



**National  
PASS  
Center**  
Portable Assisted Study Sequence

# Success Stories



**2019-2020**

# National PASS Student Success Stories

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## A MESSAGE FROM NATIONAL PASS



**We are extremely pleased to award the PASS Student of the Year Scholarship. Thank you to participating member states and the NPCC Committee for making this possible.**

**Each student is briefly described using narrative information submitted by the nominating school personnel. Student essays are shared *as written* for all who were nominated. Permission has been granted for both the essay and photo to appear in this issue of Success Stories.**

PASS (Portable Assisted Study Sequence) is a nationally recognized program offering mobile middle and high school students, and other deserving populations, an alternative means of earning full or partial academic course credits, or building educational skills.

With PASS, a student works semi-independently with the assistance of a mentor/instructor who meets or is in contact with the student on a regular basis. The curriculum consists of learner-centered materials developed specifically for PASS, which include current teaching strategies to address a variety of learning styles. While designed to meet rigorous learning standards, consideration is given to the needs of non-native English speakers. The flexibility and adaptability allow for a variety of delivery models where students can undertake courses at their own pace in any type of setting.

Each semester packet consists of five study units complete with unit tests; a student needing only partial credit for a semester course, or who is seeking a way to strengthen specific skills, can complete only the units necessary instead of the entire course. Each unit equals approximately twelve to eighteen hours of instruction. If a student successfully completes an entire semester packet, he/she is eligible for ½ Carnegie credit or state equivalent. With the cooperation of school counselors and administrators, a student can begin a course in one location and complete it in another.

The credibility of the PASS program is maintained at all levels of its development and use. Courses are developed by education specialists and certified teachers with expertise in the relevant subject areas. Program staff assesses each student's needs to determine appropriate courses. Student work is monitored and tests are administered and evaluated by trained staff. Credit is awarded by the districts for successfully completed work. The standards-based curriculum meets the requirements of national and state organizations. Ongoing course updates and revisions assure the quality and currency of curriculum.

**2019-2020 National PASS Student of the Year  
Crystal Rivera  
Wapato School District  
Wapato, Washington**



**CONGRATULATIONS!**

National PASS is pleased to award Crystal a \$2000 scholarship; \$500 per full time semester over 2 years.

## CRYSTAL RIVERA

Crystal has been migrating since she was a little girl. Her parents travelled all over Washington State, from Wapato to Benton City, Wenatchee, Naches and Yakima. They have worked picking cherries, apples, pears, grapes, hops and even pruning in the winter times. Crystal is someone who works really hard. Even though she has obstacles in her life she always finds ways to overcome them. She has orders from her doctor to take it easy until she delivers the baby in March, but she manages to get her work done in PASS. She is determined to graduate and better her life for herself and her new baby.

-Reyna Quiroz, Migrant Graduation Specialist

One of the many challenges in high school for me was getting pregnant. This was a challenge because I had a lot of appointments during school hours therefor I would miss some class time. I also had some complications in my pregnancy, which made it difficult for me to continue going to school. An important lesson I learned was no matter how many obstacles come my way never stop looking for a solution. For me it was very important to not give up no matter how hard or difficult life becomes.

PASS has been very beneficial and has really helped me a lot. Thanks to PASS I am able to stay home and still get the credits that I need for graduation. If I didn't have the chance to do PASS I would have probably dropped out and not been able to graduate.

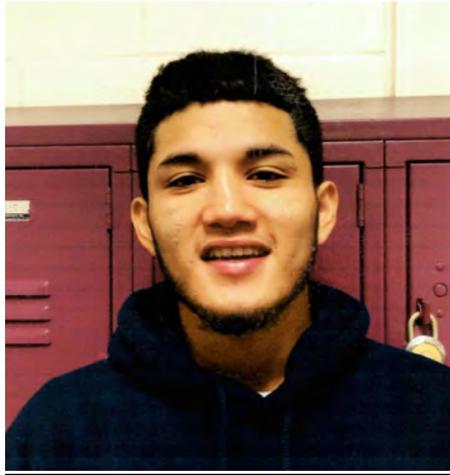
I have had a lot of support from teachers and other staff members from Wapato High School. For example, Mrs. Quiroz has been with me every step of the way, letting me know I can still graduate. She always finds a way to motivate me or find a solution to any problems that I may have. Another supportive person in my life is my partner. He is there to push me when I feel like giving up. Mrs. Quiroz and my partner both make sure I have my packets ready and complete on time. To have supportive people by my side is a big deal. Having them lets me know I'm not alone. Both of them have become my motivation for graduate.

My goal is to attend Perry Technical Institute this fall and I want to study business. My junior and senior year I studied electrician. I thought for sure that's what I wanted to be. As time passed I rethought that idea and said I want a less dangerous career. When I came up with the idea of studying business I realized it was a much safer better choice. Studying business can also open up many different opportunities for me. I can be accountant, advertise, and handle the financial piece, general management, Human Resources/personnel and retail management.

Sincerely,

Crystal Rivera

## National PASS Scholarship Semi-Finalist



### **MOISES ELIAS** **Okeechobee High School** **Okeechobee, Florida**

Moises attends Okeechobee High School in Florida. He has been a migrant student since the age of five. His family has picked apples, strawberries, zucchini, pears, pumpkins, oranges, cauliflower and broccoli from the Carolinas to Michigan, Georgia, Pennsylvania and Florida. The PASS program has helped Moises with retrieving credits so he can graduate with his class. It has given him the experience of not feeling left behind. It has helped him build skills and set goals.

- Florida Algarin, Teacher

My name is Moises Elias. I am from Okeechobee, Florida. I was born January 18, 2001 in Highland County, Sebring Florida. After losing my mother at an awful young age my life changed for the worst.

Me and my family were always in and out of states and schools, but I never let those little things get to me. I always stayed focused and determined for anything that was coming my way.

In 2017 my life changed again. I was sent to a residential program for a year. I excelled in the program, did very well, and was named dorm leader and kitchen manager. I gained a lot from my program, got many certifications. For example: Safe staff, A.R.T, NCCER card and a few other ones. After being released I jumped back into school. Even though I was very behind I met two very nice and helping school employees, Mrs. Sills and Mrs. Algarin. They have helped me so much and showed me the way and even pulled me aside for a wake-up call.

Mrs. Sills is my guidance counselor and the best one ever. Mrs. Algarin has been a big help since day one, she has even helped my older siblings years before me. The PASS program has helped me gain confidence that it doesn't matter how behind you are just take it one step at a time. Because life isn't a race it's a marathon.

My goals after high school is to join the vocational program at Indian River State College and study Welding and gain knowledge including hands on experience for my future.

**Leonardo D. Castaneda**  
**Columbia School District**  
**Burbank, Washington**

The Castaneda family currently lives in a very small town of Burbank, Washington surrounded by farms with a variety of agriculture. Leo has completed 6 PASS courses, totaling 30 units. Without PASS Leo would not have the opportunity to graduate with his peers this June. PASS has helped Leo earn credits toward graduation and has developed him into a better student. Leo's goal is to become a mechanic and be able to one day own his own business.

- Viviana Magallon, Migrant Student and Family Advocate

I learned a lot from my struggles. Showing me what is right from wrong, and knowing what to do or when not to do something. I've have been through a lot of things that have made me struggle from passing high school. One thing is doing drugs as in marijuana; it didn't really help me but only give me a reason to not do my work and way to get away from everything around me. I stopped in a way that couldn't really be explained only as depression. It really made me stop from doing a lot of things like doing my school work, socializing, hanging out with family, and just wanting to lay in bed all day. Until one day I finally decided to get out of my funk.

I began to do work in class and started to socialize a lot more. Then a bit later I met Viviana she helped me and introduced me to PASS. Her doing that really started to open doors and showed me so many things that could have got me through high school if I put in the work. While doing that I wasn't able to still graduate on time. I had to make a big change by going to the Washington Youth Academy (WYA) Viviana showed me this place saying that it could give me the opportunity to graduate somewhat on time. It took a lot of thinking and seeing all the things that I would leave behind was a big letdown for me. That included leaving my family, friends, and other very important events.

I met a lot of people on my 5 1/2 months in the WYA, many where mentors who should me the correct things to be doing, and making smart decisions. They showed me time management, and the meaning of a minute. Also having family around how much they can motivate you and teach you the ways of success. They would always be straight forward and say the truth that needed to be told which I really respected from them. The things I learned about myself is that I wanted to become a mechanic and fix vehicles. They showed me that if you put in the work to become what you and it will surely pay off at the end. They also taught me to always have a goal and always suspect that the goal will change over anything. Here after I graduate from Columbia High School I will be going into Job Corps to become a mechanic.



**Aldo Lopez**  
**Minto High School**  
**Minto, North Dakota**

Aldo's family usually goes to Texas annually during the winter and comes back early in the year. Aldo has taken advantage of the PASS program to make him who he is today. The PASS program has given him the opportunity to take classes that he would not have been able to fit in a daily high school schedule. Aldo is a young man that is going to do great things with his life.

-Jodie Wohlgamuth, Manvel PASS Coordinator

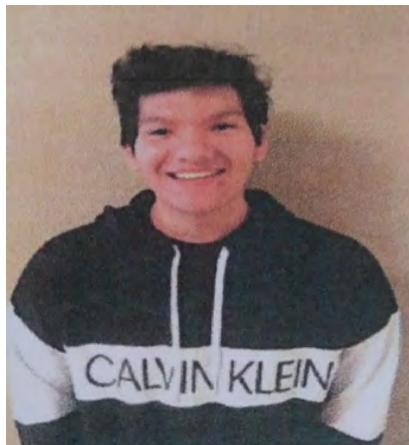
Life of a Migrant

Migrant was a word I heard often growing up and more so towards my teens years. I did go to migrant school in the summer when before I even entered normal school, but had no clue what the word meant. Later on I learned that migrants deal with family moving for better living conditions. This made sense as to why my family had to go to Texas every year.

In elementary school, I struggled as a migrant student. I had to leave school and still do homework even though I had not learned the material. Knowing my siblings had their share of homework and it would be best not to bother them with my questions, I always thought it best for me to work on my own. While my parents most likely could have helped me out, I did not want to ask them anything since they were going through so much stress. I followed this layout up until the end of fifth grade.

At the end of fifth grade, my parents had the news that they had found jobs for both my oldest brother and my father in Texas. We decided it would be best to move in early July. It took us about two days by car to finally get there and once we arrived, it was a rainy and gloomy day. We also quickly realized that there were only two bedrooms. This meant that my parents slept in one while my four siblings and I slept in the other. We were not ones to complain and made the most out of it. Soon I realized the rainy and gloomy day would be a perfect metaphor for our entire stay.

After two years of living in Texas, we were still not financially stable. The summer leading to my eighth-grade year, we decided to move back to my original home in North Dakota. We scraped what little money we had to relocate. In order to catch up on my studies, I attended the Manvel Migrant PASS school during the summers. While it was hard to see my friends enjoy their summers not having classes, I am beyond grateful to have had the opportunities to complete the courses that Manvel offered. Without PASS, I know that I would likely not be graduating on time with the rest of my classmates, as I struggled academically when we had to leave. PASS truly revealed how capable I am when I get to complete classes without having to relocate. I will graduate high school this May, and will attend NDSU in the fall, where I plan to major in criminal justice. Once I obtain my degree, I plan to become a criminal analyst to help solve crimes, so that my community will be safer. I know how important education is, so I am beyond thankful for PASS and to have the opportunity to earn this scholarship to help make my education even more affordable.



**Sonia Rodriguez Zavala**  
**Kofa High School**  
**Somerton, Arizona**



Sonia Zavala's family has been doing migrant work since 2013. By taking 2 PASS courses, Sonia had more time during her senior year to focus on her CNA class and obtain certification. Sonia is a very motivated, responsible, hard working and dedicated student. She learned about time management skills during the time she was working on the packets. Sonia worked very hard to be on track with everything.

- Leticia Pereda, Migrant Advisor

My name is Sonia Rodriguez Zavala; I am a high school Senior at Kofa High School in Yuma, Arizona. I am very excited that I will be graduating this upcoming May of 2020. I recently got certified as a Nursing Assistant in December of 2019. With this certification, I now have a clear idea of what path I am taking for my career. Also, getting this great opportunity to get certified as a Nursing Assistant, has shown me a little bit of how the medical field is. I have always imagined myself wearing a pair of scrubs, working in the hospital helping people feel better, specifically children. The career I would like to pursue would be to become a Registered Nurse. The reason why I decided to take this path is because it is always important and valuable having someone in the medical field in the family. I feel that my passion for being part of the medical field grew after my other was going through several surgeries, after being diagnosed with cancer. My future goals are after I graduate high school, I plan to start working as a Licensed Nurse Assistant at Yuma Regional Medical Center or Sunset Community Health Center. I also plan to start college classes at Arizona Western College as a full time student. There I will apply to the Nursing program and get my Associates degree in Nursing, then I will transfer to NAU-Yuma to get my Bachelor's Degree. Hopefully, after I gain my Bachelor of Science in Nursing, I plan to work as an RN and help my community, after that, I intend to go back to school and become a Pediatrician.

I believe PASS has helped me throughout these last 3 years of high school. This is due to the migrant program in my high school that gave me the opportunity to take Government and Economics during the summer and be ahead. Doing this, was a great way to be ahead of everyone else and to plan my future. It helped me plan my future because during my senior year, I did not have to take the courses I took during the summer anymore. I passed Government course with a C, 79% and Economics with a B, 86%. Therefore, this gave me the opportunity to take the CAN class, and focus on that and my other 2 classes which were English and Math. Another way PASS has helped me, was that doing the courses of Government and the Economics early, made me have more time to take other courses which were college classes. Lastly another way how PASS helped me was by getting more time management skills. This is due to the fact that I would take my own time to do the packets, instead of watching movies. Doing these PASS packets, helped me learn that if you actually take your time doing something, there will be a good outcome of it.

I extremely appreciate you taking your time to read this essay and to give me this opportunity for this scholarship.

**JESUS ALONSO SAMANO**  
**PPEP TEC HIGH SCHOOL**  
**SAN LUIS, ARIZONA**



Jesus Alonso Samano is an extraordinary young man. He currently resides along with his twin brothers with his aunt and cousin here in the United States. Jesus started his academic career with PPEP after having been dropped from another local public high school. He got behind in credits after struggling to find another school. In order for Jesus to graduate in his correct cohort, he completed 4 PASS subjects in the areas of Math and Science, obtaining all B's. He knows that if it was not for PASS, graduation attainment in May of 2020 would have been almost impossible.

-Michelle Iniguez, Migrant Program Coordinator

My name is Jesus Alonso Samano Lopez, and I live in San Luis AZ, I am a senior at PPEP Tec High School, and one of my goals for the future is to become an engineer. I like to work with numbers and formulas, even when a problem seems hard, I always try to find a way to solve it, because I like to complete and understand what I am doing. In order to reach my goal, my first challenge is to complete my Precalculus class. I am the first student assigned with that class in my school. I took onto this challenge because this was one of the requirements to get accepted into university, my second goal is to attend ASU and pursue a bachelor's degree in engineering.

I wasn't sure what I wanted to do after graduating, until I started in my actual High School; my teachers, counselor, and the migrant program guided me to see the different options available after high school, and one of the first steps to start thinking how I was going to follow my path and reach my goals. As soon as they saw my transcript, they showed me that I was behind in some credits after I had lost almost one semester, because my family had some issues with my legal custody. However, I knew I wanted to be successful, so I started getting involved in some different classes to get more credits, such as being a teacher assistant, a math mentor, and becoming a member of Student Council. As they saw that I was doing really good, the migrant program advised me to start with the PASS packets; I started with general Math I and II, those were easy, so I was able to complete the quick, then I took General Science I and II, those were also easy, even when those were longer because of the readings, I completed those successfully. Those packets gave me some new knowledge, and also helped to regain other skills I had forgotten that were a support for some of my math and science classes. Another of my biggest goals is to become a fluent English speaker; I came to the United States when I started high school, I have a lot of things to learn, but I want to be successful, and I will continue my education until I complete all my goals.

**Jimmy Valasquez Perez**  
**PASCO HIGH SCHOOL**  
**DADE CITY, FLORIDA**



The Velasquez-Perez are a family of seven. They moved to the United States from Guatemala. The PASS courses have helped Jimmy become more and more confident in tackling course work both during our summer camp and most notably in his courses this school year. He is a hard working student, despite the many challenges he has faced. As a result of his success in the PASS program he has been steadily making strides as improving his grades and is the first in his family to potentially graduate from high school.

-Beverly Rivera-Cruz, Resource Teacher

My name is Jimmy Velasquez. I am 16 years old and I'm in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. I live with both of my parents, two brothers, and two sisters. I was born in Guatemala and started school there when I was only 7 years old. To get to school, I had to walk about a half an hour, cross a river and go through a forest. Sometimes it was very difficult for me to go to school because of bad weather

My family also didn't have enough money to buy food to eat. Every morning, my dad had to go to many places to look for some work. He had to work on other people's land by planting corn, beans, and tomatoes so he would get money to buy food.

Two years later we had to migrate from Guatemala to the U.S.A. to the state of Florida, for a better life. My parents had to work in the fields for many years and long hours, harvesting fruits or vegetables like, blueberries, tomatoes, and oranges, and sometimes during my vacation from school, I went to help them in the fields. Going to school in the U.S. was difficult for me because I only spoke one language which was Spanish. It was hard for me to learn a second language, English, but I always got some help from teachers and friends.

I am very proud of myself because I know that I can get a high school diploma. I will be the first person in my family to earn a high school diploma. After I graduate from high school, I want to go to vocational school or college to become either an electrician or a doctor and help my parents financially.

I have been able to attend the Migrant Education Program- Summer Camp and take several PASS courses, such as Study Skills and Health. Last summer, I took Algebra IA and it helped me because it provided a practice test so I could practice and know how to do it and then do the real test. It was also good to get help from the teachers too. I did better and passed the Algebra IA and this gave me 0.5 credits and I was then able to take geometry in school. I am now completing the last two units of Algebra IB.

All this is thanks to the Migrant Education Program for the help they have given to my family and me. They have also helped us with school supplies and transportation, when we needed it.

I am very thankful to the Migrant Education Program for nominating me for the Florida PASS Student of the Year Recognition and I am very grateful to my parents for giving me the opportunity to get an education and be able to graduate from high school.

**Jacqueline Trevino**  
**Minto High School**  
**Manvel, North Dakota**



PASS has given Jackie the opportunity to advance in her classes. She is given the option to work in an environment that is conducive to her learning style, which sometimes is hard to cater to in a small high school. With the PASS classes that Jackie has been able to transfer she has been given the chance to work in classes that are more career oriented. This has helped her create a plan for college. Jackie is dedicated, hard working, and committed to making everyone around her proud.

- Jodie Wohlgamuth, Manvel Migrant PASS Coordinator

I'm Jacqueline Nichole Treviño. I have lived and gone to school in Minto, North Dakota for all my life. I really want to become an elementary teacher because I love to work with kids. I am fluent in both Spanish and English, a skill that will help me to be the best teacher I can be. I will be the first in my family to graduate from high school and attend college. My parents dropped out of school to help the family and they didn't want me or my brother to drop out of school. They wanted us to get our education, to keep going and to follow through with what we want to become. My mom dropped out of school when she was an 8<sup>th</sup> grader and then got her GED. My dad was almost done with school, but he needed one more year or two to graduate from high school. He dropped out to help the family. The only diploma that we have in our house is my dad's CDL, because that's what he likes to do. My mom also wanted to become a teacher, and she told me that if I become a teacher, then I am following her dream. What I'm trying to say is that my parents are really proud of me and want me to go to school.

During my time at Minto School, there have been bumps in the road. During elementary and middle school, I never was very good at Math and English. I was always so confused and behind. My teachers got on that and they decided to take me out of the classroom and meet up with me on my own time. I received services from my resource room teacher and speech teacher. I have been given the tools and methods to succeed and have done so. I went from failing my classes to becoming a straight A student.

I have been going to the Migrant Program all my life. They have helped get my credits that I need to graduate from Minto. The classes that I took there were General Science, Personal Finance, Career Connections, Health, Environmental Science, English 11 and 12. Taking those classes really helped me to get my credits because when I came to Minto in the Fall my class schedule allowed me to have two study halls and I did use the wisely, thanks to the work done during the summer. It let me finish my homework and get extra support with my teachers. This program helped me to pursue my dream to go to college and become a teacher.

**Scarlet Silvia Juarez**  
**Kofa High School**  
**Yuma, Arizona**

Scarlet finished the PASS packets for Economics and Government during her junior year and first semester of her senior year. This allowed Scarlet to have more time to focus her attention to her beauty school classes. She will be graduating this May from high school and the beauty school. Scarlet demonstrated that she is a very responsible student, showing up on time to her appointments to take the tests. She is a very dedicated, committed, and passionate student. She wants to become a physical therapist.

-Leticia Pereda, Migrant Advisor



My name is Scarlet Silvia Juarez. I am a migrant senior student at Kofa High School. My career goal consists of graduating beauty school and putting myself through college in order to help my parents financial needs. My career goal is to become a physical therapist and PASS has helped me to get one step closer to achieving my goals.

As a migrant student I was offered the opportunity to take classes over the summer in order to get ahead in my classes and focus on the class that will be most beneficial to my career. Because of PASS, today I am able to take sports medicine two to give me as much knowledge going into the physical therapy industry. I am currently enrolled at the Yuma School of Beauty while also attending high school and this would not have been possible without PASS. PASS was able to give me the credits I needed to graduate high school and beauty school at the same time. PASS was able to accomplish giving me three on campus classes in order to arrive at beauty school on time everyday. I was filled with excitement when I was introduced to PASS because I knew I would be able to fit both schools into my schedule and work right out of high school to support myself through college. PASS has given me the opportunity to have a career out of high school that can help me with my major career goals and become helpful for my parents financial needs.

I am forever grateful for the opportunity that PASS has offered me. Without PASS I wouldn't be as confident as I am today. Knowing that I will be graduating from high school and beauty school in May of 2020 is a heartwarming feeling that I cannot explain.

**Karina Garcia Chavez**  
**Yuma High School**  
**Kofa High School**  
**Yuma, Arizona**

Karina's family has migrated from California to Arizona to work in agriculture. The summer PASS program has helped Karina because it made her ahead of her peers on the courses. This made it easier for her because it helped her move forward on her courses. It also has made her more self-reliant because of the PASS program. She is an amazing young lady who can set her mind to do something and gets it done.

-Mrs. Sanchez, Yuma High School Counselor  
-Maria Quintara, Migrant Advisor

My name is Karina Garcia and I'm a senior student currently attending Yuma High School. During my junior and senior year, I have chosen to take a wide range of courses throughout the semesters. The reason being, was to prepare for my post-secondary studies once I am in college in the fall of 2020. Although my educational choices have evolved around my academic subjects, I have also found enjoyment in criminal justice classes and to studying agriculture classes I have taken over time.

The summer PASS program helped me out because it made me ahead of my other peers on the courses. This made it easier for me to get the courses that I need in order for me to proceed my next steps into college. It also helped me out economically, that reason being is because I didn't have to pay for the government course class. Being in this program helped me out a lot, because it made it easier once I started my senior year in high school. Taking this task helped me out, because it made me more responsible in my studies. It also made me have more independence for myself and it made me more self-reliance because of that program. With this program, it made me grow, just like others who were in that program.

Lastly, my life revolves around the agricultural worker community because of my parents, friends, and my family. I want to make a difference to my parents and help them in any way possible. Once, I start college or get the job I need. To also be working in the important industry for agriculture. To get the degrees I need, in order for me to get where I need to be and to be successful in life. With this program it also helped me advance in my courses.



**Marilyn Garcia Chavez**  
**Kofa High School**  
**Yuma, Arizona**



Marilyn took Government and Economics during her sophomore and junior year. This will allow her to take more classes than she wants to take during her senior year. Marilyn stated that after she took these two courses, she learned a lot about how our government and how the economy works. The PASS packets helped her to learn to be responsible to study on her own and to make decisions of when to take the tests. I strongly believe she learned a lot about time management and decision-making.

-Leticia Pereda, Migrant Advisor

Coming from immigrant parents who never had the opportunity to get a basic education in their Native Country has inspired me to get a higher education and go to a good University, because we are in a country full of opportunities. My current educational goals, now that I'm a junior in high school, are to take as much knowledge as I can from my current classes and teachers and to use as many resources, and opportunities that are offered to me right now, to gain more experience to prepare me for university. I'm using this time to focus on my grades and studying for tests coming up, that will determine my path after high school. In my senior year, I will focus on applying for scholarships and developing my work for when I apply to Universities.

Creativity has always formed a bit part in my work ethic from writing, or painting, to creating choreographies for dance. I have always loved to use different types of art forms as a way to distress and express my thoughts or ideas, on issues like mental health, and global warming. My works can be interpreted in different forms, and perspectives depending on the viewer, and it's what I love about having a career that involves creativity. My career goal is to go into a field that involved creativity like Fashion Design, Interior Design, or Architecture. I would like to keep expressing, and developing new ideas through a creative field, which is why I'm considering these majors. The PASS program has helped me be on track of my academic, and career goals. It allowed me to take classes at my own pace, and finish them quickly, rather than spending two semesters on them. This will allow me to have 5 classes my Senior year and spend my time building up my portfolio and doing any extra work that I will need to do for applying for scholarships and university. Specifically when I took the PASS for Government it opened my perspective on how we the citizens have to be aware, and involved in what's going on with our government. When I took the PASS for Economics it allowed me to have a deeper understanding of how financing works, and how different types of loans work. I believe this knowledge will stick with me and will be useful as I go into university, and my everyday life, and that it will benefit me in the long term. I am thankful for the opportunity the PASS program has brought me, and for considering me for this scholarship.

**Lizbeth Alvarado Amezola**  
**Yuma High School**  
**Kofa High School**  
**Yuma, Arizona**



Lizbeth finished with two elective classes in the PASS program. She took Art I and II. The PASS program helped get her electives out of the way to focus on core classes. Lizbeth has demonstrated the ability to adapt to change, although family circumstances have driven the move between schools, she has remained diligent in her studies with proactive planning and task completion. These types of skills will transfer to success in college.

-Mrs. Sanchez, Yuma High School Counselor

-Maria C. Quintana, Migrant Advisor

"If you're always trying to be normal, you will never know how amazing you can be,"- Maya Angelou  
Growing up, my mother always held my siblings and I to very high standards. We used to dread having our report cards come out due to the fact that if we did not have straight A's, we were in big trouble. My mother always knew what we were capable of and didn't settle for less, because she knew about the potential we have within. If she didn't push so hard we wouldn't be at the level we are today.

Average was never in our vocabulary. Just like my mother, I also set standards and expectations for myself. My education has always been my number one priority. I strive to always be at the top of my class. C's and lower were unacceptable to both mother and I. I always aim for advanced classes outside of my grade level, because I know I can do great things.

Going to the University of Arizona has always been my number one goal. One of my goals in high school is to have a dual credit class and graduate with college credits. After high school, my goal is to go to U of A and earn my masters degree. Once I am finished with medical school, my goal is to start a family as well as my career. I hope to be very successful and be able to travel all over the world.

PASS has helped me complete my electives in a way that will allow me to focus more on my core classes. Having the space in my schedule gives me the opportunity to take other classes and branch out without worrying about getting all my university requirements done. This program also allows me to take the packets and complete them during the school year. This is really accommodating to me because this allows me to complete the packets on my own time, at my own pace. However, if for some reason I do not complete the packets during the school year, I can always complete them during the summer in a classroom setting, which is really convenient if you cannot focus at home.

In conclusion, I have set out many goals for myself that I plan on achieving and I know I can do anything I set myself up for. Settling for less will never get you anywhere in life.

**Briana Alcantar Perez**  
**Yuma Union High School**  
**Kofa High School**  
**Yuma, Arizona**

Briana's family has a history in the Migrant Program. Her father cuts and packages lettuce, traveling from California to Yuma, Arizona. Briana finished two classes in PASS- Driver's Education and Economics. The PASS program helps her to gain knowledge and have one step in her goals and prepare for the future. Briana has proven to be a go-getter and has demonstrated that she has the skills and determination to succeed in life.

-Mrs. Sanchez, Yuma High School Counselor  
-Maria C. Quintana, Migrant Advisor

My name is Briana Alcantar Perez, a 10<sup>th</sup> grade student of Yuma High School and part of the migrant program. Last year, I got the opportunity to join the PASS program where I got the decision to take economy during the last summer and driving education during the school year. The reason why I choose to take driving education and economics was to proceed and gain knowledge expiring different and interesting topics that can help me and prepare me for the future.

My goals in education and for my future career is to graduate of Yuma High School with a good GPA that could help me to enter to a good collage, study a career that I am interested and wanted to do for the rest of my life, a career that make me felt interest and willing to learn more and more about it, that is my goal in life and for my future career. Having the opportunity of being part of the PASS Program helps me to be one step forward to accomplish my goals on education. Thanks to this program I have the opportunity to learn and inform me on interesting things. For example, one of them was driving education. This interesting class helped me to gain knowledge about the rules and how important little things that people do when they are driving did not consider that important, showing me its importance when you are driving.

Also, another class that I chose to do during the summer was Economics which was a class required to graduate in my senior year. This interesting class helped me to inform myself of the different types of economies that exist in life and showed me what are their benefits and disadvantages. For example, one of the topics that the class of Economics taught about was how people buyed their needs and wants, how the economy can rise or decrease based on the price of the product, and how the different types of economics can have good advantages and disadvantages based on your situation.

Having the opportunity to be part of this program helps me to experience and challenge myself, proving that I can learn interesting topics in a short time period. This program helps me to go ahead on my credits and electives in school, preparing me and giving me experiences that I can use during the school years. My goal is to be an excellent student that can have the opportunities to challenge itself, proving that no matter the grade that I am, I can show that I'm capable of doing it cause I have the desire and the skills, so when I graduate from Yuma High School I will be prepared and willing to be someone in life.



**Aileen I. Alcantar Perez**  
**Yuma High School**  
**Yuma, Arizona**



Aileen finished two classes in PASS- Art I and Art II. The PASS program helps her to know more stuff that she didn't know before and allows her to be a step ahead on her goals that prepare her for her future life. Aileen has a great strong mind to keep her good grades up and has proven to be a mature young lady who wants to succeed in life.

-Mrs. Sanchez, Yuma High School Counselor  
-Maria C. Quintana, Migrant Advisor

My name is Aileen Alcantar, I am currently a freshman student from Yuma High School who is in the AVID and PASS program at Yuma High, one of the goals I have for my future is to graduate with a high GPA but also to attend a good university. One of the ways in which PASS has been able to help me is the fact being able to be one step closer to my goal, and also being at the same time moving forward faster on my learning, being able to learn more about a subject that could later benefit me in a class or in my future learning.

Another goal in my life is to become a digital artist, to achieve this I have to take into account that it is necessary for me to learn about the basics of art so that I can then put it into practice and know that the way it's applied is correct. Another way in which the PASS program has helped me in my goals is to learn about my desired career. Thanks to the program, I have learned about the different techniques that can be applied in art, the types of categories in the colors that can be done in a single painting, such as value, monochromatic colors and complementary colors, but also the different types of lines that can be elaborated to achieve a certain desired feeling in the paint. For example, this year in the program I learned that shades of white to black are known as value, and that when using a hue in different shades plus black or white is called a monochromatic painting. Without this program I would not have been able to learn more in just one year, I would have had to wait to learn it later on.

**Lizbeth Andrea Rubio**  
**Cibola High School**  
**Yuma, Arizona**

Lizbeth's father has been working in agriculture for over 33 years, migrating from Yuma, Arizona to Salinas, California. The PASS program helped Lizbeth to advance in credits. She put forth all her effort to complete her PASS courses in Economics and Government and passed with acceptable grades.

- Guadalupe-Navarro, Migrant Advisor

For as long as I can remember I have always wanted to go to a university and have a successful job. I have had such great role models in my life including my older siblings and my parents. Knowing that both my older siblings graduated from Arizona State University and how proud they made my parents feel keeps me motivated. I wanted to feel accomplished like my siblings did so that is why I decided to take PASS. The PASS courses that I am taking are both economics and government. Reason being that I would be ahead of my classes for senior year and not have to stress as much because I would like to take college courses during my last year of high school. Being ahead would not benefit myself but also my father. My father struggled to pay for my siblings education however he made sacrifices and did everything he could to make sure his children had the privilege to go to a university. That is why I want to help my father as much as I can so he does not struggle once again. My career goals are to become a businesswoman or a children social worker. Economics and government has really educated me into the business aspect and has given me more knowledge over the topic. Being surrounded by children has always made me feel merry and comfortable seeing how social workers provide help for those children in need and trying their best to seek justice has really grabbed my attention. No matter the career I decide to follow, I want to be able to provide for my family and give back to my parents. They both made huge sacrifices throughout the years and work nonstop to be able to have a roof over our head. Raising five children, losing a daughter, and becoming divorced parents was not easy for both of them and my siblings and I. I want to be their daughter that had the privilege to attend college or a university without any worries financially. My parents had a lot on their minds already and do not deserve to stress over my grades in school. That's why I currently have a 3.9 GPA in high school with good attendance to prove that migrant students are just as smart and hardworking as the other students.



**Fernanda Ruvalcaba**  
**Kofa High School**  
**Yuma, Arizona**

Fernanda finished the Economics PASS course the first semester of her senior year. This allowed her to have more time during the last semester of her senior year to focus on her CNA class and be able to get her certification. She wants to attend ASU to become a Registered Nurse. PASS helped Fernanda to be more responsible and efficient with time management. She is a very organized, polite and intelligent student. She has the strength to achieve anything.

-Leticia Pereda, Migrant Advisor

Ever since I was small I enjoyed helping people out in any way I could. As I grew up I knew this was something I wanted to do for the rest of my life. Once I discovered the healthcare field I knew that was it. My goal is to become a neonatologist. To achieve my goal I started taking the nursing class in my high school junior year. Towards the end of junior year I applied for the CNA program to take in my senior year. Towards the end of junior year I applied for the CNA Program to take in my senior year. I passed through the application process and out of about 90 applicants I entered the program. In order to be in the CNA Program we have to be up to date with our classes and have economics and government classes done since the CNA program takes up to two periods of school. I had my government class and completed economics in the PASS Packet. Thanks to having my economics done in the PASS Packet I was able to start the program. This helps me now and in my future because this is what I want to dedicate my life to. Being in the CNA Program allows me to give a big step in starting my career. I have the chance to experience actual contact with patients and experience the workplace of a healthcare facility. After completing the CNA program and graduating high school I plan on attending AWC and entering the Nursing Program. After completing my general classes and the Nursing Program, I plan on transferring to a University and continue with my nursing career to become a neonatal nurse. When becoming a neonatal nurse I plan to start working and studying to start my way towards a neonatologist. Thanks to completing the Economics PASS Packet I am able to advance in my future and have the motivation to keep working toward my goals.





# **National PASS Center**

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