

# ARIZONA YOUTH ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

SUBMISSION FOR GROUP AWARD



APRIL 8, 2016



# EMPIRE SWAT TOBACCO PREVENTION YOUTH COALITION

PEER TOBACCO EDUCATION AND DIVERSION PROGRAM

**Established 2013**



*Leadership. Prepare. Advocacy. Involvement.*

EMPIRE HIGH SCHOOL

10701 E MARY ANN CLEVELAND  
WAY, TUCSON, AZ 85747

# MISSION

Raise awareness about the dangers of tobacco use among their friends, in their schools, in their communities and their local governments.

# GOAL

To develop a tobacco Diversion Pilot Program as an alternate consequence for violations of tobacco use on campus that engages in peer to peer education and support about tobacco prevention.



## **GROUP**

**Composed of 15  
students from grades  
9-12.**



## **PARTNERSHIPS**

**Works with their Wellness  
Coordinator and Pima County  
Health Department Adult  
Mentors.**



## **MEET**

**Coalition meets twice  
a week, every month.**

# BACKGROUND

A group of 15 students compose the exclusive Empire SWAT Tobacco Prevention Youth Coalition. New member recruitment for this exclusive group occurs at the beginning of every school year and is driven by an application process. Empire SWAT members meet every week, monthly. Many of the members par take in SWAT are also involved in other student activities, sports and clubs where they have the opportunity to lead, support and inspire their peers.

Empire SWAT functions as a Roman senate or council would, where each member has a voice and the group is empowered to act in partnership with their Wellness Coordinator and Adult Mentors.



# BACKGROUND CONT.



SWAT students collectively identified a need for a supportive policy that focuses on reducing youth tobacco use in their high school. Despite challenges, these students have worked diligently over the past year to promote, develop and complete a peer Tobacco Education and Diversion Program that will be initiated as a part of the Student Code of Conduct policy at Empire High School. As it is in its final stages of completion, Empire SWAT is planning to present their recommendations and their program to the school board and administration in May 2016.

# CREATING A MOVEMENT

Last year, Empire SWAT received some hesitation from school administration regarding the development, incorporation and delivery of a diversion program as a required consequence for the code of conduct offenders at Empire High School. SWAT members felt that the most effective way to deliver the program would be through shirt interactive activities, opposed to a lengthy course delivered by adults.

Persistence paid off! Students continued discussions with school administration and their concept for a tobacco diversion program was granted.

Throughout the 2015-2016 academic year, Empire SWAT conducted health fairs and peer to peer anti-tobacco workshops as a part of continuing education for health and cessation information. Students were able to acquire invaluable feedback from their peers from the workshops. As a result, they were able to create modules for the diversion program that supported their recommendations to school administration for best practice for the diversion pilot program as an alternate consequence for violations of tobacco use on campus that engages in peer to peer education and support .

# TIMELINE 2015

## AUGUST

-Discussion for Diversion Program framework, and training for usage of Adobe Captivate program.

## DECEMBER

Identified Diversion Program focus and identified program modules (Nicotine, Tobacco, Etc.). Discussed and distributed focus areas of work among coalition member teams.

# TIMELINE 2016

## FEBRUARY

Coalition teams completed program modules , and are working with adult partners to modify material.

## MARCH

Attended the Annual Spring Training event in Oracle, AZ. In addition to supporting and sharing information with state coalitions, students were able to practice presentation and advocacy skills that will be used in delivering the Diversion Program.

## MAY

Present Tobacco Education and Diversion Program to Empire High School Board and Administration for official implementation to the Student Code of Conduct policy.

# CLOSING

Empire SWAT students are actively speaking out against Big Tobacco. They are dedicated to final completion of their peer Tobacco Education and Diversion Program that will be approved as an integral part of the Student Code of Conduct. With assistance from community partners, it is their hope and intention that the Diversion Program will be accepted statewide in academic policy as an avenue for educators stand against tobacco and the big businesses that target youth.



# SNEAK PEEK

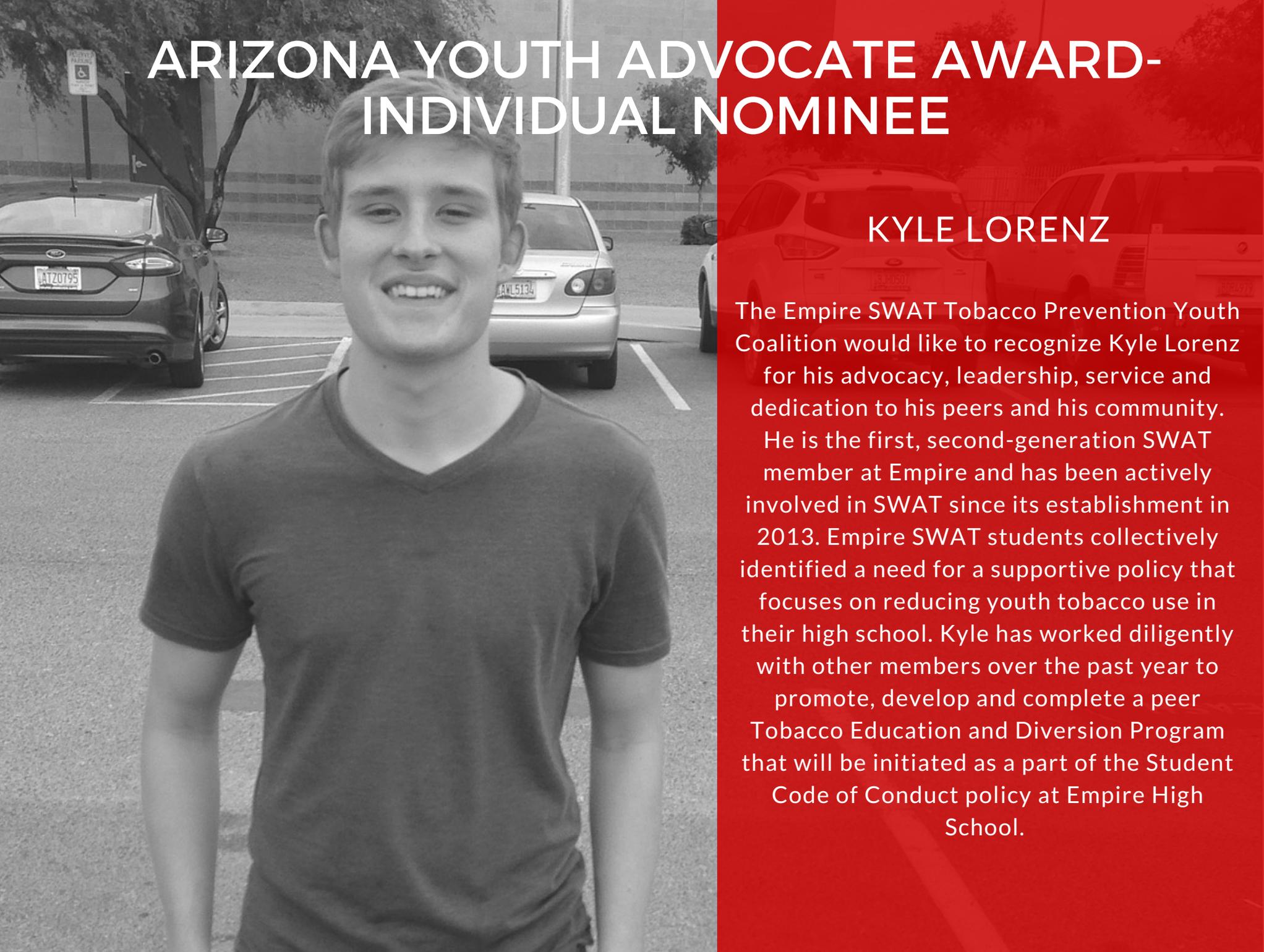
PEER TOBACCO EDUCATION AND  
DIVERSION PROGRAM



HOW SMOKING EFFECTS  
THE BODY



SECONDHAND SMOKE  
EFFECTS



# ARIZONA YOUTH ADVOCATE AWARD- INDIVIDUAL NOMINEE

## KYLE LORENZ

The Empire SWAT Tobacco Prevention Youth Coalition would like to recognize Kyle Lorenz for his advocacy, leadership, service and dedication to his peers and his community. He is the first, second-generation SWAT member at Empire and has been actively involved in SWAT since its establishment in 2013. Empire SWAT students collectively identified a need for a supportive policy that focuses on reducing youth tobacco use in their high school. Kyle has worked diligently with other members over the past year to promote, develop and complete a peer Tobacco Education and Diversion Program that will be initiated as a part of the Student Code of Conduct policy at Empire High School.

# INDIVIDUAL NOMINEE CONTINUED..

As it is in its final stages of completion, Empire SWAT is planning to present their recommendations and their program to the school board and administration in May 2016. Kyle has been a monumental in discussions regarding the concept of the Diversion Program with school administration.

Kyle's commitment to SWAT at Empire High School has been extremely impressive. As an advocate for health and wellness, he has made it a point to partner with various committees across campus to best facilitate tobacco prevention and education.

Kyle is amazing at time management. As a very active senior, he has been able to manage his efforts to assist various committees, yet always prepares time to complete module work the Diversion Program. In addition, he played a significant role in planning, coordinating and implementing Wellness Weeks, modules for the Tobacco Diversion Program and Peer to Peer Teaching Programs.

Kyle has been involved with the Diversion Program from its inception. He doesn't just talk the talk, he walks the walk, as his reputation and passion for health and education precedes him. It is an honor to recommend Kyle as the AZ Advocate of the Year!