HONORS HOTSPOTS?
Honors Hotspots is an earn-and-redeem program designed to enrich and enhance your academic experience and to engage our Honors community beyond the classroom (see the Honors Hotspots flyer). Earning Hotspots is optional — and lots of our students choose to participate. As part of your Honors Achievement Award, you are required to earn at least one Hotspot each semester in which you are an active Honors Program member, and write a brief reflection on your experience.

To earn your Honors Achievement Award, which will be credited to your account at the end of the semester, you must:

- Complete at least 6 college-level graded credits.
- Complete at least one Honors course with a minimum grade of C, and satisfy all Honors elements of the course.
- Participate in at least one Hotspot experience, and submit a written reflection.

After your required Hotspot, any Hotspots you earn are good for the Hotspots merch and prizes available to all Honors students. (And you don’t need to write a reflection paper for any events beyond your one Required Hotspot.)

WHERE DO I FIND MY REQUIRED HOTSPOT?
In general, Required Hotspots will come in the following forms:

1) Academic Lectures and Events: These can include Honors Speakers’ Forum lectures, lectures on campus but outside of your classes, off-campus lectures, film screenings, workshops, etc. Watch This Week in Honors and your Maricopa Gmail for pre-approved events.

2) Cultural/Arts: Attend a theater, dance or musical performance; visit a museum; attend an art event or film event. This pre-approved list is available in the Honors Hub.

3) Other Academic Involvement: This could include undergraduate research that occurs beyond a class requirement, such as attending or presenting at a conference (such as a STEM conference or Model U.N.), participating in an academic activity in your major field of study, or helping a scientist gather data for environmental research. You will probably learn about such opportunities before the Honors staff does so, please propose them! We’re happy to add them to the pre-approved list. But don’t come to us after the fact. Non pre-approved academic involvement will not be accepted.
**First Important Note:** You cannot double dip your Required Hotspot. In other words, if you are participating as part of one or more of your classes (even if for extra credit), then you CANNOT use it as your Required Hotspot. This Required Hotspot must be completely separate from your coursework. Once you’ve completed your Required Hotspot, any regular Hotspots you participate in for earn-and-redeem purposes can be double dipped for course credit or extra credit (if you can make it happen).

**Second Important Note:** This Required Hotspot must take the shape of one of the three forms explained on the front of this sheet. Regular Hotspots can be earned, for example, by recruiting another student to Honors or by earning an A in your Honors class. You can earn these kinds of regular Hotspots, but they are not equivalent to your Required Hotspot.

**Third Important Note:** Your Required Hotspot must be completed no later than the end of the 14th week of the semester. That’s April 24th for Spring 2015. Plan accordingly! Your scholarship award is at stake.

**NOW WHAT DO I DO?**

1. Attend or participate in the pre-approved Hotspot. Verify your attendance by either signing in and/or by collecting some sort of admission ticket, handout or program you receive at the event. If neither of these is possible, take a picture of yourself participating and compose it so it’s obvious that you are where you are. Attach the photo in an email to Ms. O’Brien (liz.obrien@phoenixcollege.edu) with a clear subject line and explanation of how this photo connects to your specific Hotspot.

2. Complete and sign the Required Hotspot form. Pick one up in the Hub, or download it from the Honors website.

3. Write your brief reflection paper:
   - Include these mandatory elements:
     - Why did you choose this Hotspot opportunity? What was the appeal that drew you?
     - What were your experiences in light of your expectations? And if you had no expectations, what did you make of the experience?
     - Would you try a similar experience again? Why or why not?
     - How did the experience connect in any way to something you’ve learned in one of your college courses? Explain the connection and what it made you think about once the connection was made.
   - Write this as an essay, adhering to college-level writing expectations, including proper grammar, and correct spelling and punctuation.
   - Typed, double-spaced, minimum of 250 words.

4. Submit your form, verification of attendance, and reflection paper to an Honors staff member no later than two weeks after the Hotspot event. After submission, you will receive notification from the Honors Program via your Maricopa Gmail indicating acceptance or non-acceptance. If your submission is not accepted, you will be asked to revise and resubmit your paper within one week of notification.