

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

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Congratulations, Colin!

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One day last school year, Colin J. Darland was surfing the net looking up college scholarships when one of them caught his eye.

Darland, 18, noticed that the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans Inc., was offering scholarships ranging from \$2 to \$22,000 to students who had overcome adversity.

Darland, then a senior at Shadow Mountain High School, decided to apply. His father died when Darland was just 15 months old, and his mother lost her sight shortly after giving birth to his older brother.

Earlier this spring, Darland learned that he had been awarded a National Scholar award and a \$20,000 Horatio Alger National Scholarship. He went to Washington to meet the 107 other National Scholars.

"It was kind of surprising because I was looking at a whole bunch of Web sites applying for a little bit here and there, and then they said I was a finalist and I got to take the trip," Darland said. "I just wanted to pinch myself."

Darland is now a freshman at the University of Arizona, where he is a pre-communications major.