

## *2025/2026 Wilson Legacy Scholarship Newsletter*

### **Wilson Legacy Scholarship**



*Empowering dreams, nurturing brilliance, and fostering a new generation of leaders who will carry forward the values of education, equity, and community.*



***Thank You!***

***Wilson College Prep donors,  
supporters and educators for  
helping to make the first year of  
the Wilson Legacy Scholarship  
live up to its motto!***

***Abdi Abdirezak  
2026 Wilson Legacy Scholarship  
\$5,000 Recipient***

Wilson College Prep Donors, Supporters, and Educators,

In less than one year, you were asked to go above and beyond preparing Wilson College Prep students to be college ready. You supported their dreams of graduating from high school and qualifying for financial support. In addition, you were asked to help establish a college scholarship program. Through your commitment and support, both the name and the motto of the ***Wilson Legacy Scholarship*** have come to life.

By May 2026, the ***Wilson Legacy Scholarship*** grew from its initial funding of \$10,000 to more than \$30,000. This financial growth reflects the confidence of the greater Wilson community and its supporters, who know that investing in your students is a meaningful and worthwhile contribution.

In January 2026, the first ***Wilson Legacy Scholarship Leadership Team***, comprised of Wilson College Prep staff, students, and community members, met to develop a framework for making the ***Wilson Legacy Scholarship*** a strong source of financial support for graduating students pursuing college and other post-secondary education. The Leadership Team agreed to distribute \$5,000 of the \$10,000 scholarship fund balance to one or more students graduating in May 2026.

From January through April 2026, the story of Wilson College Prep and the ***Wilson Legacy Scholarship*** was shared with the greater Valley community. The reputation of Wilson College Prep, its educators, and its students inspired additional individuals to join the ***Wilson Legacy Scholarship Leadership Team***. These leaders included:

***Honorable Paul Johnson, Former Phoenix Mayor and Co-founder of Redirect Health, a national health insurance provider***

***Richard Miller, Former President & CEO of Boy's and Girl's Clubs of Metropolitan Phoenix, Founder of Kids at Hope and The Intersection Construct, and professor of practice at Arizona State University***

***Mathuram Santosham, MD, MPH, Founder and Director of the John Hopkins Center for American Indian Health, recipient of the Albert Sabin Gold Medal Award and the Prince Mahidol Award for his work on Hib vaccines***

***Luis Nava, Senior Associate at FV Advisory Group, a Phoenix-based investment banking firm specializing in nation-wide transportation and logistics and former alumni of Wilson High School***

***Kayla Kolar, President & CEO of House of Refuge in Mesa, Arizona; serving on the PHX East Valley Partnership Board, the ASU Polytechnic Campus Community Advisory Board, the Chandler Gilbert Community College***

*Advisory Board, the Dignity Health Designated Procedures Oversight Board, and the Western Alliance Bank Community Board and a 2024 Piper Fellow with the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust*

This past year has been a year of learning for the ***Wilson Legacy Scholarship Team***. It has also been a year in which the greater Phoenix community and others beyond it have come to better understand the work educators are doing at Wilson College Prep to ensure that every student achieves the scholarship's motto of ***“Empowering dreams, nurturing brilliance, and fostering a new generation of leaders who will carry forward the values of education, equity, and community.”***

Finally, if you are an educator at Wilson College Prep, please look at your fellow teachers and staff, smile, and thank them for their commitment to the amazing young people who have chosen Wilson College Prep and to building a future that will continue to grow from graduation to family and community life.

If the greater community could attend the Senior Portfolio presentation and witness the preparation, enthusiasm, and commitment that graduating seniors at Wilson College Prep bring to their educational and career goals, each student would be celebrated through a funded ***Wilson Legacy Scholarship***.

### **Call to Action**

For current and prospective donors, now is an extraordinary time to support the ***Wilson Legacy Scholarship***. ***Our goal for the 2026/2027 Wilson College Prep graduates is to offer a minimum of five \$5,000 scholarships.*** Every contribution is a direct investment in the dreams, talent, and determination of Wilson College Prep students who are working to build brighter futures through college and post-secondary education. A gift today does more than provide financial assistance—it sends a powerful message to students that their community believes in them, values their hard work, and is committed to helping them succeed.

All donations are made through the **Phoenix Union Foundation for Education**, a qualified **501(c)(3)** organization, providing contributors with potential tax-deductible benefits as permitted by law while also creating lasting

educational opportunity for deserving students. Whether through a one-time gift, recurring support, employer matching, or a larger legacy contribution, every donation helps expand the scholarship's reach and sustain its mission of empowering dreams, nurturing brilliance, and fostering the next generation of leaders. Your generosity can open doors, ease financial barriers, and ensure that more Wilson students are celebrated not only for their promise, but also for their opportunity to achieve it. Contributors should consult their tax advisor regarding the specific tax benefits available to them.

Now is the time to turn encouragement into action. We invite current and prospective donors to make a contribution through the **Phoenix Union Foundation for Education** and help ensure that more Wilson College Prep students have the financial support they need to pursue college and post-secondary success. For eligible donors, a qualified charitable distribution from an IRA may also provide an opportunity to use all or part of a required minimum distribution to support the ***Wilson Legacy Scholarship***. A gift may also be made in honor of someone whose life was significantly impacted by a teacher, a mentor, or the opportunity to attend college. Every gift—of any size—moves this mission forward and strengthens a legacy of opportunity, achievement, and hope for the next generation. Contributors should consult their financial or tax advisor regarding eligibility and the specific benefits available to them. A direct donation can be made through the Phoenix Union Foundation for Education today through this link: [Wilson Legacy Scholarship](#)

Finally, a special thank you to the initial ***Wilson Legacy Scholarship Initial Leadership Team***, including Mr. Ernest Rose, Superintendent of Wilson Elementary School District; Ms. Laura Taylor, Executive Director of the Phoenix Union Foundation for Education; Mr. Martin Caballero, Principal of Wilson College Prep; Ms. Allison Williams, Counselor at Wilson College Prep; Ms. Amy Huss, Educator at Wilson College Prep; Ms. Ameris Vela, Staff at Wilson College Prep; Mr. Roberto Gonzalez, Staff at Wilson College Prep; Ms. Christina Buchanan, Student at Wilson College Prep; and Ms. Brianna Martinez, Student at Wilson College Prep, along with all of the teachers, staff members, and their families who contributed significant funding in 2026 to the ***Wilson Legacy Scholarship***.