



ARIZONA CENTER FOR
CIVIC LEADERSHIP

Shaping Tomorrow Together.

Flinn-Brown Fellowship 2018 Annual Report

This report to the [Thomas R. Brown Foundations](#), which provide financial support for the Flinn-Brown Fellowship, address the initiative's progress in 2018.

Flinn-Brown Academy continues to grow and evolve as more Arizonans are selected and serve, and lessons are learned about supporting state-level public service. 2018 is best described as another year of growth, thanks to Flinn-Brown's ever-greater visibility, more achievements among Fellows, and results of strategic planning activities. This year in review describes highlights from the year, provides stories about Fellows, and looks to activities in 2019. Selected comments from and experiences among Fellows are presented in italics.

More Candidates than Ever, Plus Achievement Throughout the Flinn-Brown Network

- *“First and foremost, I just want to say how much my entire Flinn-Brown experience was instrumental to the success of my campaign. Because of the fellowship, I had a base level of understanding of so many of the issues that came up during the campaign I really felt like I was starting on second base (even as a first-time candidate).” Aaron Lieberman, first-time candidate and now Representative for LD 28.*
- *In recent years, the Arizona Supreme Court has become one of the focal points for the development of reforms in criminal justice from pre-trial justice to fines and fees, probation, and mental health, and corrections. Stacy Reinstein, an early cohort participant, recently returned to Phoenix after living in San Diego for several years. She took a position at the Arizona Supreme Court as the staff leader for several standing committees in which she plays an important role in research and policy development for the courts and other institutions. The Flinn-Brown Network has benefited from her return to Arizona too since her work has led to invitations to three other Fellows to be considered for membership on court committees.*



Fellows continue to achieve significant state and community leadership positions. Over 70% of Fellows have done one or more service activities, including: running for office or elected to office at any level, working at state agencies and universities, serving on state boards and commissions, and leading issue organizations impacting Arizona policy. More than half (59%) of Fellows *have served* in state government or in positions where they have substantially impacted state policy since their selection for Flinn-Brown. This number does not count those who have applied for some type of service, but not been selected. It also does not include those who are now running for office for the first time or applying for certain positions. Many Fellows have also played important roles in campaigns and fostered the Network in numerous ways.

Flinn-Brown, according to applicants and comments from observers statewide, is viewed increasingly as a “destination” program for elected, appointed, and staff positions. With 327 Fellows at the close of 2018, the Network includes essentially:

- Half women and half men
- Two thirds majority and one third minority¹ in terms of race and ethnicity
- Two thirds from Metro Phoenix and one third² from Pima County and Greater Arizona
- More than nine out of ten Fellows living in Arizona

Elected Highlights

- Some 64³ Fellows have run for state, legislative, local or federal offices. The candidate pipeline is developing for future cycles too. Since 2012, 27 Fellows have run for the legislature or other state offices. Ten Fellows have served, or are serving, in the Arizona Legislature including two Fellows from the 2018 cohort.
- At least 21 Fellows have been elected as precinct committeemen since 2016. Precinct work is often the first step toward other offices.

¹ 5% African-American Members, 5% American Indian, 3% Asian-American, 20% Latino

² 20% from Southern Arizona, 15% from Metro Tucson

³ Some Fellows have run for legislative or state office multiple times, totaling 33 legislative and state campaigns.



- In 2018, 29 Fellows, including eight in southern Arizona, ran for state, federal, and local offices. This is the greatest single-election number in Flinn-Brown’s history. Fourteen ran for the legislature, two sought statewide positions, another two sought congressional seats, and the remainder ran for local seats. Southern Arizona candidates included Billy Kovacs, U.S. House of Representatives, CD 2, Lea Marquez Peterson, U.S. House of Representatives, CD 2, JP Martin, Representative LD 9, Nikki Lee,

Representative LD 10, Daniel Hernandez, Representative LD 2, Drew John, Senate LD 14, Kara Egbert, Sahaurita City Council, and Cecilia McCullough, Wellton Mayor.

- Fourteen Fellows will soon be sworn in as mayors, city council members, school board members, and state legislators.

State Agencies and Universities Highlights

Flinn-Brown has become a notable stepping stone to greater state service. Various agencies now promote Flinn-Brown participation.

- Some 68 Fellows have served as a state agency or legislative executive, manager, or policy advisor. Over half (63%) of these have been promoted. Most recently, Jami Snyder was appointed Director of AHCCCS and Sharon Carpenter was promoted to policy advisor for the House Republican Caucus.
- Another 37 Fellows have served at one of Arizona’s public universities. The University of Arizona employs a strong core of Fellows in faculty, staff, student services, outreach, finance, and administration including, among others, Jeff Ratje, Kevin Bonine, Karen Francis-Begaye, John Winchester, and Mary Venezia. A recent visible move was Julie Katsel joining UA as Senior Director, Community and Local Government Affairs.

State Boards and Commissions Highlights

Board and commission appointments have become more frequent in recent months. This bodes well for more Fellows since Flinn-Brown is reportedly viewed as a substantial talent pool.

- Thus far, at least 66 Fellows have served on a state-level board or commission. Southern-region Fellows have served, or are serving, on the state’s Medical Board, Lottery Commission, Veteran Services Advisory Commission, Governor’s Regulatory Review Council, First Things First regional councils, and Pima County Judicial Appointment Commission, among other entities. Arizona State Parks and the Arizona Commerce Authority have also included Fellows among their ranks.
- Given the connections among various levels of services, it is notable to acknowledge at least 32 Fellows have served on a municipal or nonprofit board or commission.

Organization Highlights

State institutions are just one way of serving. Issue and business organizations, associations, and many public, private, and nonprofit entities, for example, play substantial roles in public policy and offer more avenues for Fellows to use their knowledge and act on their commitment.

- Some 75 Fellows, including from Southern Arizona, have served within a statewide organization that impacts state policy, such as Joel Edman who is the Executive Director of Arizona Advocacy Network, Julie Erfle who served as the spokeswoman for AZ Schools Now, and Morgan Abraham who lead “No on Prop 123.”
- At least another 11 Fellows have been a part of a statewide coalition working on policy issues.

2018 Cohort Highlights

“To put it simply, the Flinn-Brown experience has truly been life-changing for me and I am so glad that I had the opportunity to participate. Not only was the knowledge gained invaluable, but the friendships forged and the expansion of my network are priceless! I can’t believe how fast the time passed and how much I learned and grew from this experience. As a pretty conservative individual, I developed a new appreciation for differing opinions and felt that this experience really helped to remind me of the importance of opening myself up to those on the other side of the political spectrum.”

The members of the 2018 are notable for their achievements as well. For example, four legislative candidates came out of the group, with two winning seats. A third is expected to run again in 2020, while the fourth is considering a council race in Tucson. A school board race and city council race were also successful. An OSPB analyst moved to a policy advisor position in the Governor’s Office. Another Fellow is serving as the President of the County Supervisors Association this year. An ADOT Fellow has been recognized for his work with Sonora officials on Safety Corridors in partnership with Arizona. Working in Representative Greg Stanton’s District

Office is new for another Fellow. Another Fellow in the group played a substantial role in the Drought Contingency Plan negotiations. Follow up continues on next steps for the entire group.

Every year five Flinn-Brown Fellows are honored at the Convention for their commitment to Arizona and their significant contributions to their communities and the Flinn-Brown Network.

Jack Jewett Award

2017 – Ben Graff, Of Counsel, Quarles & Brady and CAP Board Member

2018 - Daniel Ruiz, Senior Advisor to the Governor, Office of Governor Doug Ducey

Network Builder Award

2017 – David Martinez, Project Manager, Civic Health Initiatives, Center for the Future of Arizona

2018 - Jaime Dempsey, Executive Director of the Arizona Commission on the Arts.

Arizona Champion: Northern Arizona

2017 - Nikki Bagley, Director of Viticulture, Yavapai College

2018 - Coral Evans, Mayor of Flagstaff



Arizona Champion: Central Arizona

2017 – Teniqua Broughton, Executive Director, The State of Black Arizona

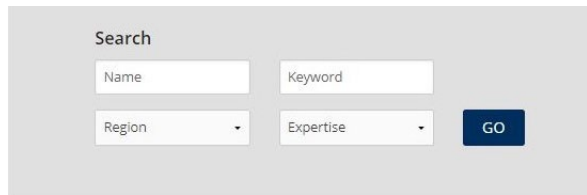
2018 - Jeremy Babendure, Executive Director, Arizona Science and Technology Festival

Arizona Champion: Southern Arizona

2017 - Julie Katsel, Senior Director, Government Relations, University of Arizona

2018 - Karen Francis-Begay, Assistant Vice President for Tribal Relations, University of Arizona

New Infrastructure for Visibility, Connections, and Learning: Directories, Fellows Council, Annual Convention, and Skills Set

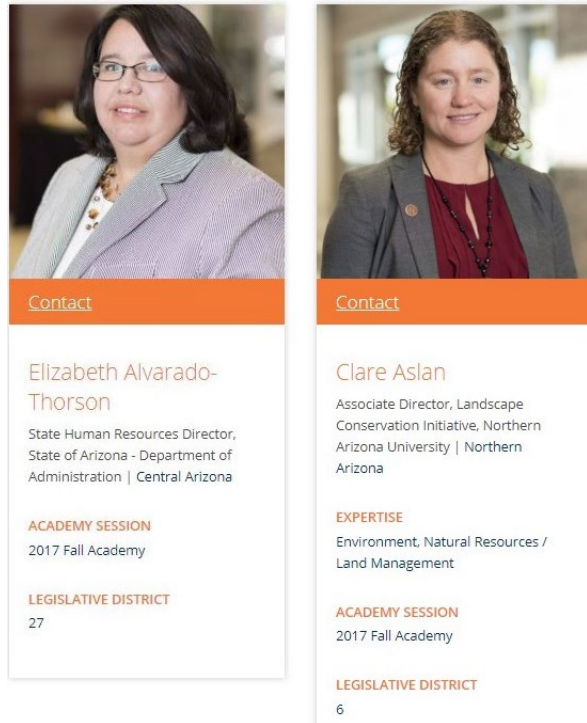


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State Human Resources Director,
State of Arizona - Department of
Administration | Central Arizona

ACADEMY SESSION
2017 Fall Academy

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
27

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EXPERTISE
Environment, Natural Resources /
Land Management

ACADEMY SESSION
2017 Fall Academy

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
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Flinn-Brown has always had print and online directories of Fellows. In 2018, the Flinn Foundation invested thousands of dollars to upgrade and update its customer relationship management system and underlying database and the ways in which data can be mined and used. The process was one part of a new web presence for the Arizona Center for Civic Leadership and Flinn-Brown. For the first time, a Fellows directory has been developed for the public, in addition to the more detailed piece for the Network only. The new public-facing directory is intended to make it easier for institutions and organizations to find the talent they need in the Flinn-Brown Network. In addition, the updated system allows individuals to continually refresh their entries so that the previous efforts required for a once-a-year update can be put to other activities.

On the connection and learning front, time was devoted to designing more long-term support through the Flinn-Brown Network's annual

convention and affinity groups, starting with electeds and state agency employees, as well as more frequent learning opportunities outside the seminar series with Skills Set. The Skills Set series will be implemented in 2019 with X-treme Connections, Coalition Building, and A Deep Dive on Public Finance scheduled through June.

The second annual convention, with the theme The Many Arts of Conversation, took place on September 23-24, 2018 at the University of Arizona's Biomedical Campus. Storytelling with Meghan Finnerty headlined Friday evening and Public Agenda's CEO Will Friedman kicked off the Saturday sessions. Fellow Sam Richard and commentator Stan Barnes discussed ballot propositions from different perspectives, and the annual Flinn-Brown awards were announced. The nine-member Fellows Council played an important role in deciding on policy topics and the combination of national and state presenters, along with social time and award winners. The registration list is included in this report.

achievements, and events for the Network. An issue in late 2018 featured Chris Mathis' work to support Fellows in southern Arizona.

In 2019, the emphasis will be on continually increasing the engagement among the Network, raising the achievement percentage, and furthering the geographic and racial and ethnic diversity among Fellows.