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Ryo Kato Named 2018 PTK Global Leaders of Promise Scholar

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MESA, Ariz.—Dec. 7, 2018 – Mesa Community College student Ryo Kato is one of 207 Phi Theta Kappa members named a 2018 Leaders of Promise Scholar. He is one of only seven international students in the nation to receive the \$1,000 Global Leaders of Promise scholarship.



The Leaders of Promise Scholarship Program helps new Phi Theta Kappa members defray educational expenses while enrolled in associate degree

programs. Scholars are also encouraged to assume leadership roles by participating in society programs and are selected based on scholastic achievement, community service and leadership potential. More than 1,200 applications were received this year.

Kato, 26, is a marketing major from Tokyo. His goal is to work as a business consultant for small and large businesses. Kato is the founder of the Japanese Student Union in Arizona that serves all Japanese international students in the state.

“Winning this award means a lot to me,” Kato said. “It shows other international students in the college that they can win scholarships.”

A total of \$207,000 is awarded through the Leaders of Promise Scholarship Program. The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation provides \$200,000 in funding for the scholarships, with \$25,000 set aside for members who are veterans or active members of the U.S. military. The remaining amount is supported by donations to the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation and provides seven Global Leaders of Promise Scholarships, earmarked for international students.

The scholarships not only aid college completion, but also give students the opportunity to engage in society programs and develop leadership skills to become future leaders in their communities.

“Research shows that Phi Theta Kappa members are four times more likely to complete a college degree than their peers,” said Dr. Monica Marlowe, executive director of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation. “The Leaders of Promise Scholarships recognize students for what they have achieved already and assure that financial need isn’t an obstacle to achieving their academic goals.”

Phi Theta Kappa is the premier honor society recognizing the academic achievement of students at associate degree-granting colleges and helping them to grow as scholars and leaders. The society is made up of more than 3.5 million members and nearly 1,300 chapters in 10 nations. Learn more at [ptk.org](http://www.ptk.org/). (<http://www.ptk.org/>)

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Mesa Community College is nationally recognized for service-learning, career and technical programs, civic engagement and innovative approaches to education. The college serves as a resource for career readiness, transfer education, workforce development and lifelong learning. Host to 30,000 students annually, MCC offers more than 195 degree and certificate programs at its two campuses and additional locations. MCC is an emerging Hispanic Serving Institution with a diverse student body that enriches the learning experience. Award-winning faculty are dedicated to student success, providing the education and training that empowers MCC students to compete locally and globally. MCC, located in the East Valley of Phoenix, Arizona, is one of the 10

colleges that comprise the Maricopa County Community College District. For additional information visit mesacc.edu (<http://mesacc.edu/>).

Mesa Community College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) (<https://www.hlcommission.org/>).

The Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) is an EEO/AA institution and an equal opportunity employer of protected veterans and individuals with disabilities. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or national origin. A lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in the career and technical education programs of the District.

The Maricopa County Community College District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs or activities. For Title IX/504 concerns, call the following number to reach the appointed coordinator: (480) 731-8499 (tel:(480)%20731-8499). For additional information, as well as a listing of all coordinators within the Maricopa College system, visit <http://www.maricopa.edu/non-discrimination> (<http://www.maricopa.edu/non-discrimination>).

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