



Local students received their CVEP Pathways to Success scholarship certificates at a special ceremony last week

# Pathways to Success Scholarships Help Locals Access Higher Education

## STAFF REPORTS

Over the past two years, the dream of a college education has become a reality for 428 Coachella Valley students thanks in large part to Pathways to Success

(Pathways), a Coachella Valley Economic Partnership (CVEP) program that provides financial assistance and guidance to help our community's college bound reach for, afford and succeed at

higher education. Last Saturday, ceremonies recognized both the scholarship recipients and the matching partners whose contributions have made the distribution of \$1,840,000 in scholarship funds possible.

"The scope and success of this program is one of CVEP's - and the Coachella Valley's - great success stories," says Thomas Flavin, CVEP president and CEO. "Providing a roadmap to higher education for local students, many of whom will be the first in their family to attend college, not only helps them access opportunities for a better life; it is also a critical step in the development of an educated workforce for our valley's future."

The two ceremonies were held at the UC Riverside Palm Desert Campus. The first recognized the 288 Pathways to Success Matching Partners Scholarships awarded in 2011. These financial awards were made possible by contributions from Desert Healthcare District (\$170,000), College of the Desert Alumni Association (\$125,000), Boys & Girls Club of Coachella Valley (\$50,000), and a number of other organizations. The \$631,250 contributed by these partners was matched by Pathways to Success,

doubling the award pool. In a second ceremony this year's 72 Pathways to Success scholarship recipients will be recognized. Adding the 68 two-year scholarships awarded in 2010 that renew this year brings the total to 428 students whose lives have been touched by the program.

Pathways also helps its scholarship recipients in ways that go well beyond financial assistance. Once students are at school, Pathways counselors provide guidance and advice; workshops teach college readiness skills; assignments help students navigate their new environment and connect with campus services.

"Our responsibility does not end once our students get to campus," says Ernie Rios, program director of Pathways to Success. "We try to be active partners in their academic success, which means offering guidance and support as they acclimate to college life. Higher education is a transformative experience; we're grateful for the support of our matching partners, and for the contributions of our desert cities and other investors to CVEP, which makes this experience available to so many deserving local students."

TPR

**ISN'T IT TIME TO IMPROVE YOUR GOLF GAME?**  
*Make rapid progress and have fun doing it*

Geoff Dean, PGA takes a hands-on approach to helping you improve quickly

Geoff Dean, PGA, began his career as a professional player and has competed among the best in the world. For the last 15 years as a teaching professional, he has condensed his vast knowledge and experiences into a specialized training program that yields results for players of all levels.

With Geoff as your coach, you'll focus on four pillars of learning, including:

- 1) Fundamentals,
- 2) Physical Training,
- 3) Golf Psychology and,
- 4) On-Course Skills.

With Geoff's assistance, beginners and high handicappers can convert frustration into enjoyment of the game... and advanced players can take their games to the next level.

So don't wait another day! Improve your golf game with Geoff Dean, PGA. Call for your first lesson today.

**(760) 898-2932**

[WWW.GEOFFDEANPGA.COM](http://WWW.GEOFFDEANPGA.COM)

 The advertisement features a photograph of Geoff Dean, a PGA professional, in a blue shirt and white shorts, coaching a student in a pink shirt and dark pants on a golf course. They are standing near a golf bag and a bucket of balls. The background shows a scenic view of mountains under a clear sky.

**PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS**

 The logo consists of the words "PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS" in a bold, sans-serif font. "PATHWAYS" is in grey, "TO" is in orange, and "SUCCESS" is in a larger, bold orange font. To the right of the text is a square graphic with a red background and white lines forming a stylized path or road that leads upwards and to the right.