



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Two Mountain View HS students' selected as nominees for the U.S. Presidential Scholars in Career and Technical Education

Marana, AZ. (December 19, 2016) – The Arizona Department of Education recently announced that Mountain View High School students' Tia Hunt, an Engineering Student, and Mara Steeber, a Bioscience and Engineering Student, were selected as Arizona nominees for the U.S. Presidential Scholars in Career and Technical Education. They were selected from a total of 45 outstanding candidates from across the state.

This is the second year of the program and each state can nominate only 5 candidates for recognition of excellence. Students were selected based on evidence of academic rigor, technical competence, employability skills and ingenuity/creativity/problem solving. Nominations were submitted by the Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction's office to the Commission on Presidential Scholars at the U.S. Department of Education in December. Nominees have been invited to apply in January, 2017 by the U.S. Presidential Scholars program office. Twenty outstanding U.S. Presidential Scholars in Career and Technical Education students will be recognized for the first time in May, 2017. The U.S. Presidential Scholars in Career and Technical Education program will honor students on the basis of outstanding scholarship and demonstrated ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields.



**Tia Hunt** is an AP Scholar, Sophomore Scholar of the Year, and a consistent principal's Honor Roll student maintaining a 4.0 GPA. She has completed numerous honors and AP classes along with dual enrollment classes. She has earned college credit through the U of A upon completing her Engineering Application Class.

Last year, Tia completed a structured volunteer program that required her ability as a leader to teach a weekly LEGO Robotics class to 5th and 6th grade students at Quail Run Elementary School. "This experience gave me insight on programming, basic robotics engineering and problem solving, along with obtaining basic engineering skills in the classroom," said Tia.

Currently, Tia Hunt is part of the Real World Design Challenge team for the Engineering CTE program. This involves research and development regarding an Unmanned Aircraft Vehicle similar to how aerospace engineers develop aircraft and aerospace systems. Her final project this semester involved developing and presenting the prototype for a new or enhanced product while working within a team. The team applied technical skills, problem-solving and creativity in order to solve a real-world problem, specifically for the visually impaired. The final result was a prototype for a wearable ultrasonic sensor designed to detect and cue the user of approaching obstacles that eliminated the need for a walking cane.

Tia has been an active volunteer while in high school including summer camp instructor for Quail Run Elementary School, Story Time volunteer at Nanini Public Library, and as a member of the Teen Advisory board. "Being able to inspire a future generation of students in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math is an incredibly rewarding way to spend my time," states Tia.

**Mara Steeber** has completed the Bioscience program at Mountain View High School and is currently enrolled in the Engineering program at the high school and University of Arizona. She has also passed the CTE Technical Skills Assessment for Bioscience and has maintained a 3.88 GPA with 4.0 in her CTE classes. Mara has already earned 6 dual enrollment credits in Bioscience and is currently enrolled in 3 engineering dual enrollment courses. She has remained on the Principal's Honor Roll throughout high school and been awarded the Student of the month 3 years in a row.

During high school, Mara has had several leadership roles in which she has taken great pride. She has been the president for two years of the Health and Medical Sciences club initiating events and assemblies promoting a healthy lifestyle. "The assembly I was most honored to be a part of was a mock accident displaying the repercussions of drinking and driving," Mara shares. "I cannot describe how profound the reality of the event was and how grateful I was to have led such an impactful assembly."

Mara has been a member and current Vice-President of Mountain View HOSA, Future Health Professionals organization and will help lead the chapter to the state conference. Mara has also been a leader and active member of the National Honors Society serving as Treasurer and currently Vice-President. She is also a volunteer at the Pima Animal Care Center helping with adoptions and animal care. More recently, she has been volunteering in a biochemistry lab at the University of Arizona as a result of being accepted as a KEYS intern at the University and she is also currently participating in the Elementary Robotics community service project at Quail Run Elementary School.

During the summer of 2015, Mara was employed at the U of A through the Summer Institute on Medical Ignorance (SIMI). She worked full-time as a lab assistant in the department of neurology and pharmacology. "This experience helped me develop confidence in the medical field," Mara shared. "It was helpful to speak in front of a group of professionals." Last year, Mara competed in the Southern Arizona Research, Science and Engineering Foundation science fair where she constructed and conducted a research project on the inspection of contaminants in Arizona's local fresh water sources. She was presented an award by Pima Community College for this project. Currently, she is working on Mountain View's greenhouse project with a group of engineering students to meet the needs of special education students' real world course and provide produce for the MVHS culinary program.

An award ceremony for the two exceptional CTE students was held on Friday, December 9, 2016 at Mountain View High School



with Jeanne Roberts, Deputy Associate Superintendent/State Director CTE of the Arizona Department of Education, presenting the awards.

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