in hand with the mission of Achieve60AZ, which is to increase the number of degree and certificate holders in our state.”

Achieve60AZ will continue to be led by a separate board of directors including Rich Nickel, President and CEO of College Success Arizona; Dr. Maria Harper-Marinick, Chancellor of the Maricopa Community College and Chair of the Arizona Community College Coordinating Council; Eileen Klein, President of the Arizona Board of Regents; and Vince Yanez, Senior Vice President of Arizona Student Success Initiatives at Helios Education Foundation.

“Achieve60AZ continues to progress with College Success Arizona serving as a collaborative partner,” **said Eileen Klein, President of the Arizona Board of Regents and Achieve60AZ Board Member.** “Advancing success for all beyond high school is crucial for our state’s future workforce and to boost individuals’ prosperity. The synergy between these organizations will enable our initiative to reach more people as we work to increase educational attainment in Arizona.”

College Success Arizona has added the Achieve60AZ mission as a strategic priority for their organization, and this will be prominently included in the organization's strategic plan. College Success Arizona is committed to maintaining the engagement of a diverse range of stakeholders and community leaders across Arizona in activities to ensure the growth and success of the Achieve60AZ alliance. This collaboration will serve as the next step in helping Achieve60AZ evolve statewide.

**About Achieve60AZ:**

More than 70 organizations in Arizona form Achieve60AZ that is fueled by a community-based effort to ensure Arizona remains competitive through the power of education. Their collective goal is to generate greater awareness of the importance of increasing Arizona's level of educational attainment while building support to improve college entry and completion; boost adult education and training; and fuel a pipeline of competitive talent for Arizona's employers. Achieve60AZ promotes support for the long-term steps needed in college entry and completion, adult education and training, and identifying and closing skills gaps to better prepare our workforce and our state for the future when the majority of jobs in Arizona will require some type of higher education. For more information, visit: [www.achieve60az.com](http://www.achieve60az.com).

**About College Success Arizona:**

College Success Arizona is a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization working to significantly increase the postsecondary attainment rate of students in Arizona, particularly for those who otherwise would not be able to attend or graduate. For more information, visit: [www.collegesuccessarizona.org](http://www.collegesuccessarizona.org).

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