

STORIES OF **ARIZONA** THE DREAM.US SCHOLARS

In recent years, TheDream.US has awarded more than 380 scholarships to Arizona DREAMers and paid over \$6M scholarship awards to support Arizona DREAMers who are first-time college students or community college graduates. We partner with four TheDream.US Partner Colleges in the state: Arizona State University, Arizona State University Online, Grand Canyon University, and Benedictine University – Mesa.

Many of these Arizona TheDream.US Scholars have become leaders on campus and are pursuing meaningful careers. **It is in Arizona's interest to keep these students studying and succeeding in their home state by expanding opportunities, access, and affordability.** Among TheDream.US Arizona Scholars – past and present - are:

ANGEL PALAZUELOS, who plans to major in biomedical engineering at Arizona State University. Angel notes, "Being a TheDream.US Scholar is a true blessing. I am so thankful to the organization not only for being a part of my journey, but for being a beacon of hope to DREAMers like me." In a recent virtual commencement speech that he delivered to his fellow Metro Tech High School graduates in Phoenix, Angel said (as [covered by Fernanda Santos in the New York Times](#)): "Despite how hard it may be to believe, you are not your hardships, you are not your expectations, and you are certainly not your undocumented status. What you are is a treasure of potential: It has never been about the circumstances that you are born in, but the opportunities you make for yourself. Therefore, we have to be the ones to step up, not only to see that our families and communities are safe, but to make sure that gaps become bridged."

MARIA LOPEZ FIGUEROA is a first year TheDream.US Scholar attending Grand Canyon University. She reflects: "Getting a college degree means that I can fulfill my purpose in life and give my future family a better life. It also gives me an opportunity to make a difference in my community. I see the hurt and injustice in my neighborhood and I want to make a difference. If it wasn't for TheDream.US scholarship I would not be in school right now. They have made school possible for me and I cannot thank them enough."

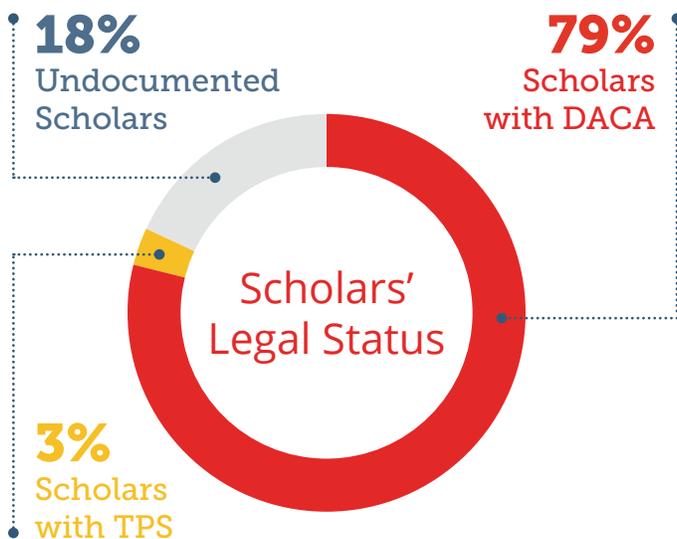
DENIS ALVAREZ will graduate from Arizona State University this year and hopes to be a teacher. She also works with the Be A Leader Foundation. In an Arizona Capitol Times op-ed in 2019, she [wrote](#): "For the most part, I know what I want my future to look like. I want to

graduate from Arizona State University and become an educator. I want to stay in Arizona and give back to my South Phoenix community. These are end goals that I have made for myself and have been developing from the mentorship of my sisters, parents, and teachers.”

CARLOS YÁÑEZ graduated from Arizona State University with degrees in political science, justice studies and transborder studies. He was named outstanding undergraduate for the Hispanic Convocation at ASU and is currently a Legal Assistant at Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project. Carlos wrote of his desire, “to provide for my parents and for others, like my parents provided for me. Without education, I can’t accomplish that goal. The next step in my journey is at Arizona State University, where I’m now studying. I remain committed to protecting DREAMers and protecting our families. We must never become complacent or too afraid to share our voices and who we are.”

OSCAR HERNANDEZ ORTIZ is a former TheDream.US Scholar and graduate of Arizona State University who worked as an Arizona fifth-grade teacher through Teach for America and is now a prospective law student and member of the Latinx Advisory Board for the Arizona Department of Education. Oscar wrote an *Arizona Republic* op-ed last summer reflecting on the being a DACAmented teacher at this moment, writing: “my role as a teacher had a direct impact on improving the lives of my students and their families.”

THE DREAM.US IS THE NATION’S LARGEST COLLEGE AND CAREER SUCCESS PROGRAM FOR IMMIGRANT YOUTH



4 years old

Average Age of Scholars' Arrival to the United States

86%

First in family to attend college

\$29,000

Average Household Income