Press Release
Yavapai County Education Service Agency
Superintendent Steve King

Yavapai County Superintendent of Schools Steve King is pleased to express his appreciation and gratitude to the Kiwanis Club of Carefree and to honor the seven Yavapai County high school seniors who received scholarships from this charitable community group.

With 40 years of giving back to the community, the Kiwanis Club of Carefree annually celebrates student achievement during its scholarship awards ceremony. They recognize the talents and needs of students in rural regions and extend their generosity to outstanding graduating seniors in these areas.

Toby Payne, Yavapai College District 3 Governing Board member, was the conduit that brought this scholarship opportunity to our county's students. Payne is a past president of the Carefree Kiwanis Club. Prior to relocating to Clarkdale, he worked diligently to build that scholarship program and establish a steady funding source. The Kiwanis Marketplace, a thrift shop, has grown to be that source.

Payne reached out to Yavapai College Associate Vice-President of Career and Technical Education John Morgan and the word spread to schools across the county. Rigorous interviews searched for college-bound students with academic excellence, perseverance, leadership, and community spirit. Ten percent of the $550,000 Kiwanis scholarship fund was awarded to nine rural Arizona students, seven being from Yavapai.

The Yavapai students who will continue their educational journeys and pursue careers that will impact communities for years to come are:

Steyson Carrillo (NAU Architecture)
Haley Masterson (Yavapai College Secondary English Education)
Rory Murphy (NAU Business)
Lydia Rodriguez (Yavapai College Business)
Kenlee Shanks (Yavapai College Elementary Education)
August Shea (Yavapai College Welding)
Jacob Vigueria (Yavapai College Nursing)

Thank you to the Kiwanis Club of Carefree and Yavapai College's Toby Payne and John Morgan. Congratulations to these outstanding students honored by the group's commitment to community and our next generation.