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In College, Career and Life.*

## **PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

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Contact: Craig Pletenik (602) 764-1530

### **Phoenix Union Foundation hosts Annual Scholarship Dinner**

**PHOENIX UNION**— Student art and fashion will be the theme as the Phoenix Union Foundation for Education will hold its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Dinner and Auction, Friday, February 23 at the Phoenix Art Museum.

Proceeds from the top fundraiser of the year for the 501 (c) 3 goes to post-secondary scholarships for Phoenix Union students. The evening will feature a student fashion show, live student art, entertainment, student servers and food preparers and a silent and live auction. Honored guests will be the Friends of Phoenix Union, Alumnus of the Year and Counselor of the Year.

The theme of the evening is “The Art of Education-Learning Never Goes Out of Style.” The Carl Hayden High School Fashion program will have a fashion show during dinner, featuring student creations, models and a deejay hosting the festivities.

With its mission of “Strengthening our Community by Investing in Student Success,” the Foundation grants scholarships, has created an endowment fund for future scholarships, and provides grants for innovative school or District programs.

“Last year we announced that we had awarded over \$1 million and over 1,200 scholarships to graduating Phoenix Union students,” Foundation President **Jason Gellman** said. “We awarded \$110,000 in scholarships to 68 seniors in 2017 and our endowment now exceeds a half-million dollars, toward a goal of \$1 million, which will provide multiple scholarships to deserving students in perpetuity.”

The dinner, sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, is an opportunity to recognize significant contributors to the District’s success.

**Christine and Daryl Burton** of the Burton Family Foundation will be recognized as Friends of Phoenix Union. The couple has funded many initiatives such as ACT Boot camps, a Historically Black Colleges and Universities tour, and flash-funded \$100,000 to Support My Club benefiting student clubs throughout the District.

**Chris Wooley** a Maryvale graduate is the Alumnus of the Year. The owner/managing producer at VAS Communications is a two-time Emmy Award-winning producer/director specializing in biomedical communications locally, nationally and internationally.

**Terry Haggerty of Bioscience High School** is the Counselor of the Year. Nominated by her peers, the school’s only counselor helped Bioscience students to a record \$10 million in scholarships offered last year.

Besides “Principal Sponsor” Blue Cross Blue Shield, “Valedictorian” sponsor is Logicalis, “Salutatorian” sponsors are Honeywell, Chasse Building Team and McCarthy Construction. “Principal’s List” sponsors are CORE Construction, A & H Painting, and Scholar sponsors are Orcutt/Winslow and Roofing Southwest.

Longtime Valley sportscaster and Phoenix Union alumnus (West High) **Kevin McCabe** will emcee the evening.

The dinner, and a Scholarship Open Golf Tournament, May 4, are the two fundraisers each year. Individuals and companies give name scholarships, and hundreds of Phoenix Union employees also contribute through an employee-giving program.