



Program Context, History, and Need:

Earn to Learn is a revolutionary savings to scholarship program that empowers low-to moderate-income students in Arizona to successfully complete college through matched-savings scholarships, financial capability education, and success coaching. Eligible students who complete the personal finance training program and establish a habit of savings by making a minimum of six consecutive deposits totaling \$500 in an Earn to Learn matched savings account can receive an 8:1 match on their savings, up to \$4,000 per academic year. These funds can be applied to tuition and tuition-related costs at Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, Pima Community College, University of Arizona, Cochise College, Coconino Community College, Mohave Community College, and Central Arizona College.

In Arizona, the student-to-counselor ratio is 905:1 and high schools have inadequate capacity to provide one-to-one college advising. High school students need support navigating the complex process of college admissions and financial aid. We believe that well-trained school counselors are poised to be the best method of ensuring students access to postsecondary education. Where school counselors are overstretched, college advisors can serve as a capacity builder and a support in partnership with the high school counseling staff.

The Model

Earn to Learn will place current college students and recent college graduates as part-time Next Step Advisors in the hopes of improving access and persistence to higher education. Next Step Advisors placed into Arizona's Title I high schools will serve as knowledgeable, engaged, near-peer college advisors offering advice, mentorship, and support to students as they navigate the college enrollment process, ultimately, removing barriers to enrollment and persistence.

Next Steps Advisors will provide in-school, near-peer mentoring assistance to students identified by their high school counselors, administrators and teachers by holding 1:1 meetings with high school juniors and seniors weekly to discuss college planning specifically on completing college applications; registering for ACT/SAT and applying for fee waiver; completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form and other financial aid forms; and completing scholarship applications. Next Steps Advisors will coordinate and host college access events and leverage college partners and volunteers to bring information and resources to support the college readiness of underserved students. The goal of the Next Steps Program within schools, and especially the collaboration between near-peer advisors and

school counselors, teachers, and administrators, will be to create and sustain a college-going culture that leads to long-term change in the educational attainment of Arizona residents. Earn to Learn will administer the program by employing and training the advisors.

Partnership Expectations

Earn to Learn is seeking responses from high school leadership (administrators and school counselors) and community partner leadership who are committed to supporting a dedicated, part-time, college advisor and dramatically raising their college-going rates through a systematic team approach. Interested partners are asked to complete the application. Please visit [Home • Earn to Learn](#) and apply to become a host site.

By completing the application, you express interest in your participation in the program, and will be sent an *MOU* Host Site agreement, that will require signatures of both parties to commit to this partnership.

May include cost share requirement

For more information and or questions regarding the application process, please contact Next Steps Program Staff via email at NSP@earntolearn.org.

Thank you!