Dear Rio Salado Student:

Each year Rio Salado names two of its students to the All-Arizona Academic Team. Being chosen for this team is a prestigious award for it comes with a scholarship of $1,000, $750, or $500 plus a two-year full-time (or four-year part-time) tuition scholarship to one of Arizona’s three state universities (Northern Arizona University, Arizona State University, or the University of Arizona). Additionally, if you are selected for the All-Arizona Team, you will have the opportunity to apply for more scholarships, including membership on the All-USA Community College Academic Team.

At this time, we are seeking qualified applicants for this award. The due date for the application is Monday, October 26, 2015 at 8:00 a.m.

Please view the eligibility criteria listed below to determine if you are a good candidate for this scholarship. The committee is seeking students who are engaged and making a difference in their communities. We plan to award students who have a 3.6 GPA or higher based on a minimum of 30 credits at the community college level within the past five years plus have applications that exhibit some or all of the following characteristics:

- Participation in honors programs or honor society activities,
- Awards, honors, and recognition for academic achievement and/or leadership,
- Service to the college and/or community.

Additionally, the focal point of the application is an essay that centers around one endeavor you have undertaken that utilized your community college education to improve your community or college. The scholarship judges look for innovative, creative, original and lasting achievements or undertakings.

Application Criteria:

1. You are a current (Fall 2015) Rio Salado student and will be at Rio through December 2015 or longer.

2. You have a cumulative college-level GPA of 3.6 or higher on a 4.0 scale for all courses completed during the last five years (Fall 2010-present). For courses completed at schools outside of the Maricopa Community Colleges, you must submit transcripts (unofficial are accepted) of these non-Maricopa courses by the due date of this application.

3. You are on track to earn an associate or bachelor’s degree—having completed a minimum of 36 semester (or 54 quarter) hours by the due date of this application.

4. By the due date of this application, you must have completed a minimum of 30 semester (45 quarter), college-level credit hours at a community college in the past five years (Fall 2010-Present).

5. If awarded this scholarship, you will strongly consider transferring to NAU, ASU, or U of A within the next 12-16 months (Spring 2016, Fall 2016, or Spring 2017). Preference may be given to students who plan to transfer to one of these schools.

6. You have a record of involvement with school and/or community activities.

7. You have a college record free of suspension, probation, or other serious disciplinary action. If a convicted felon, you must have all conditions of sentencing, including probation, completed.
8. You meet the criteria of lawful presence in the U.S. according to the scholarship policies of Rio Salado and the three Arizona public universities (ASU, NAU, U of A).

9. You agree that information you submit in this application could be made public through the media.

10. You will allow Rio Salado personnel help you edit your national application if chosen for the All-Arizona Team.

If you meet the above criteria and want to apply for this award, **complete and submit the application below via email to StudentLife@RioSalado.edu** by 8:00 a.m. on Monday, October 26, 2015.

Please contact john.bastian@riosalado.edu or serena.lindsay@riosalado.edu or 480-517-8050 with any urgent questions regarding this application.
Rio Salado College All-Arizona Academic Team Application

INSTRUCTIONS: Please complete the demographic and educational information below and then answer the remaining questions to the best of your ability. Additionally, I recommend that you view the accompanying “scholarship tips” document before completing this application.

This is a MS Word document so format it to make your answers fit neatly into the document. Then save your completed application and email it to StudentLife@riosalado.edu by 8:00 a.m. on Monday, October 26, 2015.

Name: ____________________________
Student ID#: ____________________________

Mailing Address: ____________________________

Email Address: ____________________________
Phone #: ____________________________

1. Are you currently a Rio Salado student and will you be through the completion of the Fall 2015 semester?

2. Number of Credits You Are Taking This Semester:

3. **Number of completed college-level (100 and above) credits:

4. **Number of college-level credits completed at a community college within the last five years:

5. **Cumulative GPA for all college-level classes from the past five years:

6. Approximate number of credits remaining before you transfer to a bachelor’s institution:

7. Degree or program of study at Rio Salado:

8. Anticipated major for bachelor’s degree:

9. Possible transfer school:

10. What is the highest degree overall that you hope to obtain?

11. Is your record free from any criminal conduct or, if a convicted felon, have you completed all terms and conditions of sentencing including probation?

12. Are you a U.S. citizen, do you have permanent or temporary residency, or are you attending college on an appropriate visa?

13. Will you upload an unofficial transcript with final Fall 2015 coursework and grades by January 15, 2016?

**The above credits & GPA are only for all regionally-accredited colleges you have attended.
In your own words, provide a brief biography that outlines your significant life events or experiences to give the judges a broader understanding of what motivates you. This also helps judges better understand where you come from, what you are currently doing, and what you hope to accomplish in the future. Type your biography below using 250 words or less.

Why did you choose to attend a community college? Type your answer box below using 150 words or less.

**Short Answer**

A. Describe up to three obligations you have while attending community college that include family responsibilities, employment, or other non-volunteer obligations. Do not include campus or community activities that you will include in other sections. [List the name of activity, the dates, # of hours/week, paid or not, brief summary of obligations]

B. List up to three awards, scholarships or special recognitions you have received while enrolled at your community college. List your most significant award first, including the name of the award, the date received, and short summary of the award.

C. In each of the following areas, describe your short and long-term goals: 1) education, 2) career, 3) service/volunteerism. 250 words or less.

**Campus Activities:**

List no more than three community college campus activities in which you have participated. Include the activity, dates of participation, hours spent per week, leadership positions held, if it was a paid position or not, specific activities or duties performed, and the impact of your work.
Community Activities

List no more than three community activities in which you have participated since you have been enrolled in community college. Include the community activity, dates of participation, hours spent per week, leadership positions held, paid or not, specific activities or duties performed, and the impact of your work. Do not include activities listed in other sections, web links or photos.

Essay

Describe your most significant accomplishment since attending community college in which you applied your academic or intellectual skills learned through your community college education to benefit your school, community or society. This endeavor may be in community/service learning, in research, in the arts, journalism, advocacy, public affairs, etc. Judges consider originality, initiative, degree of difficulty, results and benefit to society. Limit your essay to ONE specific endeavor. 500 words or less.

Assessments / Recommendations

If you are chosen as one of Rio Salado’s two All-Arizona award winners, you will be required to obtain two assessments / recommendations—one regarding your leadership abilities and one for your academic capabilities. For now, we do not require the actual assessments/recommendations, but we ask that you list the names and accompanying information of the two recommenders whom you plan to have write the assessments/recommendations for you. Neither of these people can be related to you.

Question: do you give us permission to contact one or both of these people before we make our final scholarship determinations?

Yes ____________________  No ____________________
**Leadership:** A recommender will need to be able to give specific examples of how you have demonstrated leadership abilities, service involvement, impact outside the classroom, etc. Additionally, this assessment should specifically address the leadership example you discuss in your “most significant accomplishment/endeavor” essay above. Ideally, this assessment should be completed by a community college faculty member, administrator, dean, or an employer or professional at an organization where you have volunteered.

- Name of recommender:
- Title:
- Employer:
- Relationship (faculty/instructor, a work supervisor, a community professional, a college employee, etc.):
- Phone number:
- Email address:

**Academic:** The recommender you select should give specific examples of how you have demonstrated academic progress and excellence, citing examples of in class participation of your academic experiences with this individual as your mentor. The assessment should be completed by a mentor or supervisor who has directly taught or mentored you while at your community college and must be a community college faculty member, administrator or dean.

- Name of recommender:
- Title:
- Employer:
- Relationship (faculty/instructor, college administrator or dean, college mentor):
- Phone number:
- Email address: