



LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

FY 2025–2026 Annual Report

Connect. Learn. Lead.

A year of empowering leaders, strengthening community,
and creating impact across Southern Arizona.

93

GRADUATES

256

SPEAKERS

87

EVENTS

126

VOLUNTEERS

75

SPONSORS

13

GRANTS

46 Years of Leadership. One Stronger Tucson.

A YEAR OF MOMENTUM

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO & BOARD CHAIR

Connect. Learn. Lead.



Justin Lukasewicz

Chief Executive Officer

This year, Greater Tucson Leadership delivered on its mission in bold new ways. From our record-breaking grant year to the debut of the Youth Leadership Excellence Award, every milestone reflects the dedication of our community.

We welcomed 93 program participants, hosted 87 events, and earned the SAVMA Exceptional Volunteer Program Award — a testament to the incredible people who make GTL possible. Our mission to recognize, develop and engage driven leaders to be catalysts for change has never felt more alive.



Alicia White

Governing Board Chair

On behalf of the Governing Board, thank you to everyone who invested in leadership this year. The road to GTL's 50th anniversary is paved with the energy, vision, and commitment of our entire community.

We are proud of what we have built together and excited for what comes next.

"Leadership is not a position. It is a commitment to strengthening our community."

2025–2026 AT A GLANCE

93	256	87	126	1,207	\$107K
Program Graduates	Community Speakers	Events Hosted	Volunteers	Volunteer Hours	Grants Secured

 **SAVMA Exceptional Volunteer Program Award Winner**

LEAD TUCSON CLASS OF 2026

Building Tucson's Future Leaders Since 1980



About Lead Tucson

Our flagship program is a ten-month, immersive leadership development experience connecting emerging and established leaders with key issues shaping our region. Since 1980, over 1,500 graduates have completed the program through monthly "Issue Days" focused on education, government, healthcare, economic development, and more.

CLASS AWARDS

🏆 Community Leadership Award

Under Sheriff Gerardo Castillo, Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Department

🏆 Ronald L. Kurth Award

Luciano Lobos, Southwest Gas

🎤 Class Speaker

Jonathan Gordon, Banner Health

"The most impactful aspect of the program for me has been the opportunity to engage with influential leaders within the community. Interacting with my cohort members has been incredibly inspiring, and I have gained valuable insights into various local organizations."

— Lead Tucson Alumni

CLASS STATS

42

GRADUATES

12

PROJECTS

\$6,283

RAISED

85

VOLUNTEERS

138

SPEAKERS

10mo

PROGRAM

CLASS DEMOGRAPHICS

GENDER

71% Female | 29% Male

AGE

22% ages 21–29 | 26% ages 31–39
29% ages 41–49 | 22% ages 51–59

ETHNICITY

56% White | 22% Hispanic
8% American Indian/Alaska Native | 7% Black/African American
7% Multiple ethnicity/Other | 0% Asian/Pacific Islander

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

80% Heterosexual/Straight | 9% Bisexual
4% Gay | 2% Pansexual | 0% Other

INDUSTRY

44% Non-profit | 22% Corporate/For-profit
13% Government/Military | 11% Self-employed
8% Education | 0% Unemployed/Retired

CIVIC & POLITICAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 2026

Civic Leadership Starts Here



13

GRADUATES (Largest Cohort!)

67

SPEAKERS

5

GRADS IN ELECTED OFFICE

2

GRADS RUNNING

About CPLA

CPLA is a six-month program providing a nonpartisan experience that empowers individuals to become effective civic leaders. Through a tailored curriculum, participants gain a comprehensive understanding of local government, political processes, campaign strategies, and core civic leadership skills.

Developed in 2019 in partnership with former Mayor Jonathan Rothschild and the Rothschild Foundation.

"My biggest takeaway from this program is that caring deeply about an issue and wanting social justice are just the entry points for making effective systemic change. Making connections and building relationships with other leaders are key to elevating my concerns. I need to be strategic and calculating — and this class teaches those steps and access points."

— CPLA Alumni

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Fernanda Quintanilla, Diamond Ventures
Kelle Maslyn, Pima County
Nick Hilton, University of Arizona
Nick Loper, Tucson Electric Power
Pat Burns, City of Tucson Ward 2
Jonathan Rothschild, Former Tucson Mayor (steering)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Representative Adelita Grijalva

Served as the final class keynote speaker, inspiring graduates with firsthand experience in public service.

DID YOU KNOW? 5 CPLA graduates currently serve in elected office — 1 State, 3 Education, 1 County.

TUCSON YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Investing in Tomorrow's Leaders

FALL 2025
Marana High School
19 Graduates

SPRING 2026
Pueblo High School
20 Graduates



About TYLA

A partnership between Greater Tucson Leadership and the Pima County School Superintendent's Office, TYLA expands the leadership skills of high school students and develops career readiness. Students explore their Gallup CliftonStrengths, complete the Myers-Briggs Strong Interest Survey, and finish with 8 hours of job shadowing with a Tucson professional.

TYLA visits a different Title I high school each semester.

CLASS DEMOGRAPHICS

Gender: 51% Female | 49% Male

Ethnicity: 52% Hispanic | 35% White | 7% American Indian/Alaska Native | 6% Multiple ethnicity / Other

"My biggest takeaways were exploring many opportunities that wouldn't have been available if I hadn't joined, like talking to professionals, making connections with my peers, and learning about myself."

— TYLA Alumni

Class Stats

39
GRADUATES

312
JOB SHADOW
HOURS

44
SPEAKERS

9
COHORTS SINCE
2021

☒ TYLA is completely **FREE** to students and schools.

☒ 100% of TYLA graduates would recommend the program to other high school students.

COMING NEXT

Fall 2026: Mountain View High School
Spring 2027: Flowing Wells High School



MEET THE COHORTS

93 leaders participated in GTL programs during the 2025–2026 year.

LEAD TUCSON CLASS OF 2026

Alan Pedroza	Jorge A. Hernandez	Michelle Beaumont Owens
Alexis Ryland	Kaili Wagoner	Nick Wayne Eggman
Anaid Moreno	Kasandra Prieto	Robert Contreras
Ariana Deitch	Kate Schmidt	Robert Ramirez
Austin B. Frazier, Jr.	Kendra Thompson-Dyck	Sarah Spearman
Brittany Smith	Kiana Green	Shahed Shidoosh Posey
Chris Desborough	Krista Baker	Shirley Reilly
Deity Sullivan-Fonts	Kristen Lamott	Sydney Harvey
Denisse Alvarez	Lauren Vidal	Sydney Wells
Elena Montaña-Rock	Lisa Floran	Tina Cervantez
Eric Reuter	Lisa Hagins	Tracy Garcia
James Allerton	Lovely Ganthier	Vanessa Martinez
Jennifer Copenhaver-Celi	Luciano Lobos	Victoria Umeda
Jonathan Gordon	Michael Velarde	Vondi Grijalva

CIVIC & POLITICAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY CLASS OF 2026

Baylee Barker	Greg Curtis Wakefield	Matthew Rash
Bonnie Lowe	Jessica Sueskind	Melinda Gomez
Denise Bowls	Judith Scott	Raakel Elzy
Erica Cantua	Lovely Ganthier	Sara Sherman
Francisca Villegas		

TUCSON YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 2025–2026

Aaliyah Williams	Callie Brown	Hannah Chambers
Alexander Valdez Leyva	Cameron Whitney	Hector Duarte
Alexis Shank	Dante Matanza	Ivana Mercado Quezada
Alyssa Kelley	David Calton	Jaime Martinez Vazquez
Analena Veliz Giron	Dezirae Miller	Jazmin Hernandez
Andrea (Andy) Wheeler	Eleanor Bales	Ocegueda
Angel Moreno	Ena Slim	Jill Parry
Angel Ocegueda Garcia	Eric Figueroa	Juliette Lopez
Anthony Ortiz	Estefania Lopez Ruiz	Kayden Nyakundi
Benjamin Nicolarsen	Fernando Romero	Koen Reidy
Brian Pineda	Fernando Villalobos	Odalys Bustamante
Brisa Aragon	Soriano	Ruben Martinez Vasquez
Brooklyn Gleave	Gerardo Amons-Davila	Santiago Guillen Ayala
	Haisley Chappotin	Yael Mercado Quezada

CELEBRATING TUCSON'S CHANGEMAKERS

73rd Annual Community Impact Awards | March 7, 2026 | Tucson Convention Center | 360+ Attendees



GTL Alumni of Excellence

Randy Accetta

Run Tucson

Woman of the Year

Karla Bernal Morales

The Chamber of Southern Arizona

Man of the Year

Alejandro Angel

Psomas

Founders Award

Louise Thomas

Angel Charities for Children

★ **NEW: GTL Youth Leadership Excellence Award**

Recognizing TYLA students who served as Community Impact Awards speakers. This year: Martina (Lucy) Espinoza, Palo Verde High School.

SAPPHIRE SOIRÉE — ALUMNI REUNION

September 19, 2025 | Playground Bar Downtown | Celebrating 46 Years of GTL

150+

ATTENDEES

\$10,000+

RAISED

46 YRS

CELEBRATED



Our annual reunion continues to grow — stay tuned for the Fall 2026 announcement!

LEADER OF THE MONTH

Leadership Happens Every Day

Each month, we recognize extraordinary community members nominated by their peers. Board members select our winners, and we surprise them with an exciting reveal!

JULY 2025

Elena Montano Rock

Intermountain Centers

AUGUST 2025

Dave Bjerke

Caterpillar Inc

SEPTEMBER 2025

Morgan M. Lange

Azuli Language Solutions

OCTOBER 2025

Natalia Gabrielsen

*Community Foundation for
Southern AZ*

NOVEMBER 2025

Chris Albright

KEandG

DECEMBER 2025

Kim Green

Kim Green Words

JANUARY 2026

Monique Conway

*Community Foundation for
Southern AZ*

FEBRUARY 2026

Glenda Garcia

U of A Garden Kitchen

MARCH 2026

Jeremy Spruce

Raytheon

APRIL 2026

Shauna Vasquez

Tucson Federal Credit Union

MAY 2026

Maria Gervais

Intermountain Centers

JUNE 2026

Robert Stevenson

City of Tucson



Nominate someone extraordinary at GreaterTucsonLeadership.org

2025–2026 YEAR IN REVIEW

Key moments that defined an extraordinary year for GTL.

SAVMA Award

Received the Exceptional Volunteer Program Award from the Southern Arizona Volunteer Management Association.

Honoree Reunion Breakfast

Hosted the first-ever Community Impact Awards Honoree Reunion, bringing back honorees from 1985–2025.

Leader of the Month Happy Hour

Celebrated all former Leaders of the Month in a first-ever reunion event.

Staff Development

Jamie presented at the AFP Annual Conference. Justin completed the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for Organization Management.

Girl Scouts Recognition

Jamie was selected as one of the Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona's 90th Anniversary 90+ Leaders.

Youth Directors

Created the Youth Director position on the Governing Board, adding two TYLA graduates into organizational leadership.

Best Grant Year Ever

Secured \$107,000 in grants including the CORE Grant — our most successful grant year to date.

Code of Ethics

Launched a new Code of Ethics to guide behavior across all GTL programs.



THE ROAD TO GTL 50

Preparing for our 50th Anniversary — 2026 to 2030 Strategic Plan

GTL 50 STRATEGIC PLAN

Launching a 2026–2030 roadmap to guide GTL's next chapter and celebrate our 50th anniversary.

TYLA EXPANSION

Mountain View HS (Fall 2026) and Flowing Wells HS (Spring 2027) expanding TYLA's reach across Pima County.

LOOKING AHEAD

Strengthening alumni engagement, growing our scholarship fund, and building a more sustainable GTL for the next generation.

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Greater Tucson Leadership could not further our mission to recognize, develop, and engage driven leaders to be catalysts for change without the generous support of our community partners. We are exceedingly grateful to the businesses and foundations that support our work and vision.

CORPORATE SPONSORS

Pima Foundation

Tucson Appliance Company



Acacia IT	Hallmark Roofing	Stone Canyon Community Foundation
ACEC Arizona	Hughes Federal Credit Union	Sundt
AGM Container Controls	Imago Dei Middle School	Sunnyside School District Foundation
Amphi Foundation	Intermountain Centers	Suvida Healthcare
Arizona Complete Health	John Winchester	Tech Parks Arizona
Arizona State University	JSCB Photography	The Chamber of Southern Arizona
Arizona Transportation Builders Association	Malama ia Floral Design	The H.S. Lopez Family Foundation
Banner Health	Marana Schools 2340 Foundation	The University of Arizona Eller College of Management
BBB of Southern Arizona	Marana SD 2340 Foundation Board	The University of Arizona Government & Community Relations
BeachFleischman	Next Horizon AZ	Thomas R. Brown Family Foundations
Benefits Collective, LLC	Pilar Mendoza	Tucson Airport Authority
BizTucson	Pima Community College	Tucson Convention Center
BNI - Network Without Borders	Pima County Outside Agency	Tucson Electric Power
BridgeGroup LLC	Pima County Schools Superintendents Office	Tucson Federal Credit Union
Broadway in Tucson	Pima Federal Credit Union	Tucson Foundations
Casino Del Sol	Presidio Comics	Tucson Improv Movement
Caterpillar Inc	Psomas	Tucson LGBT Chamber of Commerce
Central Arizona Project	Public Safety Communications Department	Tucson Young Professionals
Cerulean Financial	Raysun Frost, eXp Realty	United Way of Tucson Cradle to Career
Children's Clinics	Rio Nuevo	VEGA Americas, Inc.
Community Foundation for Southern Arizona	Run Tucson	
Cushman Wakefield PICOR	Russell Public Communications	
Damschen Financial	Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation	
Desert Diamond Casinos	Southern Arizona Leadership Council	
El Tour de Tucson	Southern Arizona Legal Aid	
First Citizens Bank	Southwest Solutions	
Freedom Sourcing		

GUIDING GTL'S FUTURE



2025-2026 GOVERNING BOARD

Alex Demeroutis, CBRE
Alicia White, La Frontera
Center, Inc.
Amanda Abens, Pima
Community College
Emilia Eldridge, HR
Business Partner
Gina Hansen, Habitat for
Humanity Tucson
Greg Curtis Wakefield,
University of Arizona

Heath Vescovi-Chiordi,
Pima County
Jessa Turner, Tech Parks
Arizona
Joe Rottman, Caterpillar
Inc
Jose Arias, First Citizens
Bank
Lance Meeks, Goodwill
Industries of Southern
Arizona

Lynda Weigel-Firor,
Consultant/Grant Writer
Mike Letcher, University of
Arizona
Rachel Sass, Northern
Trust
Sumi Rowe,
BeachFleischman
Zoe Burcham, Kinghorn
Law | Financial

★ **NEW THIS YEAR: Youth Director positions added to the Governing Board — welcoming two TYLA graduates into organizational leadership!**

OUR TEAM

Justin Lukasewicz

Chief Executive Officer

Justin joined GTL in January 2021 as the organization's first dedicated program manager. He was instrumental in launching the Tucson Youth Leadership Academy in 2021 and was named CEO in April 2022. A Lead Tucson Class of 2020 graduate, Justin is passionate about leadership development, recognizing people through their strengths, and creating a stronger Tucson community.

Jamie Leon-Guerrero

Development Director

Jamie joined GTL in August 2022, bringing expertise in fundraising, marketing, and nonprofit leadership. A Lead Tucson and CPLA graduate (Class of 2023), she holds a Social Media Marketing Specialization from Northwestern University. In 2025, Jamie was recognized as one of the Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona's 90th Anniversary 90+ Leaders honored for civic leadership and community impact.



FY 2025–2026 FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Category	Amount
Total Revenue	\$385,656
Total Expenses	\$333,218
Net Revenue	\$52,438

RECOGNIZE. DEVELOP. ENGAGE.

OUR VISION

Create a thriving community through exceptional leaders.

OUR MISSION

To recognize, develop and engage driven leaders to be catalysts for change.

OUR ESSENCE

We connect leaders. We teach them about the community. We motivate them to step up.

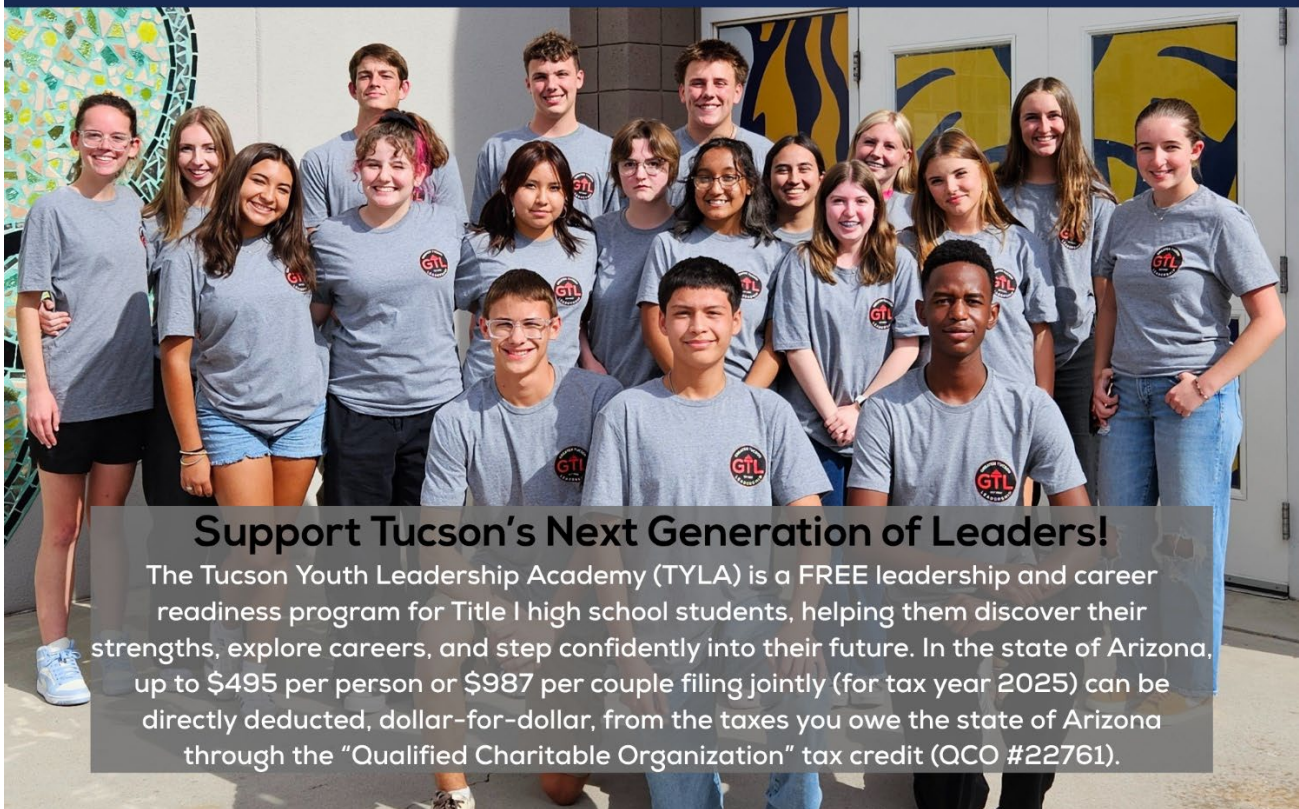
SUPPORT GTL'S TUCSON YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY WITH YOUR ARIZONA TAX CREDIT!

Receive a dollar-for-dollar credit on your Arizona state taxes.

Every donation supports leadership development and career-readiness for Pima County high school students.

QCO CODE: 22761

Your Tax Credit Builds Future Leaders



Support Tucson's Next Generation of Leaders!

The Tucson Youth Leadership Academy (TYLA) is a FREE leadership and career readiness program for Title I high school students, helping them discover their strengths, explore careers, and step confidently into their future. In the state of Arizona, up to \$495 per person or \$987 per couple filing jointly (for tax year 2025) can be directly deducted, dollar-for-dollar, from the taxes you owe the state of Arizona through the "Qualified Charitable Organization" tax credit (QCO #22761).

5049 E. Broadway Blvd., Suite 152 | Tucson, AZ 85711 | (520) 209-2734 | GreaterTucsonLeadership.org

Connect. Learn. Lead. | Founded in 1980 | Non-profit 501(c)(3)

www.greatertucsonleadership.org

Connect. Learn. Lead. | 46 Years of Leadership. One Stronger Tucson.