



## HIGHER ED NEWS

### October 2023

4836 N. Center Street  
Scottsdale, AZ 85256  
480-362-2547

Monthly newsletter to Salt River Higher Education students and our Community.

## I WILL ACHIEVE

### Higher Education Program Staff

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**Davina Leon**  
Early College Advisor

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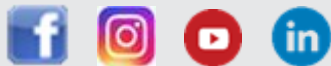
**O: 480-362-2547**  
**F: 480-362-2596**

## GO ON A COLLEGE CAMPUS TOUR!

College campus tours are a great way for you to experience college first-hand. You will have the opportunity to learn about the admissions process, financial aid and scholarships. When you take a tour during the school year you can also gain a sense of the culture of the campus. Majority of campus tours are led by current students so you can ask them about their experiences.

Many schools also have virtual tours posted on their websites, which are a great way for students to explore schools they are unable to see in person. Also check out their website for virtual events you can attend from home.

Visit the Higher Education office today. Stop by the Education Administration building (4836 N. Center Street) anytime Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. We look forward to assisting you!



#AimHigher

**Next deadline is  
October 30**

**Apply today!**

## HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM FUNDING APPLICATION DEADLINES



*the journey begins here.*

Higher Education is there to uplift you every step of the way.

### VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

- APR 30: School start date in May, June & July
- JUL 30: School start date in Aug., Sept. & Oct.
- OCT 30: School start date in Nov., Dec. & Jan.
- JAN 30: School start date in Feb., March & April

### COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

- Fall Semester: JUN 30
- Spring Semester: NOV 30
- Summer Semester: APR 30

If deadlines fall on a weekend, applications will be accepted on the following business day.

**480-362-2500 | [HE.SaltRiverSchools.org](https://HE.SaltRiverSchools.org)**

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## INTERESTED IN NURSING?

Are you interested in earning your Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree? Arizona College is located in Tempe and offers our Community members an additional scholarship to where there is not out of pocket expense for you.

If you would like to set up a school tour to go visit the Tempe campus and staff, give Joyla Gates a call. Joyla can assist you with the application process to get you started on your nursing career.

If you already have college credits, we can get your official transcripts evaluated for credits that will transfer over into your program.

Interested? Call Joyla Gates at 480-362-2542 or email [Joyla.Gates@saltriverschools.org](mailto:Joyla.Gates@saltriverschools.org).



**FIRST FRIDAY CHATS**

Ask questions, get advice, learn from the experts & feel confident about your higher education goals.

**Email [HigherEd@saltriverschools.org](mailto:HigherEd@saltriverschools.org) to register!**

**Friday, Nov. 3 | 10-11AM**  
**via Microsoft Teams**

## Changes to the 2024-2025 FAFSA

Completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) can be daunting. Here are some major changes to be aware of:

- The 2024-2025 will not be available until December 2023. (It used to open in October.)
- You will utilize your (or your parent's) 2022 tax information.
- The number of questions is smaller: 36 (from 108 previously).
- The Student Aid Index (SAI) will replace the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). It will make it more user friendly for students and parents to understand the FAFSA awards.
- There is a new student demographic survey you can complete or decline towards the end of the FAFSA application.

Reach out to Higher Education staff with any questions. We are here to help!

## Need FAFSA Help? Ask Benji!

The FAFSA can be challenging to fill out. Did you know there is a chatbot named Benji you can text for help filling out the FAFSA? It can help you find the answers to your questions, so you can complete the FAFSA. You can also ask questions about grants, loans, scholarships, and work-study. The great thing is it's available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Here's how to use Benji:

- Text "Hi Benji" to 602-786-8171 anytime for help.
- Benji will text you back a welcome message. Respond to start chatting.
- Ask Benji all of your FAFSA questions until you have all of the info to submit your application.

For the 2022-2023 year Benji helped nearly 34,000 students. Try it! You never know how Benji can help you.

## MOCK INTERVIEW MONDAYS

WITH HIGHER EDUCATION

- Test your answers to tough questions
- Enhance your communication skills and delivery of responses

APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE | VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS  
9 AM - 4 PM

CONTACT JOYLA GATES TO REGISTER

480-362-2542 | Joyla.Gates@saltriverschools.org

## FREE VACCINE CLINIC

The Early Childhood Education Center is teaming up with SRPMIC Public Health to offer a free **vaccine clinic for all SRPMIC-enrolled families on Wednesday, Oct. 25, from noon to 5 p.m.** Flu and COVID vaccines will be available for those 6 months or older. Walk-ins welcome, as are SRPMIC employees and their families. Call the ECEC at 480-362-2200 with any questions.

**COVID-19 vaccine** clinics are also available by appointment and open to SRPMIC-enrolled children and Community resident children. Call the COVID-19 Hotline at 480-362-2603.

## Study Tips to Master for College Success

- Ask for help when needed.
- Find useful study tools.
- Block off time to study outside of class.
- Maintain your health while studying.
- Seek out your classmates.
- Avoid multitasking.
- Get enough sleep.
- Find your comfort zone.
- Don't procrastinate.
- Work on your soft skills (leadership, teamwork, problem solving, conflict resolution, etc.)

Making the jump from high school, balancing your family, job, or any sort of change at all can be stressful! Students may suddenly find themselves without the familiar guardrails of their normal life. Keep these tips in mind to help make the transition and be sure to always reach out to Higher Ed if you have any questions.

ATTENTION SENIORS  
GET HELP WITH:

Completing your FAFSA

College applications

Scholarships

Picking your major

Appointments  
Available  
Monday - Friday  
8AM - 5PM

## ADVISING APPOINTMENTS

Higher Ed is offering advising appointments for SRPMIC-enrolled high school seniors.

Virtual appointments are also available for students who live out of state.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT DAVINA LEON

☎ 480-362-2551 ✉ Davina.leon@saltriverschools.org

# RISE GRANT

*Community Meeting*



**SALT RIVER**  
SCHOOLS

480-362-2500  
www.SaltRiverSchools.org

**Thursday, Oct. 19  
5:30-7PM**

Education Board Room  
4836 N. Center St.

- ☀ All Salt River Schools students, staff, families, and Community members are invited to help us with the planning of this grant.
- ☀ A light dinner will be served.
- ☀ Arts and crafts activities for kids.

**HE.SaltRiverSchools.org**





# SPOOKTACULAR

THURSDAY, OCT. 26 | 5-8PM  
ACCELERATED LEARNING ACADEMY GYMNASIUM  
Park in the lot south of the football field along Highland Ave.

[www.SaltRiverSchools.org](http://www.SaltRiverSchools.org)

Join the Safe Schools & Security team at our premier annual event: SPOOKTACULAR! All manner of costumed creatures are welcome to our free, public event. There will be lots of treats, prizes, and spooky fun for all ages! This is a school event; please do not wear violence-themed costumes (no weapons of any kind).

QUESTIONS? CALL 480-362-2010 OR EMAIL [ESTEBAN.LOPEZ@SALTRIVERSCHOOLS.ORG](mailto:ESTEBAN.LOPEZ@SALTRIVERSCHOOLS.ORG).



## WHAT IS AUTISM WORKSHOP

The Salt River Schools Child Find program is teaming up with the SRPMIC Special Needs Resource Program to offer a free workshop centered on helping families who have children with autism. The workshop is open to all SRPMIC families. Please RSVP by calling 480-362-2257.

**"What is Autism?" will be held Thursday, Oct. 12, from noon to 2 p.m.** at Child Find (located in the ECEC campus at 4636 N. Center St., Scottsdale, AZ 85296). Lunch will be provided! Participants will learn: (1) Strengths and challenges; (2) How environment and community affect children; and (3) Strategies to support learning.



## READ TO GROW A Family Literacy Program

The NYCP Literacy For All team invites you to join this fun and **FREE** program for parents and their children ages 3-5. You'll have a blast reading, writing, singing, dancing, and making hands-on projects during the 1-hour! All books and lessons are culturally-based and inspired by Indigenous authors to enhance your child's reading growth. All materials are provided. **Space is limited - register today!**



WEDNESDAY  
NOV. 15

5:30-7PM  
In the Education  
Board Room

Register by  
Thurs., Nov. 9

Call/text  
480-878-8604  
or email  
Wendy.Jefferson  
@saltriverschools.org

Facilitated by  
**Deon Mitchell**  
of K'aalógii Kisses  
[kaalogiikisses.com](http://kaalogiikisses.com)



## YOUNG CHILD HEALTH CELEBRATION

The Young Child Health Celebration is open to all and features fun, kid-friendly activities that can help caregivers raise healthy children. **The event is Tuesday, Oct. 17, from 4-6 p.m. in the ALA gymnasium.** There will be raffle prizes, giveaways, a talking circle, and food for the first 100 people. For more information, call 480-362-7300, text 888-365-1338, or email [WIC@srpmic-nsn.gov](mailto:WIC@srpmic-nsn.gov).

Salt River Schools is proud that several of our departments are helping with the event, including the Early Childhood Education Center, Child Find, and NYCP Literacy for All. They'll join WIC and other Community departments at the event, which is also WellPath-approved for 15 points. We hope you can join us!