



**For Immediate Release:**  
Thursday, May 11, 2017

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## **David Garcia Announces Plan to Make College Tuition-Free for All AZ Students**

David Garcia, teacher and Democratic candidate for Governor, today announced his plan to make college free for in-state students who attend local community colleges and universities. The proposal is a key part of his strategy to develop Arizona's workforce of the future.

"Higher education is the new high school, necessary to make it in today's fast-paced economy," said Garcia. "If we want to create a solid middle class with good-paying jobs, we need to remove barriers to better opportunities. Arizonans shouldn't be excluded from economic success because of skyrocketing tuition and suffocating education debt."

Garcia's plan involves three sequential steps:

1. Make community and tribal colleges tuition-free for all Arizonans on-track to complete their education<sup>1</sup>.
2. Keep our best and brightest in state by allowing top Arizona graduates to attend Arizona public universities tuition-free.
3. Develop a multi-year plan to allow in-state students to attend Arizona public universities tuition-free and without debt.

Community college budgets have been zeroed out under Doug Ducey who has left students and families to pick up the financial burden of attending college.

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<sup>1</sup> "Arizonans on-track to complete their education" is defined as community and tribal college students enrolled in, and on-track to complete, degree and certificate programs

Garcia said that the plan will generate new revenue for the state as graduates enter the workforce without debt, allowing them to contribute directly to the economy, and as Arizona businesses grow in response to a higher trained workforce.

“Not every Arizonan needs a 4-year degree,” said Garcia. “But every Arizonan should have the opportunity to complete two years of community college or trade school and earn a high-paying job.”

Examples of high-paying jobs that require some post-secondary training include skilled construction workers, medical technicians, police officers, and solar and traditional energy workers. Local community colleges provide programs in each of these areas.

Details of Garcia’s plan to expand tuition-free education to Arizona’s “best and brightest,” and ultimately to all public university students, will be released in coming months.

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### ***David Garcia biography***

David R. Garcia is a fourth-generation Arizonan and a product of Arizona’s public schools. Prior to becoming the first in his family to graduate from college, he proudly served in the U.S. Army Infantry.

David is now an Associate Professor in the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College at Arizona State University. David’s professional experience includes extensive work in state and national education policy development and implementation.

Prior to his appointment at ASU, he served as the state Associate Superintendent of Public Instruction for Standards and Accountability, Director of Research and Policy for the Arizona Department of Education, Research Analyst for the Arizona State Senate Education Committee and as a peer consultant for the U.S. Department of Education.

David was the Democratic nominee for Superintendent of Public Instruction in 2014, and received more votes than any other Democratic statewide candidate. David married his high-school sweetheart, Lori Higuera, and they have two daughters who both attend local public schools.

Paid for by Garcia for Governor