

## Two speeches – two degrees for PHS Salutatorian Randall Adcock

by [Michele Nelson roundup staff reporter](#)

If there's one word to describe Payson High School salutatorian Randall Adcock it's goal-oriented.

He had the goal of the top spot at PHS, but missed to obtain the runner-up spot. He didn't mean to, but he reached the top goal at Gila Community College instead.

Adcock realized that he could achieve the goal of completing his associate degree by the time he graduated from high school, so he did.

He sought to become an elite baseball player, but didn't quite live up to his expectations so he modified those expectations to balance academics, sports and clubs instead for a successful completion of his educational years at Payson Unified School District.

Now he aims to attend Barrett, the Honors College at Arizona State University to study computer engineering then work on smartphones at Apple, Inc — or tack on another degree.

“Depending on how much funding (scholarships/loans) I still have to go to college after two years, I may just complete my master's after that,” said Adcock.

The salutatorian said his family inspired him to achieve his goals.

“My parents are absolutely the most inspirational people in my life,” he said. “Both of them worked extremely hard to raise my brother and I, so my main reason in obtaining wealth is to give back to them.”

He credits his brother for pushing him to get the AA degree.

“Throughout my junior year, I realized I was taking quite a few of the same classes as my brother who was also attending GCC,” said Randall, “... by the end of it, I realized I was on pace to have enough credits. I started joking around with my brother saying I would graduate college before him and started to take as many college credits as I could, including two online classes this semester and eventually got to walk across the stage one spot before him, so I did it.”

Of course, this required Randall to choose between good grades, activities, friends or sleep.

“I certainly did not choose sleep,” he said. “The friends I have went hand-in-hand with my good grades as they are all incredibly smart and pushed me in everything I do.”

He credits his best friend with pushing him to salutatorian.

“Trace, was actually right behind me for salutatorian, so if it weren’t for him I may have slacked off a little bit,” said Randall.

But his other two friends helped as well.

“I’d also like to give a shout out to my other two best friends, Noah Ward and Maddy Beier for also getting me to where I am now,” he said.

His speech at the PHS graduation won’t focus on goals, however.

“The general theme of my speech is common experiences,” he said. “I wanted to reminisce on all the memories, good or bad, that we had together as a class.”

He hopes his speech doesn’t end up one of his bad experiences in high school for fear of public speaking.

“I think everyone gets a little scared of public speaking, but I like to think I am not overly scared of it,” he said. “I guess we will find out when I give my speech.”

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