



# TOWN OF QUEEN CREEK | OFFICE OF THE MAYOR PROCLAMATION



**WHEREAS**, obtaining a postsecondary degree is linked to increased employment opportunities, higher income, better health, increased community involvement and contributes to a prospering local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the best predictors of postsecondary enrollment and persistence is the completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The first step in providing students with opportunities to access federal and possibly state and/or institutional resources to pay for college and career training programs; and

**WHEREAS**, Arizona currently ranks 49th in FAFSA completion. Nationally, the high school class of 2022 left an estimated \$3.58 billion on the table in the form of unclaimed Pell Grant funds; and

**WHEREAS**, more than a dozen states have either adopted or are considering universal FAFSA policies that expand access to financial aid and help make college more affordable for students. These policies aim to provide support and options for students; include waivers, opt-out and no-harm provisions; and obligate local education agencies to oversee implementation; and

**WHEREAS**, students who complete the FAFSA are more likely to attend and afford college. According to the National College Attainment Network, 92% of seniors who completed the FAFSA enrolled by the November following graduation vs. 51% who did not complete a FAFSA; and

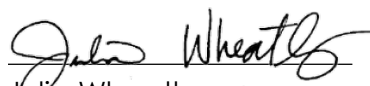
**WHEREAS**, The Town of Queen Creek is committed to supporting FAFSA awareness and completion in partnership with our local school districts to improve economic mobility and better health outcomes.


**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, Julia Wheatley, Mayor of the Town of Queen Creek, do hereby proclaim January as

## FAFSA AWARENESS MONTH

And encourage Queen Creek residents to raise awareness about the significance of FAFSA completion.

**WITNESS MY HAND** this 20<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.

  
Julia Wheatley,  
Mayor

  
Maria Gonzalez,  
Town Clerk

