



For Immediate Release:

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**CREED CONTINUES TO MAKE COLLEGE A REALITY FOR EL PASO STUDENTS
WITH “SYLVIA HOPP SAN ELIZARIO COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP”**

San Elizario senior Maria Cano, Hopp Scholarship recipient, will attend UTEP

El Paso, TX - Today, at the annual San Elizario Rose Ceremony, the Council on Regional Economic Expansion and Educational Development (CREED) awarded a \$2,500 Sylvia Hopp San Elizario College Scholarship to graduating senior Maria Fernanda Cano.

The Sylvia Hopp Scholarship Fund was established in 2017 to honor former superintendent Sylvia Hopp's contributions to improving educational attainment in El Paso. It will award a total of \$20,000 in scholarships by 2025 to help graduating seniors cover tuition and other costs associated with attending and completing college.

Maria is an accomplished student at San Elizario High School who has challenged herself academically by taking AP Calculus, AP English, AP Spanish, and dual credit courses, all while becoming an all-star player for San Elizario's tennis team, participating in its culinary arts program, and volunteering at local churches and nursing homes in her spare time. Maria will attend the University of Texas, El Paso (UTEP) this fall and plans to pursue a nursing degree. She hopes to become a neonatal nurse practitioner and serve the health needs of infants and families in the El Paso region.

“Students like Maria Cano, and the dozens of others who applied for this scholarship, remind us of the amazing potential and talent that students across El Paso possess. I'm grateful that community organizations like CREED are able to help these students on their higher education journey,” said former superintendent Sylvia Hopp. “The greatest investment we can make for our community's future is in the education and preparation of our students.”

The scholarship fund builds on CREED's ongoing efforts to increase the number of El Paso students obtaining a college degree in a timely manner. CREED supports local school district initiatives that prepare all students to be college-and-career ready by the time they graduate

high school, including the expansion of dual credit courses, STEM programming, and teacher development programs.

“The ultimate goal of the scholarship, and all our initiatives at CREEED, is to support and encourage students to strive for academic excellence beyond high school and obtain a post-secondary degree within 6 years of their enrollment,” said Eduardo “Eddie” Rodriguez, CREEED’s Executive Director. “In addition to preparing students academically for their college degree or certificate course of study, we need to provide them with the practical resources they need to obtain that degree. We are delighted to support some of these future college graduates through the Sylvia Hopp San Elizario College Scholarship Fund.”

More information about the Hopp Scholarship and CREEED’s efforts to raise educational attainment in the El Paso region can be found at www.creed.org.

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About the Council on Regional Economic Expansion and Educational Development (CREEED):

The Council on Regional Economic Expansion and Educational Development (CREEED) is a not-for-profit organization focused on increasing the number of high-performing seats in El Paso’s public education system. This is accomplished by investing in initiatives that are creating measurable outcomes to close the achievement gap for El Paso students. CREEED supports organizations, initiatives, and policies that prepare students to succeed in college and in our future workforce. CREEED’s efforts are focused on increasing the quality of education that students receive in El Paso. Our efforts fall into three categories: Increasing Student Attainment; Increasing Teacher Talent & Leadership Development; and Increasing Parent and Community Engagement.