

## Staying Local for College, a Good Choice By **Hannah McLain**



Worcs racing in Taft, California. Pro Stock class in my Polaris R8L.

Leaving high school, we as students want to take that next step into our futures. In an era of endless options and opportunities, the decision to pursue higher education is one of the hardest choices that individuals can face. With a wide variety of colleges and universities spanning the globe, the question arises: which institution is the right fit for me? While these well-known universities often catch our eyes first, there's a compelling case for choosing a local college.

While I was growing up, my goal was to go to one of the colleges of my dreams. Living and growing up in Lake Havasu City has sparked some of my passions. I am a professional off-road racer, a jet ski racer, a competitive cheerleader, and a competitive coach who has to train every day, either at the beautiful lake, in the desert, or in the gym. A big problem I faced when choosing colleges was picking a college that supports my dreams and passions. ASU Lake Havasu has created an amazing opportunity not only for me but for others who enjoy the same hobbies I do. Having smaller classes allows students to become a community in which we support each other's goals. By having smaller class sizes, I have

also gained many friends with whom I can share my interests in academics and racing.

By choosing ASU Lake Havasu, I was able to start my path to become an orthodontist, while still continuing to do the things I enjoy. College in a more rural area, such as Lake Havasu, has many advantages such as less expensive tuition, one-on-one time with your professors, and connecting with your peers. By bringing together students from diverse backgrounds and experiences, local colleges create vibrant and inclusive learning environments that celebrate diversity and foster cross-cultural understanding. These diverse perspectives enhance classroom discussions, broaden students' worldviews, and prepare them to navigate an increasingly interconnected global society. I am thrilled of my choice and am proud to be an ASU Lake Havasu student.



2023 at the ESPN center for the summit national cheerleading championships.



First jet ski race in Lake Havasu City Arizona.