



## ARIZONA STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

# MAKENGO LOKOMBO

12th Grade  
Glendale Union  
High School District

Leif Barsness  
Assistant Principal of Student Services  
Washington High School



 **ARIZONA**  
Department of Education

"This is Makengo Lokombo's second year out of EL classes, but he has used his skills to persevere for success in unparalleled ways. His first year out of EL, he achieved straight A's in general education classes. Now, in his senior year, he has challenged himself by taking AP Physics and AP Calculus AB, as well as two English classes to further develop his skills in English.

He is a refugee student from the Congo whose parents were prosecuted and killed for their political affiliation. He shared with me that he was playing video games when a family friend went into his house and helped him to escape as soldiers approached. He has a desire to go to ASU as he promised his parents that he would go to college. On top of his rigorous class schedule, he also works four days a week as a machine operator to help pay rent. Makengo displays incredible resiliency and determination, and I have no doubt he is going to achieve great things in his life."