Russ Yelton
President
Yelton and Associates

Russ Yelton is the president of Yelton and Associates, which provides economic development services as well as early stage business solutions. Yelton and Associates has experience both domestically and internationally and has assisted thousands of entrepreneurs to raise funding and bring their products to a variety of markets. The company has a long history of assisting municipalities with the development of co-work, incubators and accelerators as well as loan funds, student focused entrepreneurial programming as well as shared facilities.

Yelton was formerly the chief executive officer of Pinnacle Transplant Technologies, a regenerative medical company which operates a human tissue bank. Prior to PTT, Yelton was President/CEO of the Northern Arizona Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology. He was the founding president of the Arizona Business Incubation Association and serves as a board member of AZBio.

Scarlett Spring
Co-Founder and CEO
TapRoot Interventions and Solutions

Scarlett Spring is chief executive officer of TapRoot, a company positioned at the intersection of behavioral health, artificial intelligence and health care with a first product in the Alzheimer’s/dementia space.

Spring serves on two professional boards: AVEO Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Republic Bank of Arizona, and serves on the Arizona Bioscience Board and the Risk-Capital Committee of the Arizona’s Bioscience Roadmap Steering Committee. Previously, Spring served as president and chief commercial officer of VisionGate, a vertically integrated oncology pharmaceutical and diagnostics company focused on the prevention of cancer deaths through early cancer interception. Prior to VisionGate, Spring served nearly three years as the chief operating officer and executive vice president of business development for the Greater Phoenix Economic Council.

Hon. Daniel Hernandez Jr.
Member
Arizona House of Representatives

The Honorable Daniel Hernandez Jr. is a native Arizonan and member of the Arizona State Legislature representing South Tucson, Sahuarita, Green Valley and Santa Cruz County. He currently serves on the public safety and state & international affairs committees and is the co-founder of the LGBT Caucus.
In his first term, Rep. Hernandez received praise for his work to find bipartisan solutions and helped pass legislation to protect small business from frivolous lawsuits. He has also brought his years of experience in education to help advocate for issues around K-12 education. Prior to serving in the legislature, Rep. Hernandez served on the Sunnyside Unified School District governing board.

Thomas Tombler  
CEO  
NanoPin Technologies  

Thomas Tombler, NanoPin’s CEO and co-founder, is a serial entrepreneur with 17 years of executive management experience in startups, operations, and strategy, as well as commercializing advanced technology product lines.

Thomas’ research success inspired him to pursue the commercialization of nanotechnology enabled products in industry and has since gained extensive expertise in starting and running new companies with applications in electronics, optics, biosensors and diagnostics. He earned his doctorate in physical chemistry from Stanford University.

James Goulka  
Chairman and Managing Director  
Arizona Tech Investors  

James Goulka is chairman and managing director of Arizona Tech Investors— active Investors in high-growth seed and early stage information technology and life science startups in Arizona, the southwest United States and beyond.

Goulka previously served as CEO of software companies NetSelector Inc (sold to Apple, Inc), Jump-Start Solutions, and bid4real.com. Additionally, he was CEO of the National Technology Transfer Center, which commercialized IP developed in all 10 NASA labs and parts of the Department of Defense, the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, and Taliesin Preservation, Inc. and served as COO and CFO of Encyclopaedia Britannica Inc. and its world-wide subsidiaries. He holds two degrees from Yale.
Cathleen Walker
Regional President and Head of Corporate Banking
PNC Bank, Arizona

Cathleen Walker is regional president and head of corporate banking for PNC Bank, Arizona. Previously, she served as executive vice president and managing director of PNC’s Debt Capital Markets loan syndications origination and structuring teams in Chicago and Pittsburgh. These teams supported large corporate, middle market, leveraged, and investment grade clients in various industries, as well as specific industry coverage including health care, sports, and financial institutions.

Walker holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of Pittsburgh and a bachelor’s degree in economics from Pennsylvania State University.