



ARIZONA CENTER FOR
CIVIC LEADERSHIP
AT THE FLINN FOUNDATION

Annual Report

2021



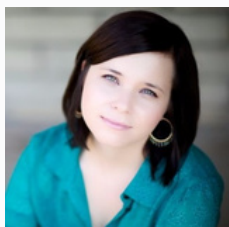


OUR TEAM



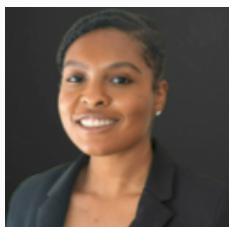
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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Our mission is to improve the quality of life in Arizona to benefit future generations—and that means all Arizonans. We believe that our sustained investment in the Arizona Center for Civic Leadership enables that to happen.

Looking at these last 10 years, we are incredibly proud of the Center-driven outcomes. And we're appreciative of the time and resources from so many individuals, not just at the Flinn Foundation, but across the community.



Tammy McLeod, Ph.D.

President & CEO,
Flinn Foundation

A LETTER FROM DAWN

In 2011, the founding vision of the Arizona Center for Civic Leadership imagined that building leadership capacity in Arizona should be paired equally with robust civic learning and community outreach to build a groundswell of support for civic life. In 2021, we recommitted ourselves to this vision, our 13th cohort of civic leaders completed our flagship program, the Flinn-Brown Fellowship, we strengthened our goals around citizen education through our CivEx programming, and extended our community outreach through the Arizona Civic Life Partnership, our new collaboration with the Center for the Future of Arizona (CFA).

We've had an amazing and productive year at the Center with a successful Academy season and Convention, nine highly-attended CivEx webinars, the first ever Flinn Scholars Summer Public Policy Institute, and, as we head into the new year, our team and our partners at CFA are on pins and needles waiting to find out if we are finalists for the Stronger Democracy Award!

I would be remiss if we did not thank Sarah Smallhouse and the team at the Thomas R. Brown Foundations for their generous support of the Flinn-Brown Fellowship.

I hope you enjoy reading about our activities in 2021. We have a lot more in store for 2022!

Best,
Dawn

✉ azcivicleadership.org

☎ (602) 744-6832





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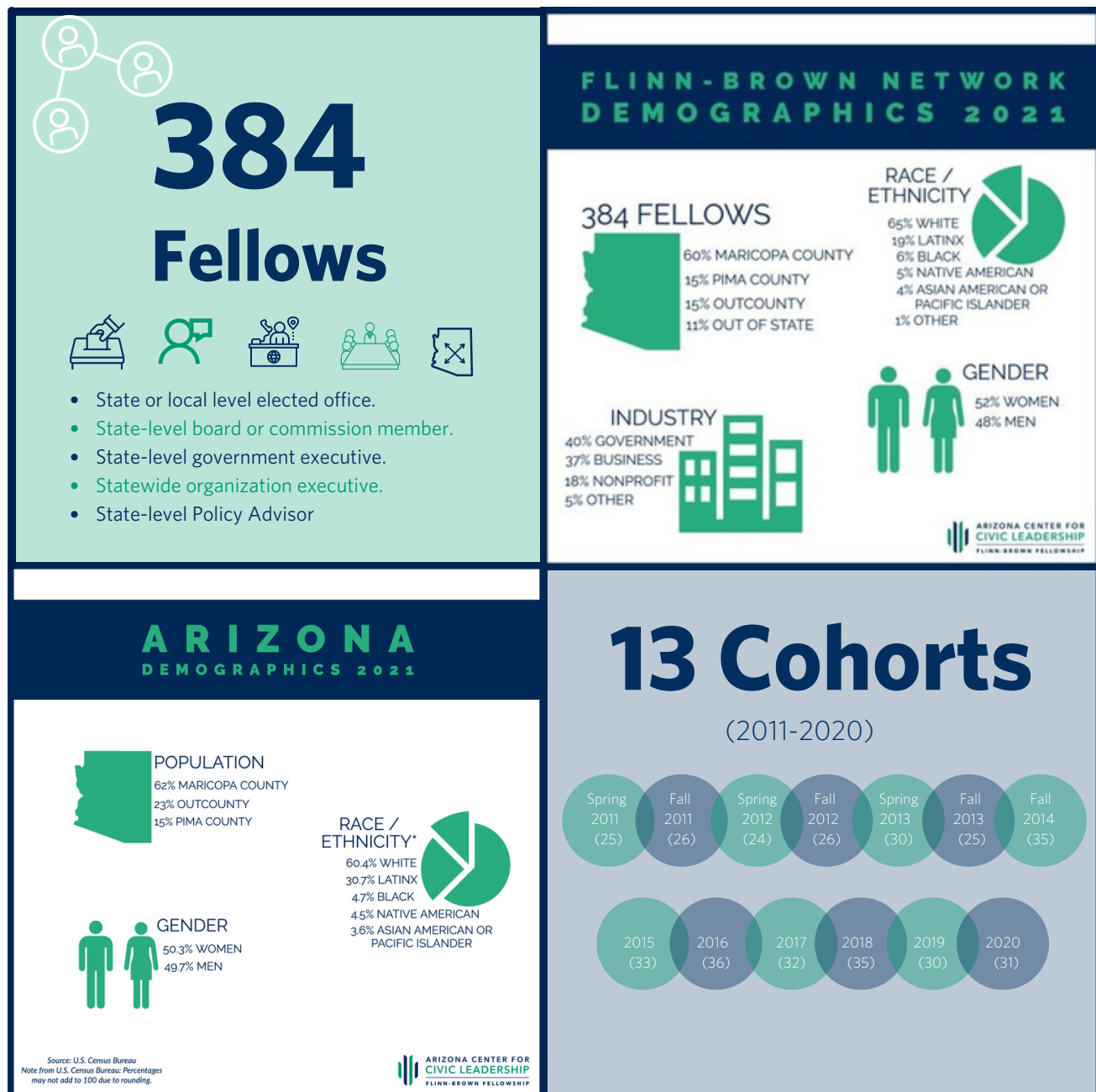
ARIZONA CIVIC LIFE PARTNERSHIP

Center for the Future of Arizona • Stronger Democracy Award • ADE Civic Learning Conference

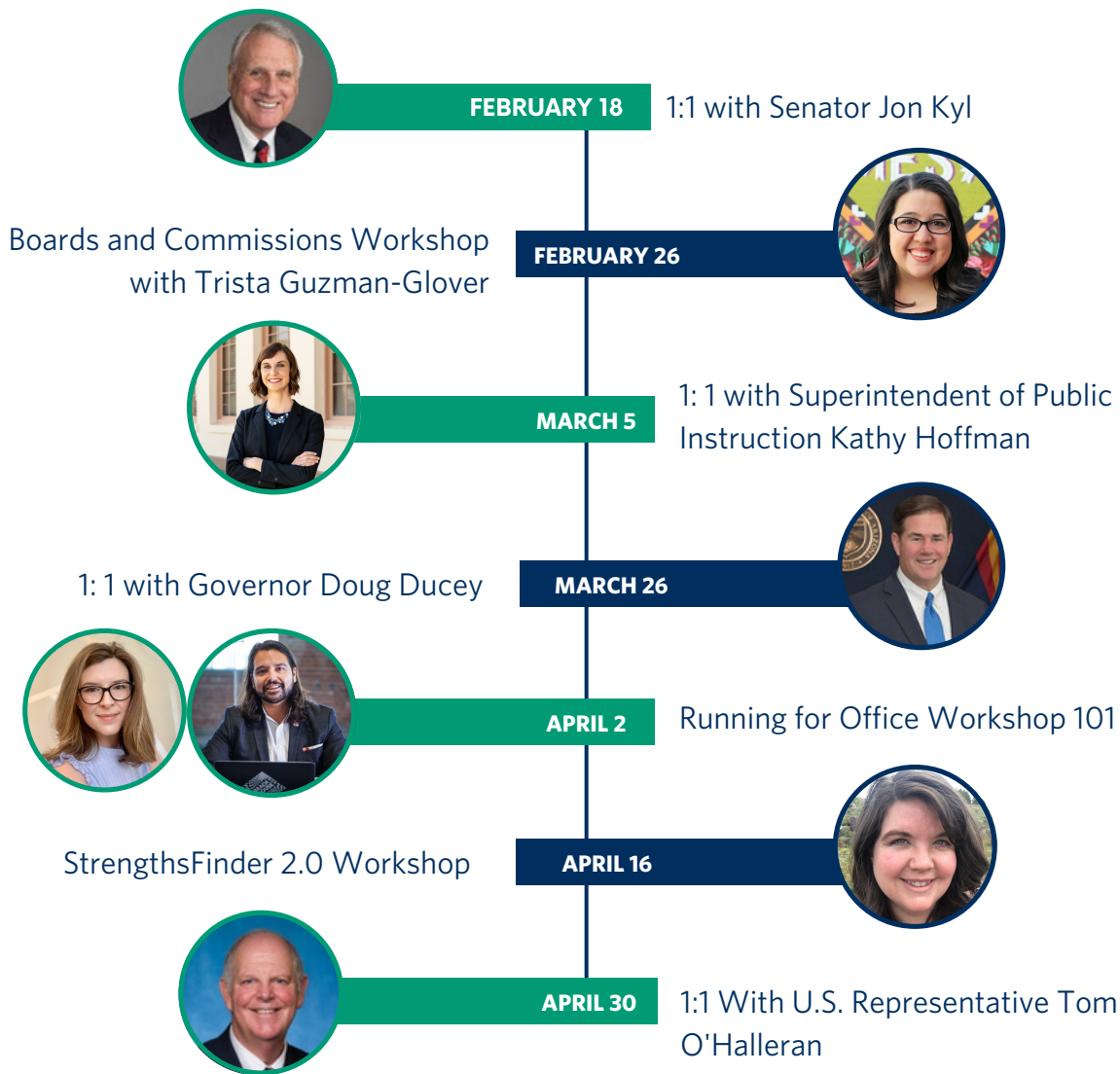
Flinn-Brown Fellows

10 Years of the Flinn-Brown Fellowship

For 10 years, the Flinn-Brown Fellowship has been connecting civic leaders from across Arizona with broadly diverse perspectives, politics, and policy interests to help address Arizona's most challenging issues. The unique Flinn-Brown Network is comprised of 384 Fellows, all experts in their fields and leaders in urban, rural, and tribal communities. They represent sectors of the economy from business and industry to nonprofit and government. Fellows are making a difference every day in their communities and throughout the state.



Fellows Workshops



2021 Legislative Wrap-Up

JULY 7 | TOTAL ATTENDEES: 59

After a long and tumultuous legislative session, Fellows gathered virtually for the annual legislative wrap-up with lobbyists Meghaen Dell'Artino of Public Policy Partners, Geoff Esposito of Creosote Partners, Lourdes Pena of Triadvocates, and Jay Kaprosy of Veridus, who recapped the 2021 Legislative Session, including the enacted budget and bills and how the new political dynamic of the 2020 election impacted business at the state capitol.

2022 Legislative Preview

DECEMBER 15 | TOTAL ATTENDEES: 65

The 2022 legislative preview was a Fellows-only event featuring lobbyists Meghaen Dell'Artino of Public Policy Partners, Geoff Esposito of Creosote Partners, Lourdes Pena of Triadvocates, and Jay Kaprosy of Veridus. These capitol insiders provided a preview of the 2022 Legislative Session, including legislation, budget, and how the upcoming 2022 election will drive topics and issues at the state capitol.

Flinn-Brown Academy

MEET AND GREET

August 19
Violet Protest
Exhibit,
Phoenix Art
Museum



Meet and Greet at the Phoenix Art Museum

The 2020 Fellows gathered, along with members of the Fellows Council and Flinn and Brown Foundations' boards of directors to celebrate the beginning of the long-delayed Academy. Fellows were greeted by artist Ann Morton at her Violet Protest exhibition, which explores political divides in the United States and the power of collaboration.

ACADEMY WEEKEND 1

August 20-21

- Springboard for Civic Leadership: Demographics, Economy & Workforce
- Understanding Arizona's Finances & Managing Public Organizations



Arizona's Fiscal & Economic Landscape

The first Academy weekend was designed to deepen knowledge about state fiscal matters, the economy, and demographics. The goal was not to make each Fellow a public finance expert, but to be a creative problem solver and smart steward, while appreciating firsthand how fiscal policy and budget choices can affect institutions.

Facilitators: The Honorable Chad Campbell, Kristen Stephenson, and the Honorable Eileen Klein

FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

Sarah Benatar,
Flagstaff, 2015
Treasurer,
Coconino County



"Being a part of the Fellows Network has allowed me to connect with colleagues across the state to work on public policy issues. For example, several legislators and governor's office staff are fellow Flinn-Brown alumni, and the SHARED EXPERIENCE has enhanced my ability to connect and work with them."

Flinn-Brown Academy



ACADEMY WEEKEND 2

September 10-11

- Inputs, Outputs, and Opportunities in PreK-12 Education
- Arizona's Postsecondary Players and Systems

Arizona's P-20 System in Policy & Practice

The second Academy weekend built on our discussions about economy and workforce and makes a solid case connecting the quality of our educational pipeline to the health and vitality of our state's economy. Additionally, Fellows were introduced to their collaborative project, "What Should We Do? Proposals for Change in Arizona."

Facilitators: The Honorable Chad Campbell, the Honorable Stan Barnes, Janice Palmer, Dr. Terry Leyba Ruiz



The State of Health in Arizona

The third Academy weekend addressed Arizonans' health and the health and human-services systems that, directly and indirectly, can do so much to help and hinder individual and community health.

Facilitators: The Honorable Chad Campbell, The Honorable Stan Barnes, Dr. Heather Carter, Terry Benelli (Mesa, 2011)

ACADEMY WEEKEND 3

September 24-25

- Supporting Arizonans' Health
- Humans Meet Services: Systems and Choices

"The Fellows Network allows me to seek new opportunities for supporting not only my own work, but the work of other Fellows. Many of our Fellows are also University of Arizona alumni and their professional expertise and FRIENDSHIP can create new networks to do good work for Arizona."



FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

Ricky Hernandez
Tucson, 2018
Assistant Vice
President, University
of Arizona
Foundation

Flinn-Brown Academy

ACADEMY WEEKEND 4

October 8-9

- Arizona's Natural Systems: Water, Land, and People
- Arizona's Major Infrastructures: Transportation, Broadband, and More



Environment, Natural Resources & Infrastructure

The fourth Academy weekend focused on Arizona's environment, natural resources, and infrastructure systems. The conversations highlighted how the state's infrastructure needs go hand in hand with policy discussions surrounding our state's natural resources.

Facilitators: The Honorable Stan Barnes, Cheryl Lombard, Mignonne Hollis (Sierra Vista, 2013)

ACADEMY WEEKEND 5

October 22-23

- Rethinking Arizona's Criminal Justice System
- Communications and Media - How to Deliver Your Message to Achieve Your Goals

Third Branch of Government

The fifth Academy weekend delved into the myriad of national, state, and local initiatives focused on re-entry and rehabilitation services, bipartisan political interest, unexpected alliances, revitalized activism, and fiscal concerns that has converged to put the important issue of criminal justice reform front of mind for policymakers and the general public. The weekend also featured communications professionals who provided insight and how best to deliver a message to the media.

Facilitators: The Honorable Chad Campbell, the Honorable Stan Barnes, Amy Love (Phoenix, 2019), Michelle Kauk (Gilbert, 2019)



FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

**Kathryn Leonard,
Phoenix, 2016**

State Historic
Preservation Officer,
Arizona State Parks



"My work at the State Historic Preservation Office has benefitted tremendously from the Fellows Network. The wide reach of historic preservation work makes it so that there is hardly a project that I engage in that doesn't have some sort of CONNECTION to another Fellow."

Flinn-Brown Academy



ACADEMY WEEKEND 6

October 29

- Civic Participation and Fellows' Projects
- Recognition Reception

Arizona's Civic Health

The last Academy day culminated with a day of discussion around civic participation — the "people" engaged in our democratic system of government — and how their engagement is essential in addressing the issues, strengths, challenges, and responses to public policy.

Facilitators: The Honorable Chad Campbell and the Honorable Stan Barnes



RECOGNITION RECEPTION

October 29

Flinn Foundation
Terrace Courtyard

Recognition Reception

On the conclusion of the last Academy day, the 2020 Flinn-Brown Fellows were recognized, not only for their persistence in completing the longest Flinn-Brown Civic Leadership Academy in the history of the program, but for their unique individual skills and talents that will strengthen the Flinn-Brown Network and Arizona for years to come. Pottery courtesy of [Nick Bernard](#).

"As a recent graduate of the Flinn-Brown Fellowship, I've leaned on the **RELATIONSHIPS that have been curated to seek expert advice, make professional connections, and provide additional resources and support for the students and families that I serve in Roosevelt."**



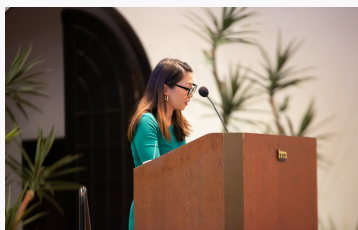
FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

Quintin Boyce,
Phoenix, 2020
Superintendent,
Roosevelt School
District

Annual Convention

CONVENTION

November 12
Heard Museum



2021 Flinn-Brown Convention: Media and the Message

The [annual Flinn-Brown Convention](#) was held Nov. 12 at the Heard Museum in Phoenix, featuring a moderated panel, breakout sessions, skills workshop, the Flinn-Brown Awards, and a reception. With a theme of "Media and the Message," the all-day event focused on the role of the media in communicating and influencing public policy; showcasing the inter-relationship between the media, the public and policymakers; understanding diverse media platforms; and identifying opportunities to expand information access.

The Convention also included a lunch program celebrating the Arizona Center for Civic Leadership's 10th anniversary, presentation of the annual Flinn-Brown Awards, and an early-evening networking reception in the beautiful Piper Courtyard at the Heard Museum. A new Flinn-Brown directory was also distributed to the nearly 100 Fellows in attendance.

Check out our 10th anniversary video [here](#).

FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

Blaise Caudill,
Phoenix, 2014
Public Affairs Analyst,
Southwest Gas
Corporation



"I have met people and built relationships I would have never otherwise met through the Network: from completely different walks of life, parts of the state, and opposite end of the political spectrum, all because of our shared love of Arizona and PUBLIC SERVICE."

Annual Convention



AWARD WINNERS

Commissioner Lea Márquez Peterson (Tucson, 2011), Paul Brierley (Yuma, 2011), Joanne Keene (Flagstaff, 2016), Mayor Mila Besich (Superior, 2019) and Mignonne Hollis (Sierra Vista, 2013).

2021 Flinn-Brown Awards

Five awards [honoring high-impact leaders](#) were granted this year at the 2021 Flinn-Brown Convention: Jack Jewett Award, Network Builder Award, and three Arizona Champions (Northern, Central, and Southern Arizona). Flinn-Brown Fellows were asked to nominate individuals within the Network that have made significant contributions to Arizona and played important roles in strengthening their communities and the Flinn-Brown Network.



PLANNING COMMITTEE

Jaclyn Boyes (Phoenix, 2019), Julie Katsel (Tucson, 2014), Paul Brierley (Yuma, 2011), Alec Thomson (Phoenix, 2019), and Michelle Kauk (Gilbert, 2019)

2021 Planning Committee & Sponsors

We are grateful to the five dedicated Fellows who guided planning of this amazing day, from helping to secure speakers to producing our 10th year anniversary video. We could not have done Convention without you! Many thanks to sponsors Elaine Kessler (Gilbert, 2019) of Elaine Kessler Photography and Paul Perrault (Phoenix, 2016) of Helios Education Foundation, and to our promotional sponsors—all organizations affiliated with Fellows. Your support enabled us to raise the bar on content to carry into future Network activities.



"The Fellows Network has been most useful in helping me to NETWORK with other Fellows within state government as well as with those Fellows that have been elected to office. The Fellows Network has also been beneficial to me in helping me explore and learn about other policy areas that are impacting the state at all levels of government."



FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

**Robert Navarro,
Chandler, 2017**

Deputy Director,
Operations for Support
Services,
Arizona Department
of Child Safety

Fellows Council



FELLOWS COUNCIL

Pictured from left to right: Jaclyn Boyes, Chair (Phoenix, 2019), Daniel Ruiz II, Incoming Chair (Phoenix, 2015), Julie Katsel (Tucson, 2014), Tamara Prime (Tucson, 2014), Rep. Joanne Osborne (Phoenix, 2012), Paul Perrault (Phoenix, 2016), Christine Thompson (Phoenix, 2017), Brian Garcia (Tempe, 2018), and David Martinez III (Phoenix, 2011).

2021 Fellows Council

In January, we reinstituted the [Flinn-Brown Fellows Council](#) to assist us in the recruitment, selection, and programming of new Fellows cohorts, but also serve and in an advisory role advise to the Center, including on the expansion of our CivEx series and new Civic Health Progress Meters partnership with the Center for the Future of Arizona. We appreciate the support of Fellows in serving on the Council and their assistance in shaping the work of the Center and the Flinn-Brown Network.

Meet Danielle Underwood

In March, Danielle Underwood joined our civic leadership team as program coordinator. Danielle's creative and digital communications knowledge, paired with her administrative and operations experience, make her a stellar addition to our team. She is a graduate of Northwestern University and holds a bachelor's degree in Radio, Television, and Film with a concentration screenwriting. Danielle is an Ohio native from the Cleveland area.



FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

**Rep. Joanne Osborne,
Goodyear, 2012**

Member,
Arizona House of
Representatives



"The Network of Fellows has opened up a world of engaged, intelligent, and DIVERSE people. When I made the choice to run for the Legislature, it was our Network that helped me open the doors to Yuma."

Flinn Scholars Summer Public Policy Institute

Flinn Scholars Summer Public Policy Institute

📅 JUNE 3-4 | TOTAL ATTENDEES: 42

The Arizona Center for Civic Leadership in June hosted the first Flinn Scholars Summer Public Policy Institute, with more than 40 current Flinn Scholars participating in the inaugural institute.

The two-day virtual event was a modified format of the prestigious Flinn-Brown Academy, where experts in public policy present to Flinn-Brown Fellows on current state-level issues. The institute's topics included state government and budget, K-12, higher education, health care, tribal and rural affairs, criminal justice, election processes, and civic participation.

Fellows who participated include: Daniel Ruiz II (Phoenix, 2015), Stephanie Parra (Phoenix, 2020), Kathryn Leonard (Phoenix, 2016), Rachel Yanof (Phoenix, 2018), Breanne Bushu (Phoenix, 2016), Joel Edman (Phoenix, 2016), Alberto Olivas (Phoenix, 2011), Jennifer Carruseta (Phoenix, 2012), Molly Edwards (Phoenix, 2011), William Ring (Flagstaff, 2011), Sarah Douthit (Flagstaff, 2013), Benjamin Taylor (Phoenix, 2019), Joanne Keene (Flagstaff, 2016), Paul Brierley (Yuma, 2011), Mila Besich (Superior, 2019), Paula Randolph (Scottsdale, 2012), and Gina Roberts (Scottsdale, 2019).



SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

Erin Broas
2018 Flinn Scholar

"It was a two-day experience that caused me to reflect on my knowledge and remove myself from a vacuum of opinions that affirm my own. Very broadly, I learned more about what public policy looks like to professionals who actively work in their respective fields, and also that there is no singular truth or reality, but a collection of people who pursue a vision of Arizona in their own way, based on their own experiences."

SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

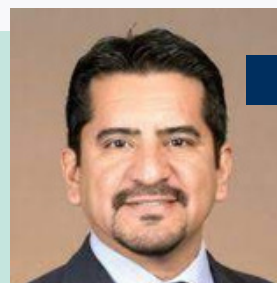
Max Bregman
2020 Flinn Scholar



"The Public Policy Institute was exciting to me because of the speakers, but also because I was able to hear real examples of various parts of policy, rather than just learning about it or participating in mock activities. I would definitely attend another Summer Public Policy Institute next year!"

"The Fellows Network can be of immense benefit to the Center by tapping the EXPERTISE and connections of the Fellows as speakers, presenters, and mentors for our students who are hungry to learn directly from professionals working on public policy issues."

1991 Flinn Scholar



FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

**Alberto Olivas,
Phoenix, 2011**
Executive Director,
Pastor Center for
Politics & Public
Service, ASU

Fellows Achievements



Cynthia Aragon, Phoenix, 2015

is now the White House liaison at the Department of Commerce.



Jennifer Carusetta, Phoenix, 2012

is now the vice president of public affairs & advocacy at Phoenix Children's Hospital.



Alec Thomson, Phoenix, 2019

is now the director of diversity & public-service marketing with LAVIDGE marketing agency.



Daniel Ruiz II, Phoenix, 2015

is now chief of staff for Arizona Governor Doug Ducey.

NEW JOBS



Michael Beller, Phoenix, 2017

is now the director of analytics for Valor Global.



Amy Love, Phoenix, 2019

is now outreach director for Senator Mark Kelly's office.



Aaron Magezi, Sacramento, 2019

is now the deputy chief administrative officer/ deputy county executive in El Dorado County, California.



Matthew Isogu, Phoenix, 2016

is now the senior vice president for innovation at Health Current.

NEW JOBS



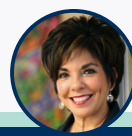
Joanne Keene, Sedona, 2016

is the new deputy city manager in Sedona.



Derrik Rochwalik, Phoenix, 2018

started a new position as public-affairs liaison for the city of Phoenix.



Lisa Urias, Phoenix, 2011

is now the chief program and community engagement officer at Arizona Community Foundation.



Risha VanderWey, Colorado, 2018

was selected as the new Montezuma-Cortez District superintendent.

NEW JOBS



Mohamed Arif, Phoenix, 2018

began a new position as director of Medicaid Strategy, Health Equity at Aledade, Inc.



Jaclyn Boyes, Phoenix, 2019

is now the managing director for Per Scholas Phoenix.



Deborah Gonzalez, Phoenix, 2012

is now chief academic officer at Phoenix Elementary School District #1.



JP Martin, Tucson, 2017

is now the director of small business and community engagement for the city of Tucson, Ward 1.

NEW JOBS



Yan Gao, Seattle, 2019

is now a policy and budget analyst for the city of Seattle.



Jenny Holsman Tetreault, Phoenix, 2011

is now vice president & associate general counsel of litigation and compliance for TPI Composites, Inc.

Fellows Achievements



Sarah Pirzada, Phoenix, 2017

is now chief operating officer for Governor Doug Ducey.



Nicole Pasteur, D.C., 2013

is now communications advisor at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).



Brittney Kaufmann, Phoenix, 2014

is the new CEO of the Health System Alliance of Arizona (HSAA).



Nikki Check, Jerome, 2012

is now the director of guest experience and operations at The Cosanti Foundation.

NEW JOBS



David Longoria, Phoenix, 2012

is now the program officer for LISC Phoenix.



Jacob Jones-Martinez, Tucson, 2018

is now program manager at Western Conservation Foundation.



Patrick McWhortor, Cave Creek, 2011

was named the new CEO for Arizona Citizens for the Arts.



Raquel Terán, Phoenix, 2018

was appointed to the Arizona State Senate.

ELECTED OFFICE



Aaron Lieberman, Paradise Valley, 2017

announced his bid for governor in 2022.



Juan Ciscomani, Tucson, 2011

is running for Congress in 2022.



Daniel Hernandez, Jr., Tucson, 2011

is running for Congress in 2022.



Morgan Abraham (2014) and Chris Mathis (2011), Tucson

were appointed to the Arizona House of Representatives on the same day.

ELECTED OFFICE



Becky Daggett, Flagstaff, 2014

is running for Flagstaff Mayor.



Janet Regner, Clarkdale, 2017

was elected to the Clarkdale Jerome School District Board.



Shane Leonard, Coolidge, 2019

is now a member of the Arizona Reconsultation Committee.



Fernando Shipley, Globe, 2011

was appointed to the Gila County Provisional Community College District Governing Board.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS



Benjamin Taylor, Phoenix, 2019

is now the vice president of the State Bar of Arizona.



Mignon Holliis, Sierra Vista, 2013

was appointed by the Arizona Supreme Court to serve on the State Bar Board of Governors.

Arizona Civic Exchange (CivEx)

Understanding the 2022 Budget

📅 JANUARY 27 | TOTAL ATTENDEES: 76

Fellow Matt Gress (Phoenix, 2015), who serves as budget director for Governor Doug Ducey, provided a briefing on the state budget process, and specifically, the economic forecast, revenue projections, and planned statewide investments reflected in Governor Ducey's Fiscal Year 2022 budget proposal. The CivEx recording can be found [here](#).



Matt Gress, 2015
Budget Director,
Office of Arizona Governor

Advancing Educational Equity Series: Social Indicators Impacting Academic Success

📅 FEBRUARY 24 | TOTAL ATTENDEES: 68

A discussion was hosted by Fellow Teniqua Broughton (Phoenix, 2013), founding executive director, State of Black Arizona. This webinar is the second in a series of CivEx sessions led by Ms. Broughton on educational equity in Arizona public schools. Joining her were Dr. Heather Carter, executive vice president, Greater Phoenix Leadership, and Fellow Dr. Quintin Boyce (Phoenix, 2020), superintendent, Roosevelt School District. This webinar spotlighted the ongoing collaboration between Greater Phoenix Leadership and the Roosevelt School District to address social determinants of educational equity. The CivEx recording can be found [here](#).



Teniqua Broughton, 2013
Founding Executive Director,
State of Black Arizona

From Dreaming To Doing: Shaping Arizona's Future

📅 MARCH 17 | TOTAL ATTENDEES: 76



Reyna Montoya, 2020
Founder & CEO,
Aliento

A panel discussion on the future for Arizona's Dreamers, hosted by Fellow and Aliento founder and CEO Reyna Montoya (Phoenix, 2020). Joining her were a cross-section of Arizona's business, political, education, and philanthropic community leaders including: Mayor John Giles, city of Mesa; Todd Sanders, president and CEO, Greater Phoenix Chamber; Dr. Maria Harper-Marinick, former chancellor, Maricopa Community Colleges; Elisa de la Vara, chief community officer, Arizona Community Foundation; and Daniela Chavira, Dreamer. The CivEx recording can be found [here](#).



Dr. Quintin Boyce, 2020
Superintendent,
Roosevelt School District

African-American Women's Giving & Empowerment Circle: Celebrate, Elevate, Sustain: Health & Well-Being for African-American Women & Girls in Arizona

📅 MARCH 30 | TOTAL ATTENDEES: 66



African-American Women's
GIVING & EMPOWERMENT CIRCLE
—a fund of the Arizona Community Foundation—



RACHEL FRAZIER JOHNSON LAW

The Center was pleased to host the annual summit on the State of African-American Women and Girls in Arizona for the African-American Women's Giving and Empowerment Circle (AAWGEC) annual summit on the State of African-American Women & Girls in Arizona. This year's summit featured a presentation by Fellow Teniqua Broughton (Phoenix, 2013), on the inaugural report, "State of Black Women and Girls in Arizona: Health & Well-Being." Joining her to present the results of the report were Angela Allen, Ph.D., R.N., clinical professor, Arizona State University; Evandra Catherine, Ph.D., postdoctoral research scholar, Arizona State University; Sharon Thompson, M.D., obstetrician and gynecologist, Central Phoenix Obstetrics and Gynecology; and Michele Halyard, M.D., radiation oncologist and dean, Arizona Campus, Mayo Clinic School of Medicine.

The State of Arizona Nonprofits

📅 MARCH 31 | TOTAL ATTENDEES: 73



A moderated conversation on the state of Arizona nonprofits one year after the start of COVID-19 pandemic. Kristen Merrifield, CEO, Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits, facilitated the session and was joined by nonprofit leaders including: Robert Ashcraft, Ph.D., executive director, Lodestar Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation at Arizona



Nora Hannah, 2011
Director, Arizona Together for
Impact Fund

State University; Nora Hannah (Phoenix, 2011), director, Arizona Together for Impact Fund, Naketa Ross (Phoenix, 2019), executive director, ResilientMe Inc., and Elyse Guidas (Phoenix, 2019), executive director, Activate Food Arizona. During the session, panelists discussed the pandemic's impact on nonprofit organizations, the current challenges they face to fulfill their missions, and a macro-level outlook for the future of the sector. The CivEx recording can be found [here](#).



Naketa Ross, 2019
Executive Director,
ResilientMe Inc.

"I've leaned on my friends on the Fellows Network more times than I can count. Every single sector has undergone significant changes in recent years, and it's been EMPOWERING and comforting to be able to learn and grow from each other. Also, it's given me an excuse to not only visit other parts of Arizona, but to really get to know the people and businesses that contribute to the vibrancy of our state."



FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

Elyse Guidas
Phoenix, 2019
Executive Director,
Activate Food
Arizona

A Conversation On Election System Reform

📅 APRIL 28 | TOTAL ATTENDEES: 79



Co-sponsored by the Southern Arizona Leadership Council, Fellow Blake Sacha (Gilbert, 2017), Leader, Voter Choice Arizona, hosted the conversation with panelists: Ted Maxwell, president & CEO, Southern Arizona Leadership Council, Fellow Gina Roberts (Scottsdale, 2019) voter education director, Arizona Citizens



Patrick McWhortor, 2011
President,
Lead for Change



Gina Roberts, 2019
Voter Education Director,
Citizens Clean
Elections Commission

2019) voter education director, Arizona Citizens Clean Elections Commission, Fellow Patrick McWhortor (Cave Creek, 2011), who at the time served as president, Lead for Change; Luis Acosta-Herrera, executive director, Unite Arizona; and Charley Olena, regional director, Secure Democracy on the future of election reform in Arizona. Including highlights on Arizona voter demographics and past reform measures. The CivEx recording can be found [here](#).



Blake Sacha, 2017
Leader,
Voter Choice Arizona

The Impact of Tax Policy on Arizona Businesses

📅 MAY 26 | TOTAL ATTENDEES: 52



Christian Price, 2012
Mayor,
City of Maricopa

Co-sponsored by the Greater Phoenix Economic Council, Kristen Stephenson, senior vice president, research & analytics at GPEC presented on Arizona's tax structure and its impact of state and local economic development. Following this presentation, Cameron Robb, vice president of business development at GPEC, hosted a discussion on how tax policy impacts state and local economies and job-market and business-market development with panelists:



Fletcher Montzingo, 2017
Director of Fiscal Policy,
Arizona State Senate



Trevor Abarzua, 2020
Vice President, Business
Attraction, Arizona
Commerce Authority

Fellow Christian Price (Maricopa, 2012), mayor, city of Maricopa, Fellow Fletcher Montzingo (Phoenix, 2017), director of fiscal policy, Arizona State Senate; and Fellow Trevor Abarzua (Phoenix, 2020), vice president of business attraction, Arizona Commerce Authority. The CivEx recording can be found [here](#).

FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

Rep. Daniel Hernandez, Jr.
Tucson, 2011

Member,
Arizona House of
Representatives

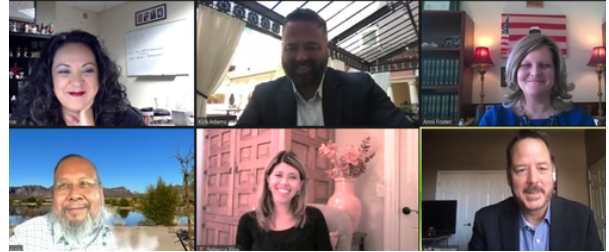


"It is incredibly helpful because I've gotten to learn more from subject matter experts which has helped inform my decisions as a policy maker. I'm honored to serve in the House with several members and am constantly working with other Fellows on legislation and COMMUNITY partnerships."

Luck of the Draw: Major Expansion of Gaming in Arizona

📌 AUGUST 25 | TOTAL ATTENDEES: 57

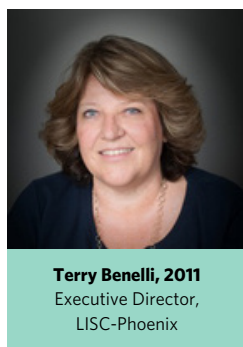
Kirk Adams, former Speaker of the House of Representatives, moderated a CivEx conversation on recent state actions to expand gaming in Arizona. Panelists Anni Foster, general counsel, Office of the Arizona Governor; Governor Stephen Lewis, Gila River Indian Community; State Representative Jeff Weninger; State Senator Rebecca Rios and; Amilyn Pierce, vice president of government affairs, Arizona Diamondbacks highlighted key components of the amended state gaming compact and associated law changes enacted by the Legislature during the 2021 legislative session. The CivEx recording can be found [here](#).



Rural Economic Development Part II

📌 SEPTEMBER 29 | TOTAL ATTENDEES: 34

A continuation of our CivEx series on rural Arizona economic development hosted by Fellows Mignonne Hollis (Sierra Vista, 2013), executive director, Arizona Regional Economic Development Foundation and Russ Yelton (Phoenix, 2012), president, Yelton & Associates, who discussed Arizona's rural economic development during the pandemic including several special announcements on new projects. The CivEx recording can be found [here](#).



Addressing Housing Affordability and Homelessness

📌 NOVEMBER 17 | TOTAL ATTENDEES: 119

Fellow Terry Benelli (Mesa, 2011), executive director, LISC-Phoenix, moderated a panel to explore Arizona's affordable housing crisis and how service organizations from across the state are addressing dramatically increasing cases of homelessness. Experts included: Tom Simplot, director, Arizona Department of Housing; Liz Morales, director, city of Tucson Housing and Community Development; Diana Yazzie Devine, MBA, president & CEO, Native American Connections; and Hon. Shana Ellis, executive director, Action Nexus, Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions, Arizona State University. The CivEx recording can be found [here](#).

LISC PHOENIX

"I'm grateful to the Fellows who are already making an effort and an IMPACT to help tribal communities. The Network has given me so much that I never hesitate to volunteer my time to serve on a panel, committee, or even produce a video!"



FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

Karen Francis-Begay
Tucson, 2013
Assistant Vice
Provost,
Native American
Initiatives, UA

Arizona Civic Life Partnership



Arizona Civic Life Partnership

In January, we announced a [partnership](#) with the Center for the Future of Arizona (CFA) to activate the Civic Health Progress Meters. The Civic Health Progress Meters define, track, and measure Arizona's progress on civic participation and connected communities, and offer the opportunity to frame conversations and prompt action by individuals and organizations throughout our state. Key to this work will be data-driven dialogue about civic life today in Arizona, public discussion about the critical importance of civic health to effective civic leadership, and opportunities for action that will ensure more Arizonans are engaged in creating solutions. The Arizona Civic Health Steering Committee helps shape the vision, mission, objectives, and set of strategies for the Arizona Civic Life Partnership.

Stronger Democracy Award

The Stronger Democracy Award is a public competition sponsored by Additional Ventures and other national donors, which will award two separate \$10 million grants over five years to two initiatives that strengthen American democracy. In addition to the two \$10 million grants, a \$2 million award will be made to remaining finalists with a promising solution.



The Arizona Civic Life Partnership was thrilled to learn that our grant application advanced through the initial evaluation and peer review steps. We will be notified in January 2022 if our work has advanced to the finalist level for a more intensive process of refining, implementation planning, and site visits through March 2022. The three winners will be announced in April 2022.

ADE Conference: 8th Annual Civic Learning Conference

In April, the Arizona Center for Civic Leadership and the Center for the Future of Arizona co-lead a session on civic participation at the Arizona Department of Education's 8th Annual Civic Learning Conference. The session focused on opportunities for civic education and civic engagement around Arizona.



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