Written by Melissa Larsen
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AZFoothills.com would like to congratulate the first-ever graduating class of The Girls Leadership Academy of Arizona (GLAAZ). The six young women graduate in tonight's ceremony. GLAAZ is only two years old, having already created positive change in the community by preparing young women to succeed in future educational pursuits and in life. Get to know the graduating class:

Marli Jean Mayon

Favorite GLAAZ Memory: Competed in the 2012 Junior Achievement of Arizona's JA You're Hired! Program and earned a summer internship. Also emceed the 2013 event that drew 400 students from 23 Arizona high schools.

College Plans: Will attend Scottsdale Community College and then transfer to Arizona State University to pursue a degree in political science. Plans to complete law school, practice law and run for political office.

Ambrosia Victorian Mitchell (pictured)

Favorite GLAAZ Memory: Participated in the Arizona High School Mock Trial regional competition in March 2013 with her GLAAZ teammates. The team placed one point shy of advancing to the state competition.

College Plans: Will attend Grand Canyon University and major in communication. Hopes to enter the field of public relations.

Adilene Quintero

Favorite GLAAZ Memory: Meeting new people and learning from the dedicated teachers at GLAAZ.

College Plans: Will attend Glendale Community College to become a dental assistant.

Alexandra Bostick Petersen

Favorite GLAAZ Memory: Making new friends and building relationships with teachers who "actually care about you personally."

College Plans: Will attend Phoenix College to study phlebotomy, with the ultimate goal of becoming a labor and delivery anesthesiologist.

Maria Eymi Magaña

Favorite GLAAZ Memory: Enjoyed wearing a uniform because she never had to worry about what to wear!

College Plans: Will attend Grand Canyon University and major in secondary education with plans to become a teacher.

Yocelyne Garcia Diaz

Favorite GLAAZ Memory: Earned college credits for Spanish while attending GLAAZ. Enjoyed interacting with faculty and students.

College Plans: Will attend Glendale Community College for general education requirements, followed by the University of Phoenix to study criminal justice.