

# Aspire Foundation to continue funding dual credit classes

by [Michele Nelson Roundup staff reporter](#)

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**Aspire Arizona Foundation** students who received an A in one or more classes gathered with their teachers at a breakfast at The Rim Club in January. More than 50 students attended. AAF has raised enough money to continue funding dual-credit classes.

With almost \$30,000 in its pocket from fundraising, the Aspire Arizona Foundation board voted to continue to offer free dual-credit classes to high school students during the 2018-19 school year.

“Due to the strong community support during our fall fundraising campaign, the AAF board has voted to continue supporting the dual-credit program for the 2018-2019 school year,” said Janet Vidnovic, treasurer. “AAF raised almost \$23,000 from the Payson community and \$6,400 from the MHA Black & White Ball silent auction.”

AAF guarantees to all of its donors that 100 percent of their donation goes toward scholarships for dual-credit classes.

That means high school students may take an English, math, science or history course on the Payson High School campus or Gila Community College Payson campus and receive both high school and college credit for the class.

As a bonus, if students receive an A for two consecutive semesters in dual-credit courses, AAF will pay for two dual-credit classes the next semester.

Vidnovic said more than PHS students are eligible for the tuition support.

“Next year, Aspire Arizona will continue to pay for one class per semester for each student taking an academic dual-credit course,” said Vidnovic. “This includes home-schooled students or PHS/Payson Center for Success students who might take the course on the GCC campus.”

With some tuition support from AAF, students can graduate high school with an associate degree. AAF doesn't fully cover the cost of obtaining an AA degree, but Aspire Arizona shoulders a portion of the cost.

AAF has helped students for the last two school years pay for dual-credit courses.

Parents of graduates say by taking dual-credit classes funded by AAF, they have shaved thousands of dollars off of tuition at the Arizona universities.

AAF was started to make college accessible and attainable for Rim Country students.

An added benefit has been to keep students who excel engaged.

Freshman Alyssa Boerst is an example.

She excels in math.

"I took algebra in seventh grade," she said.

That means she's ready for calculus. Aspire Arizona paid for her class at GCC.

For other students, AAF helps them reach their goal of a college degree with less of a financial burden.

To donate to Aspire Arizona, call the MHA Foundation offices at 928-472-2588.

[www.aspirearizona.com](http://www.aspirearizona.com)