



Lead Tucson Class of 2024 Biographies



Adrian Mena

Human Resources Manager, Pascua Yaqui Tribe

Adrian Mena is a Tucson Native and dedicated professional with extensive experience in Human Resources. He holds a Master of Business Administration from Grand Canyon University and a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from the University of Phoenix. He is currently employed at the Pascua Yaqui Tribe in Tucson, Arizona, and is an essential part of the Human Resources team. He efficiently facilitates and monitors Pascua Yaqui Tribe's HRIS System and employee relations issues with meticulous attention to detail. He has implemented innovative HR strategies throughout his career that have significantly improved employee satisfaction and retention rates. He believes in the importance of nurturing talent and developing the skills of team members to ensure long-term success for both individuals and the organization as a whole.

In addition to his academic and professional qualifications, Adrian holds a THRP Certification, demonstrating his dedication to continuous learning and staying up-to-date with industry best practices.

Adrian's passion for community development is evident through his active involvement in various local initiatives. He volunteers his time and expertise to support nonprofit organizations that empower disadvantaged individuals and promote workplace diversity and inclusion.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Adrian is an avid traveler and enjoys immersing himself in different cultures. He believes that exposure to diverse perspectives enriches one's understanding and enables the cultivation of fresh ideas. Adrian also indulges in outdoor activities like hiking and photography in his free time, which provide him with a refreshing and creative outlet.



Amber Folkman | she/her

Manager of School Relationships and Impact, SARSEF

I believe in limitless human potential and work towards bringing rightful opportunities to all. I have the privilege of working with schools, teachers, caregivers, and students across Arizona to promote and support STEM education and research to build economic mobility. With over 15 years of experience as an educator in various settings, in multiple states and countries, I have a passion for creating and facilitating meaningful learning opportunities that inspire curiosity, creativity, and collaboration.



Ana Victoria Valenzuela

Project Coordinator, Seaver Franks Architects

Ana was born in Mexico and raised in Tucson. She has a bachelor's degree from the University of Arizona and previous experience in mechanical engineering as well as software development. Ana has been at Seaver Franks Architects since 2018 and has experience in both commercial and residential projects. As a project coordinator for the residential department, she specializes in luxury custom homes. Ana is responsible for developing the client's vision and coordinating the design team to materialize the project from start to finish. In her spare time Ana loves to travel with her husband and 3 young boys. She is also involved in her community as part of the 2023-2024 GTL Lead class and the VITA program.



Andres Longoria

Clinical Research Manager, Arizona Clinical Research Center

As a homegrown Arizona native, I've always had a penchant for helping those within the many small communities I've been a part of. A compassionate individual with an unwavering commitment to improving healthcare and promoting well-being across the state, I've developed a deep appreciation for the unique challenges faced by rural communities. A visionary leader who believes in leading not only by example but also through thorough explanation and extensive teaching. With a passion for nurturing growth and empowering others to achieve their full potential I've dedicated my early career years to making a difference in the lives of others, especially children and families in low-income communities. I have an extensive background in healthcare and a steadfast commitment for offering support and care to those in need.



As a father of three children and a husband of 12 years, my true passion is to nurture a faith-filled and loving home filled with kindness, joy and laughter. A devoted family man with a belief in the transformative power of education and leadership. I am a strong advocate for continued growth opportunities and strive to instill the same values in my family and the community around me. I wholeheartedly embrace a plant-based lifestyle, not only to foster my well-being but also to prioritize the health and happiness of my family.

My commitment to leadership will undoubtedly help me serve as an endearing inspiration to others, encouraging them to strive for excellence, embrace learning and create a brighter future generations to come.



Angela D'Acquisto

Chief Administrative Officer, NOVA Home Loans

Angela D'Acquisto has been working with NOVA Home Loans and currently serves as their Chief Administrative Officer. Her strong background in education, customer service, compliance, and learning & development, paired with strong leadership skills, provide a welcomed addition to the Executive Team. Angela provides direction and oversight to multiple departments, including marketing, human resources and benefits administration, employee engagement, training and development, post funding quality control, internal auditing, lender services and administrative operations. She possesses in-depth experience with organization-wide changes and strategic goal setting and implementation to maximize the company's operating performance and ensure achievement of its organizational objectives. Angela holds both a bachelor's and master's degrees in Communication from the University of Arizona where she taught public speaking and interpersonal communication to undergraduates. She is married and with three active kids. In her downtime, Angela enjoys watching her kids play sports, traveling, and spending time with her family.



Annacelia Madrid

Specialist 2, Casino Del Sol

I am a heart-centered leader and my mission is to help people realize they can. For over 5 years, I have been a Specialist in Management Training & Development with Casino Del Sol. Being a proud Pascua Yaqui Tribal member, I am honored to represent my tribe and our enterprise. At the start of my career I gained a Hotel & Restaurant Management certification, but the learning didn't stop there, I went on to obtain a Master Trainer Certification, which was an amazing accomplishment for me. This momentum motivated me to become an Insights Discovery Practitioner, which means I see the world in color. All these



accomplishments have helped me better support my peers and grow with them. I am a young professional who is excited to learn more, experience new things and create long-lasting connections. My heart is grateful for every opportunity to meet someone new and learn from them, let's start a revolution of loving people together!



April Park

Human Resources Manager, Trico Electric Cooperative

April Park is the Human Resources Manager at Trico Electric Cooperative and has been with Trico since 2014. In her role, April provides strategic direction for all Human Resources functions that include Talent Acquisition, HR Management Systems, Training and Development, Employee Relations, Compensation, Benefits, Workers Compensation and Labor Relations. Her focus is to develop and implement HR programs, systems, and policies to align and maximize operational and business strategies.

April is a human resource professional with over 15 years of diversified and progressive experience in human resource management. Her professional experiences include experience in automotive, research and development, and engineering industries. April has a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Arizona and received her Professional Human Resources Certification (PHR).

April is a member of both SHRM national and the local Tucson SHRM chapter. She enjoys giving back to her community and has volunteered through United Way, a local homeless shelter, and other meaningful organizations.



Billy Hayes | he/him

Founder, Pedroza & Hayes Accounting

I am the co-founder and President of Pedroza & Hayes Accounting and Consulting. My fiscal background is further highlighted by higher education at Grand Canyon University, where I earned an MBA, and professional positions as a Financial Analyst for Pima County and Financial Specialist at the City of Tucson. Community volunteer work is important to me and I remain active in the community. I have volunteered at United Way's VITA program processing tax returns for low-income families. Additionally, I volunteer as a basketball coach at the local YMCA and baseball coach at the neighborhood Little League. I have coached baseball for 20 years, including at Mountain View HS, Salpointe Catholic HS, The Gregory School, Green Fields, and the club Team 520 Elite. I have passionately served on several boards in the community. I served as Treasurer at the Waldorf School and also served



as an advisory board member at the YMCA. My accolades include winner of 2020's 40 under 40 and participation in the Emerging Leader's with the Tucson Metro Chamber. My wife, Rosy, and I have three sons, Alan, Oliver, and Anderson, who are also part of an active lifestyle.



Brett McPhail | he/him

Senior Manager, Business Development, Learfield - Arizona Wildcats Sports Properties

Brett is a Senior Manager at Learfield under the Arizona Wildcat Sports Properties team, helping generate revenue for Arizona Athletics through cooperate sponsorships and partnerships. He grew up in Denver Colorado but has lived across the west coast (best coast) for the last 11 years until finally moving to a more permanent home in Tucson in 2021. Brett attended Western Nebraska Community College, Pacific University, and Idaho State

University playing college baseball all while earning a Business Degree.

Brett devotes most of his time to his family. He has a wonderful wife who is a small business owner helping life-coach student athletes in Tucson, enabling them to achieve higher success through mental work. He also has a couple wonderful boys who love sports, music, and being in the sun! Brett really enjoys playing basketball, working out, learning about business, and volunteering at the church he attends. His life working in sports keeps him busy, but he enjoys life to the fullest. The quote that best describes Brett's life is, "If people are not laughing at your goals, they are too small."

Brett is excited to learn how he can help be a change agent in Tucson. Learning where the pain points are will be helpful, but also interacting with people who are actively trying to help will show Brett where he can spend more time helping this city, which he has grown to call home!



Camilo Galofre

Engineering Technology Integrator Specialist, Caterpillar Inc.

Engineering Specialist with over 11+ years of progressive experience with cutting edge technology. Outstanding proven Project Management abilities to lead and support complex New Product Introduction programs ranging from delivering the Tier 4 Final Emissions SCR deep feedback controls for Industrial Power Service Division to integrating smart technology on autonomous and manned Large Mining Trucks for Resource Industries. Bachelor of Science in

Electrical Engineering and Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering.



Caroline Lewis | she/her

Program Manager, United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona

Caroline Lewis is a Program Manager for the Cradle to Career Partnership (C2C), anchored at the United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona. Through her work with C2C, Caroline engages with community organizations across sectors who work with 16-24 year old's in Pima County who are not in school and aren't working (Opportunity Youth). Caroline regularly facilitates collaborative meetings where cross-sector partners come together to investigate mental models, align strategies for Opportunity Youth re-engagement, and elevate youth and community voices in Pima County. Caroline received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Boston College in 2018 and her Master's in Development Practice from the University of Arizona in 2022. Before moving to Arizona, Caroline served as a Youth Development Specialist in the Peace Corps, where she lived in western Ukraine for 2 years working on educator professional development and youth engagement strategies. Outside of work, Caroline serves as the Tucson Young Professionals (TYP) Ambassador Captain, training new TYP ambassadors and supporting new TYP members. She also sits on the TYP Advocacy Committee, volunteers for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Arizona, and mentors first-year undergraduate students through the Earn to Learn scholarship program. In her free time, Caroline enjoys going to the gym, trying to new restaurants, and spending time with her foster cat, Coco.



Cheree Meeks | she/her

Assistant Dean for Programs, Diversity, and Inclusion, University of Arizona

Dr. Cheree Meeks is a higher education professional and serves as the Assistant Dean for Programs, Diversity, and Inclusion in the W.A. Franke Honors College at the University of Arizona. She leads efforts and initiatives to create and foster a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment in the college. Dr. Meeks incorporates equity and inclusion-based student affairs practice to review policies, procedures, and practices that contribute to a culture of inclusion for students, faculty, and staff.

Dr. Meeks teaches a unique first-year seminar that explores the ways in which policing and incarceration impact the Black and African American community. She enjoys teaching and making community connections through service-learning opportunities for students. Additionally, Dr. Meeks' research explores the experiences of African American mothers working in student affairs, with a special focus on race and gender as intersecting identities. Conducting workshops and training sessions on topics such as implicit bias, microaggressions, and other equity and inclusion related topics bring Dr. Meeks joy.



Strengthening the community and increasing awareness and education of political processes is important to Dr. Meeks. As the President of NAACP Tucson, she is committed to eliminating race-based discrimination, achieving equity, and expanding human and civil rights.

Dr. Meeks has been the recipient of campus and community awards, including being named the Arizona Women in Higher Education's 2022 Woman of the Year, 40 Under 40 Woman of the Year in 2018, 2018 Black Girl Vibranium Woman of the Year, SafeCats Difference of One Award, and the Peter Likins Inclusive Excellence Award.



Clayton Saner

Operations Manager, Southwest Gas

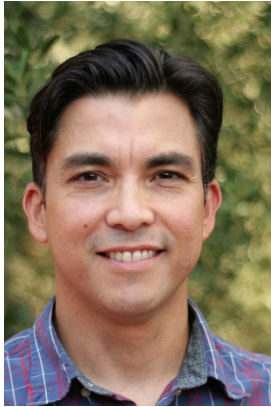
Clayton is Construction Operations Manager at Southwest Gas Corporation, leading an adverse and talented team. Clayton is a dedicated professional with a remarkable 20-year tenure at Southwest Gas, where he currently serves as a Operations Manager for the Division's Construction Department. Hailing from the vibrant city of Tucson, Arizona, Clayton's journey began with his high school graduation from Flowing Wells. Inspired by a sense of duty and patriotism, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, where he proudly

served his country.

After completing his military service, Clayton transitioned to the Arizona Department of Corrections, gaining valuable experience before embarking on a new chapter at Southwest Gas. Throughout his career, Clayton's commitment to excellence and leadership skills have been instrumental in fostering a positive work environment and achieving outstanding results for the company.

Always seeking to expand his knowledge and understanding of the Tucson community, Clayton eagerly looks forward to joining the 2024 class of GTL (Greater Tucson Leadership). His participation in this esteemed program reflects his dedication to making a difference and gaining a deeper perspective on the region.

Outside of work, Clayton enjoys exploring the beauty of his hometown, engaging in community activities, and spending quality time with family and friends. With a genuine passion for learning and a compassionate spirit, Clayton strives to contribute meaningfully to the Tucson area and create lasting positive impacts in the lives of those around him.



Daniel Armenta | he/him

Director of Organizational Development, Youth On Their Own

Daniel's roots can be traced back four generations in the Tucson area when his family made the northward trip through open land from Sonora, Mexico. A rare Tucson native, Daniel cares deeply about the surrounding land and the people who call it home. For him, no place compares to Southern Arizona and its incredible landscapes, diverse cultures, and unique challenges. With nearly 20 years in Tucson's non-profit sector, he has dedicated his career to causes that fight social injustice and improve the outlook for the community and the people who live here. This expansive experience has given Daniel a well-rounded perspective on the challenges facing the non-profit community.

He currently serves as the Director of Organizational Development at Youth On Their Own where he focuses on improving organizational capacity and effectiveness. Daniel manages the Strategic Planning Process, builds and facilitates staff/leadership development programs, and supports YOTO's efforts to build the most effective program possible. Daniel also leads YOTO's Trauma-Informed Care and Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access committees, which strive to make YOTO an inclusive space for all YOTO stakeholders, most importantly YOTO youth.



Diane Sotelo | she/her

HR Manager Leadership & Development, City of Tucson

Diane Sotelo is the HR Manager for Employee Leadership & Development for the City of Tucson. She is responsible for planning, developing, and executing comprehensive programs to drive the performance, and meet the needs of 4,500 City of Tucson employees. She facilitates leadership, professional, supervisor, and workforce development opportunities including the monthly new employee orientation. She also oversees the 1.3 million in tuition reimbursement and loan repayment assistance retention programs. She has been with the City of Tucson since 2014. She has a Master's Degree in Public Administration with an emphasis on local government and non-profit management. She also has a Bachelor's in Education and a Master's in Educational Administration. She is honored to serve her community every day.



Drisana Ross | she/her

Program Manager, Educational Enrichment Foundation

Born and raised in Tucson, Arizona, Drisana Ross has been dedicated to giving back to her community since she was a child.

Drisana is a product of the Tucson Unified School District (TUSD), having graduated from University High School. She then went on to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Arizona. She now works to provide basic needs services and educational support to TUSD students and educators. As the Program Manager of the Educational Enrichment Foundation, she's able to foster meaningful and positive change for students facing barriers in the pursuit of their education.

Drisana has worked in various capacities in the non-profit and social work sectors for a decade. Having always worked with kids, Drisana believes in building a stronger community through resources and education. Drisana's strengths include empathy, strategy, and collaboration.

For many years, Drisana has volunteered with the League of Mexican American Women, a non-profit that not only provides scholarships for students but builds a strong, culturally rich experience for young women in the community.

The proud mama of 3, Drisana can be found enjoying her free time with her husband and kids. Drisana's family gives her the inspiration and support to make a difference every day.

Drisana is honored to be a part of the Greater Tucson Leadership Lead Tucson Class of 2024. This opportunity will allow her to meet other passionate community members, learn more about the beautiful desert we call home, and strengthen her dedication to our future generations.



"E" Elizabeth Locke-Thomas | she/her

Chief Mission Delivery Officer, Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona

"E" Locke-Thomas, a visionary servant leader with an unwavering commitment to changing the world for the better. With an infectious enthusiasm, she exudes positivity and empowers those around her to reach their fullest potential. Always striving to lift up her colleagues, she is a beacon of inspiration and a catalyst for positive change.

With a proven track record in both non-profit and profit industries, "E" Locke-Thomas is an expert in revenue turn around and customer and volunteer satisfaction for non-profits, and profit-driven businesses alike. Her secret lies in her belief that purpose, people and outcome should be the guiding principles in all endeavors.



Throughout her career, "E" Locke-Thomas has achieved remarkable milestones, revolutionizing businesses with her exceptional growth and training strategies. By cultivating a culture of purpose and fulfillment, she has successfully boosted profitability through streamlined practices and served as a morale motivator, significantly reducing turnover rates.

What sets "E" apart is her profound understanding of the connection between team and customer satisfaction. By fostering joy within her teams and uplifting consumers through dynamic marketing and brand strategies, she not only wins loyal customers but also strengthens the bond between organizations and their communities.

"E" is driven by her unwavering dedication to the mission and purpose of every endeavor she undertakes. This authenticity shines through in all aspects of her work and serves as a guiding light for others to follow. Her contagious passion and commitment to uplifting others set her apart as a truly transformative leader.

In a world where impact and empathy are paramount, "Elizabeth "E" Locke-Thomas is a shining example of how a servant leader can drive meaningful change, leaving a lasting legacy of positivity and growth. Embracing her as a collaborator means welcoming a force of nature who will relentlessly pursue the path of purpose, making the world a brighter place for all.



Erin Glockner | she/her

Vice President of Strategic Projects, Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona

Erin Glockner is the Vice President of Strategic Projects at the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona (CFB). In this role, she is responsible for operationalizing CFB's internal health plan, helping to lead internal cultural changes congruent with the organization's strategic direction, and developing organizational strategies that align with community need in pursuit of CFB's mission. She leads cross-functional projects focused on capacity building, learning and talent development, leadership development, goal setting and impact tracking, data collection and evaluation, and strategic planning and development.

She first discovered her passion for organizational development when she started at CFB in 2013. Helping to support employee engagement and learning initiatives, she discovered that fostering a people-centric environment where individuals feel supported leads to creative and innovative thinking and, in turn, influences organizational effectiveness. In 2017, she moved to Ernst & Young, LLP, where she worked in Americas Learning as a project manager of large learning programs and in the Americas



Talent Development Center of Expertise focused on leadership development initiatives. Returning to CFB in 2023 has been a full-circle career journey and she is grateful to bring her passion and experience “home”.

Erin holds a Bachelor’s degree in Organizational Leadership with a minor in Psychology from the University of Arizona and a Master’s degree in Applied Industrial Organizational Psychology from Colorado State University. In her personal life, she enjoys spending time with her children and husband, their two dogs, and their flock of chickens. She enjoys dance, hot yoga, gardening, and collecting houseplants.



Favin Gebremariam | she/her

Vice President of Development and Public Relations, Casa de los Niños

Favin is a fundraising professional with over 15 years of experience in resource development, partnership design, execution, marketing, event planning and business consulting. She has an Executive MBA from Nance College of Business at Cleveland State and an undergraduate degree in Marketing from Eller College of Management at the University of Arizona. Favin has been a member of highly functional, interdepartmental teams at Nestle USA, Groupon, Upwardly Global, Oxfam America, KIPP Foundation, Weight Watchers (WW) and most recently at Casa de los Niños, where she serves as the Vice President of Development and Public Relations. Favin has represented her organizations publicly in 1:1 interviews and in large panel discussions regarding health and wellness, the importance of racial and gender diversity in the workplace and with donors.

Outside her professional role, Favin is involved with several organizations that are important to her. She participated in the Oprah Winfrey 2020 Vision Tour from January through March of 2020 as a Wellness Coach. Favin serves as an Advisor to the CEO at CampaignTV, and locally, she sits on the Advisory Board for Arizona Public Media. Additionally She is the acting COO of her family’s restaurant business, Z-Street, set to open winter of 2023.

Favin is from a large family with global roots. She enjoys spending as much time with them, experiencing the joy of children and the lessons from the aged. She has been fortunate to have traveled extensively, both for work and pleasure. The best part of those experiences has been the people she has met along the way.



Gilbert Robles

Project Manager – Senior, Tucson Electric Power Co.

Gilbert is a senior project manager at Tucson Electric Power. He is responsible for large and complex financial projects for the company. This includes also including Change Leadership to help the company to see the value and adopt the change.

As a native Tucsonan, and family that has been in the Tucson area for 6 generations Gilbert has strong connections to the Old Pueblo. Gilbert also lived in Washington, DC and started his technology career working at the Pentagon. He also worked in federal civil service, and private industry throughout his career.

Gilbert also volunteers his time and is a board vice president for the Children’s Advocacy Center of Southern Arizona – “where abuse ends and healing begins. Another organization that he volunteers for is Junior Achievement.



Greg Curtis Wakefield | he/him

Leadership Coach & Communication Consultant

Greg has a passion for people. In a world that often feels fearful and angry he sees opportunities to help us lead our best lives and to inspire and lead others to do the same. As a leadership coach and communication consultant Greg has a fascinating background. A native Tucsonan, he spent 24 years in broadcast media, as the host of a highly successful morning drive radio show and podcasts. Greg now leverages his vast communication and leadership skills to coach business and non-profit leaders to levels of success they and their teams never believed possible. He also takes great satisfaction from serving individuals who are ready to live fulfilling lives of purpose. Whether it’s a great workplace culture or living your own great life, Greg can’t wait to help you exceed your aspirations. "Tucson is a special place," he says. "I'm so thankful to GTL for this opportunity to learn how to better support our unique community."



Jaime Hinojos | he/him

Program Manager, Vantage West Credit Union

Meet Jaime Hinojos, a first-generation college and high school graduate from Guaymas, Sonora. His family's decision to pursue the American dream by moving to the United States marked a turning point in their lives. In the U.S., Jaime recognized education as his pathway to success. He attended Pima Community College and later the University of Arizona's Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, earning his bachelor's degree.

During his academic journey, Jaime served as an AmeriCorps State member twice and honed his skills in the restaurant industry under the mentorship of a James Beard award-winning chef. However, his true calling emerged in the non-profit sector, where he devoted himself to creating impactful programs that empowered communities and broke down barriers.

When the pandemic struck, Jaime seized the opportunity to enhance his knowledge and earned an MBA from the University of Arizona Eller College of Management, achieving the Master's Academic of Excellence for his outstanding GPA.

Driven by unwavering passion, Jaime consistently aligns his personal values with the mission and vision of the companies he works for. Currently, he holds the position of Financial Wellness Program Manager at Vantage West Credit Union, contributing to their purpose of "investing in their members for a more prosperous tomorrow."

Jaime surrounds himself with like-minded professionals and friends who share his dedication to community improvement. His ultimate aspiration is to become a non-profit CEO, and with the support of organizations like GTL, he is confident in turning this dream into reality. Through his determination and commitment to the American dream, Jaime stands as a shining example of how one can overcome obstacles and create a positive impact in the world.



Jamie Ibrahim | she/her

Deputy Director, Southern Arizona Legal Aid, Inc.

Jamie Ibrahim has been the Deputy Director at Southern Arizona Legal Aid, Inc. since 2021. In addition to her administrative duties, she leads the firm's Marijuana Expungement program and IDEA committee. Prior to relocating to Arizona, Jamie was a family law trial attorney in Jacksonville, Florida where her practice focused on helping survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. In 2017 she was appointed as a General Magistrate where she



presided over family law and domestic violence cases for the 4th Judicial Circuit of Florida. Jamie spends most of her time with her family, friends, and a hangry cat. She loves to travel, enjoys celebrating her Palestinian heritage, is an amateur baker, and one day dreams of being on Jeopardy.



Jessy Long

Founder & CEO, Company Eco

My life is continuously being shaped by an inescapable conviction... Our Earth's biocapacity, in combination with our existing knowledge base and currently available technologies, makes it possible for people of all nations to enjoy an enhanced quality of life without compromising human health or the health of the natural world in the process.



Jill Sommers | she/her

Marketing & Communications Specialist, Tech Parks Arizona

Jill Sommers is the Marketing & Communications Specialist for Tech Parks Arizona. In this role she is responsible for maintaining the social media pages, curating content, executing communication campaigns and more.

Sommers is a 2022 graduate of the University of Arizona College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, having received her Bachelor of Arts as a double major in Communication and Information Science & eSociety. From her education as well as involvement in campus/residence life, she brings experience in social media marketing, online and digital communications, event coordination and graphic design to Tech Parks Arizona.

Alongside her work, Sommers is a member of the Public Relations Society of America and Tucson Young Professionals where she serves as an organization ambassador. She also volunteers on the Making Strides of Greater Tucson planning committee as the Social Media Chair, boosting the greater message of the American Cancer Society and Making Strides Against Breast Cancer organizations.



John Davison

Director, Land Acquisition, Planning & Development, PulteGroup

John is a real estate investment professional. He currently acquires land in the Tucson area for Pulte, Centex and Del Webb communities. Once identified, he oversees efforts to zone, engineer and develop the land into new subdivisions. Prior to working for Pulte, John worked in commercial real estate investment in Europe for 10 years, purchasing and managing office, retail and logistic properties for real estate funds. He began his real estate career prior to that in Phoenix at several residential development companies.

Having served 7 years in the US Army, John is active in the community supporting veterans through various initiatives. He is currently leading a project to deliver a mortgage-free home to a disabled veteran, and helps mentor veterans transitioning to the corporate work environment. Outside of work and volunteering, he enjoys hiking, swimming, yoga and discovering the diverse offerings in the Tucson food scene.



John DeViese

First Sergeant (Retired), U.S. Air Force

John recently retired from the US Air Force after 20 years of service spending the majority of those years here in Tucson at Davis Monthan AFB. Over the last two years he served as the First Sergeant for the 355th Force Support Squadron, 355th Mission Support Group Staff and 355th Security Forces Squadron. As a First Sergeant, he was the principal advisor to commanders and base leadership in maintaining discipline, standards, and morale and welfare for active duty and civilian personnel. John primarily focused on developing leaders and maintaining a mission ready force to execute home station and expeditionary requirements.

He was also responsible for providing professional and leadership guidance, monitoring performance reports, awards, decorations, promotions, and facilitating professional military education. John entered the U.S. Air Force in 2003 and was stationed at Davis-Monthan from 2004 until 2017 when he relocated and served 3 years overseas in Okinawa, Japan, returning to DM in 2020. Over his career he has held many leadership roles, leading joint force and multinational teams during multiple deployments as well as large organizations maintaining various aircraft. John graduated with a degree in Organizational Management from the University of Arizona and also received a degree in Human Resource Management from the College of the Air Force. John's a highly motivated individual who is goal oriented and enjoys building strong working relationships. He spends his free time outdoors with his wife and two young girls while also spending time networking and developing his plan for his next chapter.



Jon Fernandez | he/him

Chief Human Capital Officer, Tucson Unified School District

Jon is currently the Chief Human Capital Officer of Tucson Unified School District. Prior to his move to Tucson, he served as Superintendent of the Guam Department of Education for the past ten years, becoming Guam's longest serving superintendent and the nation's longest tenured state education chief at the time of his resignation. He previously worked in Washington DC for 12 years, serving as policy director to Mayor Anthony Williams and later as project director for the Federal City Council. He has been a chairman, officer and member of numerous civic nonprofit organizations. He is a husband to Melissa and father to Gabriella and Zachary. He is also a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, Harvard Kennedy School of Government and the University of Arkansas.



Kadian McIntosh | she/her

Asst. Dean Assessment, Evaluation, and Analytics, University of Arizona

Dr. Kadian McIntosh is motivated to continually develop equity-focused data-driven improvements through informative and relevant mixed-methods assessment, evaluation, and research. She strives to affect change in how organizations make decisions, educate others, and create learning and workplace environments.

Kadian's strategic planning and evaluation expertise comes from working in health and STEM education, external evaluation roles on nationally competitive grants, executive consulting, project management, and program insight positions. She has a strong focus on learning, development, and mentoring from her research agenda and work within team development and coaching. She has worked to improve access, experiences, and success for learners, employees, and institutions via organizational policies and practices; teaching, learning, and development tools; curriculum/instructional design; international/experiential education; organizational climates and classroom environments, and evaluating individual and program outcomes.

Kadian has a Ph.D. in Higher Education and Graduate Certificate in Institutional Research from Pennsylvania State University. She received her master's degree in Educational Leadership as well as her bachelor's degree in Psychology with Honors through the Honors College from Florida International University.



Kennedy Van Norman | she/her

Program Specialist, Child and Family Resources

My name is Kennedy Van Norman! I was born and raised in the Phoenix area and when I moved to Tucson in 2018 for school, I never left. My passions grew for the Tucson community when I worked as a program facilitator for Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona, and have continued to grow in my work as a Program Specialist for Child and Family Resources. I believe the foundation of a great society is our youth, and I have learned more from them than they have learned from me. Empathy, Problem Solving, and genuine curiosity are the things I carry from my participants everyday. When I am not working with the youth of this community, I enjoy getting outdoors and spending time with my amazing PACC dog.



Kjersten Erickson | she/her

Campus Manager, Community Foundation for Southern Arizona

Kjersten Erickson is a Tucson Native who is passionate about the Greater Tucson area and all its happenings. She works for the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona as the Campus Manager and enjoys networking with and serving nonprofits from all over the country.

Kjersten grew up in Pima County where she attended the University of Arizona and studied Business Management and Russian & Slavic Studies. After school she started a career in insurance before transitioning to the nonprofit world where she felt right at home. Some of her favorite parts of working for CFSA are getting to learn more about local nonprofits, striving to help tenants/guests have a safe and welcoming space to work, and being surrounded by a multitude of organizations that have missions focused on helping Tucson thrive.

In her free time, Kjersten loves hiking the trails of Sabino Canyon, traveling out of the country, and spending time with her fur kiddo Charlie. She also takes every chance she gets to enjoy time with friends and family who are spread out over the whole country.



Kyla James | she/her

Program Coordinator - Data and Evaluation, El Rio Health

Kyla James, MA, MPH is a data and program evaluation coordinator for health promotion programs at El Rio Health. She is a graduate of UCLA, University College London with a Masters degree in Educational Neuroscience, and the University of Arizona with a Masters of Public Health. She has coordinated family and pediatric prevention programs focused on teen mental health, pre-diabetes, obesity, and the chronic health effects of toxic stress across healthcare-school system partnerships. With the Create a Healthy Tomorrow program, she partners with school districts in Tucson AZ to deliver trauma-informed Stress Strategies for Children professional development trainings. Her research focuses on multigenerational and cross-disciplinary approaches to toxic stress prevention. She is also a dance and movement teacher at BreakOut Studios in Tucson and loves to get outside whenever the Tucson heat allows.



Kyle Brito

Strategy Manager, Carondelet Health Network

Kyle Brito is a Strategy Manager at Carondelet Health Network (CHN), where Kyle supports the development of, and planning for, new service lines that help the network better meet the community need. Kyle regularly engages with physicians and staff to identify areas of opportunity for improvements in growth, operational efficiency, and patient safety.

Before working as a Strategy Manager, Kyle spent the last 4 years as a practice administrator where he managed Neurology clinics in the Dallas area. After successfully expanding the practice to 10 outpatient clinics Kyle decided he wanted to move to the inpatient side of healthcare.

In his short time at CHN Kyle has helped complete projects such as opening an Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU) at St. Joseph's Hospital and transitioned St. Mary's Hospital to utilize Teleneurology services. Currently Kyle is in the process of opening a Department of Corrections Unit at St. Mary's Hospital to support the healthcare needs of Arizona inmates.

Kyle enjoys going to the gym and running and recently started playing pickleball. You can reach Kyle at kyle.brito@carondelet.org.



Michael Brasher | he/him

Consultant & Coach

Michael (he/him) has a career working in the fields of social justice, conflict and peace-making, and organizational leadership and development. As a CEO, he led mission-focused, organizational transformations that resulted in radical growth and great impact. Michael also helped to found the Healthy Intergenerational Masculinity (HIM) Initiative--a first of its kind 5-year systems change collaboration in Southern Arizona.

An accomplished public speaker, problem-solver, community organizer, fundraiser, and leadership coach, Michael continues to support organizations and individuals who want to increase their impact in their fields and to be more effective in their relationships.

Michael is currently writing his Dissertation at the University of Arizona, and his research focuses on gender-based violence, masculinity, and anti-Black racism.



Miranda Morris

Database Specialist, Casino Del Sol

My name is Miranda Morris. I am a member of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. From a young age I was taught the importance of our values, and through the years I see the importance of preserving our community and culture. I have done this by working for Casino Del Sol for over seven years. Currently, my role as a Database Specialist consists of rating casino members, uploading qualifying offers, as well as, reviewing redemption data. My other responsibilities involve managing and programming our systems daily. This includes our email and text system, Mobile App, and all Direct Mail. An email list can consist of up to 34,000 members, communicating their offer rewards. I enjoy developing myself in the database field and playing a vital role in our Marketing Department, by taking on new projects and learning new skills. I have accepted new challenges which has refined my ability to coach a team by monitoring our Club Sol desk and enhancing our player experience by offering exemplary member services. I have grown confident in assessing new and difficult situations. Throughout my seven years at Casino Del Sol, I have been determined to lead a proactive career. This has given me the opportunity to receive a Level One Sommelier certification, and enhancing my database skills through PKMS, IGT Patron and Strategy9. By applying my leadership skills and adapting my new knowledge, I will use my experiences to strengthen myself and those around me. I look forward to the bright opportunities ahead.



Monique Vallery | she/her

Chief Development Officer, Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation

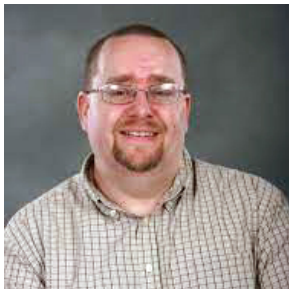
Monique Vallery is the Chief Development Officer for the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation. She works daily to provide leadership and support for all those that SAAF services. SAAF's mission is to promote health, well-being, and social justice for those living with HIV, LGBTQ+ individual, and communities marginalized by society. Monique also serves as the Board Chair for Homicide Survivors, Inc. here in Tucson. Her commitment to both Homicide Survivors and MADD comes from a very personal and passionate place. She is a native Tucsonan, and this is where her and her wife have raised their two sons.



Nina Jones | she/her

Operations Manager, City of Tucson Public Safety Communications Department

My name is Nina Jones and I work as a manager in the COT's Public Safety Communications Center as an operations manager. I fell in to this line of work by accident; I have a Bachelor's in Fine Arts with a focus in metal sculpture. I grew up in upstate New York, and ended up in Tucson working at a metal arts studio back in 1998 after college (after first landing in Phoenix which was not for me). From there I met my partner, and we owned a metal fabrication business for 10 years, until the addition of two children made me look for employment with healthcare and retirement benefits, which is how I got to the City of Tucson. Although my job is a difficult one and you do hear a lot of trauma, I love the opportunity to help others and through this position I have found myself becoming more invested and involved with my community, which is why I applied for this opportunity with GTL. I have also spent time working in the mental health field and always advocate for more resources and funding there. In my spare time, I love hiking Tumamoc, running 5K's, books, and any and all food especially chicken tikka masala. I have two children, one starting at the U of A this fall and one in the 8th grade at Paulo Freire Downtown School. I still consider myself an artist at heart, and one day hope to have time to make art again.



Randy Peterson | he/him

Development Officer, Imago Dei Middle School

Randy Peterson currently works as the Development Officer for Imago Dei Middle School, a private tuition-free school in downtown Tucson that exclusively serves children from low-income families. Originally from Michigan, he has called Tucson home since 1999. He is no stranger to the nonprofit world, having worked for the past 24 years at some of Tucson's top



charitable organizations, including the Humane Society, KXCI Community Radio, and Big Brothers Big Sisters. When not working, Randy enjoys volunteering as a Big Brother – he was recently matched with his Little Brother Jerry, who is the seventh Little that he’s had over the past 31 years. Other interests include seeing live music, attending sporting events, trying new restaurants, watching movies and documentaries, and reading biographies. Randy is way too interested in game shows, old and new both, and if there is an item on his bucket list, it’s to be on a game show (Jeopardy would be his first choice). Happily single, Randy shares his home with his dog, Buster Keaton, a rescue from the Humane Society.



Raysun Frost | she/her

REALTOR®, Homes by Raysun brokered by **OMNI Homes International**

With strong marketing acumen and unwavering commitment to service, I've built a thriving real estate career based on honesty, respect, and exceptional communication. Clients appreciate my attention to detail, proactive nature, resourcefulness, and dedication to achieving the best outcomes.

Originally from the east coast, I proudly call Tucson home and have become a community market leader, connecting nonprofits, local businesses, and the community through my "Love where you Live" series and volunteer efforts. I serve on the Associate Board of the Boys and Girls Clubs and volunteer at Tucson Rescue Now, driven by a passion to make a positive impact in our community.

My consultative approach to client relations and diverse background, including a Masters in Science, Peace Corps, Director of WISE at Penn State, Team Building Facilitation, and homeschooling, provide valuable skills for real estate negotiations, educating buyers and sellers, and marketing listings. Continuously learning, I've taken intensive digital marketing and negotiation courses to maximize benefits for my clients.

My wish is to see both buyers & sellers with smiles after every transaction. Whether selling your home faster and for more money or assisting you in finding your dream home, exceptional customer service and exceeding expectations are my top priorities.

In my free time, I enjoy being with my family and rescue-dog Hooch, creating handcraft projects, and hiking in Tucson's mountains.

I became a Real Estate Agent to make a positive difference in others' lives and give back to our community through donations to local charities with every transaction.



Rene Reichardt

Transportation & Support Services Manager, Pima Community College

Rene is a Tucson native and has been the Transportation and Support Services Manager with Pima Community College for the past 12 years. As part of the PCC Facilities department, Rene performs strategic planning and management of over 200 vehicles and equipment, student transportation, mail services, materials and distribution, and moving and logistics. He and his teams work collaboratively with dozens of other departments throughout the college to support the overall mission and goals to ensure a positive student experience and their successful outcomes. Having served on multiple internal committees, he is now building a cross-functional and community involved team to work on student transportation needs and solutions.

Prior to PCC, Rene was employed with a large, international manufacturing company headquartered in Chicago, IL. As part of the Tucson team, he started out packing boxes, worked his way up through 11 positions in as many years, and eventually managed one of two local distribution centers and sales forecasting team. While there, he gained valuable experience in supply chain, logistics, production, product development, collaboration, marketing, and other areas that would help him in his next endeavor at PCC.

When he's not bouncing around from campus-to-campus, Rene enjoys spending time with his son and daughter, friends and family, and also doing pretty much anything physically challenging including mountain biking, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, hiking, weightlifting, dancing, bouldering, yoga, and surfing.



Sean Burcham | he/him

Director of Technical Services, Baymar Solutions

Meet Sean Burcham, a valuable member of Baymar Solutions for nine years, currently serving as the Director of Technical Services. He obtained his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of South Florida and actively participates as a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. Sean's expertise in mechanical engineering design, project management, and program management is proven by his innovative problem-solving skills and accomplishments in the medical device industry.

As a coach, project manager, and planner, Sean is a strong asset to Baymar Solutions. He particularly enjoys working on product design transfer projects, believing that the client's



success directly reflects Baymar's success. Sean believes that providing value to the team or client and having a versatile skillset as an engineer are critical lessons to learn.

Sean's passion for engineering began at a young age, inspired by his father's work on cars. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time in nature with his daughter.



Steve Shea | he/him

Operations Manager, Goodwill Industries of Southern Arizona

Steve Shea is the Operations Manager for Goodwill Industries of Southern Arizona. In this role, he oversees all Logistics related activities for the company; from managing the Transportation fleet and staff to negotiating and coordinating Salvage After-Market sales. He is passionate about growing and developing the careers of others, and ensuring his company makes a positive environmental impact by keeping items out of landfills. He takes great pride in being tasked with helping improve the lives of his fellow members of the Tucson community, and helping his community find new uses for old things.

He was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, and raised in a small farm town in the southern part of that state. In 2006, he graduated from Metropolitan State University, in St. Paul, with a BA in Writing. After graduating college, he began sharpening his leadership tools in logistics-focused, retail management roles, and since July of 2016, he has had the great fortune to call Tucson and the glorious Sonoran Desert his home.

In addition to writing, reading, and drawing, Steve likes to be outside. Whenever he gets the chance, he loves to dig in the dirt around his home in midtown Tucson, and plant as many seeds as possible. He also loves to pick a direction and drive out past the edge of town, and hike the desert hills and canyons as well as the mountain forests. The only way to make these two things even more satisfying is if he's accompanied by his wife and two sons.



Tara Knight

RN Nursing Director, Banner University Medical Center South

I am the RN Nursing Director for Banner University Medical Center South Campus. I oversee the Adult Health Inpatient Units and Intensive Care Units. My responsibilities at Banner involve the overall operations of patient throughput, unit finances, process improvements, staff and leader development, and to ensure all that all staff have the tools that they need to provide safe high-quality patient care.

I was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. I started my nursing journey at Ohio Northern University where I obtained by Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2014. I worked as an Oncology Nurse before moving to Fairbanks, Alaska where I became a Perioperative RN and studied at Western Governors University where I obtained by Masters of Science in Nursing Leadership. In 2018, I moved to Tucson, Arizona where I started my journey with Banner Health at our Tucson Campus. I was the Associate RN Director for the PCU Neurology until I transitioned to the Director of Nursing at our South Campus facility. Along with the day-to-day operations of my five units that I oversee, I am also actively involved in many committees. I am the leader for the Threat Alert Committee for the Tucson Region and the Co-Executive Sponsor for our Skin Integrity Committee for the entire Banner Health System.

When I am not working, I am spending time with my husband and our 2.5-year-old twins. I am also an avid reader and I always set a goal to read 50 books in a year!



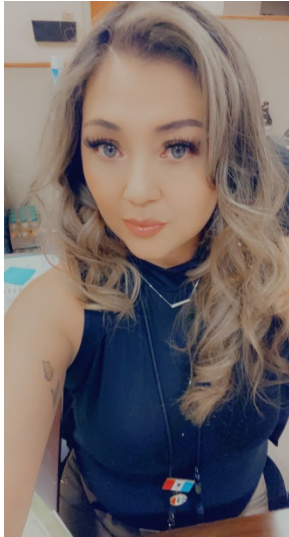
V Martinez | she/her/ella

Coordinator, Career Development, University of Arizona, Department of Computer Science

Valeria (V) is a proud native Tucsonan and and first-generation University of Arizona alumni, having worked at the institution since 2015 in various roles, from enrollment management to academic student support services.

Currently serving as the Coordinator for Career Development in the Department of Computer Science, they are dedicated to empowering students in their academic and professional journeys. Beyond their 9-5 commitments, V actively contributes to the community as a board member

for Tucson Young Professionals non-profit organization and explores the city's food scene as an Elite Yelper. In their personal life, they find joy in the company of their two foster cat siblings, Gigi and Teddy, and love exploring Tucson with their fiancé.



Veronica Corrales

Casino Del Sol

I am a native of Tucson, and an enrolled tribal member of the, Pascua Yaqui tribe. I have four children and seven grandchildren, with that said time is of the essence. I love keeping things simple in life and at work as I find produces the best results with the least stress. No matter the size of the project I always bring the same passion and dedication to each individual job and it's my priority to make sure all tasks are fully executed 100%.

I have worked for Casino Del Sol, for 21 years, started as a Slot Administrative Assistant working my way up to Executive Administrative Assistant, assisting the CEO, and Executives with day to day endeavors working with contracts, vendors, finance etc. etc.. to say the least. One thing I can say is every day brings on new challenges and learning experiences.

I have a sincere passion all things that involve Sales, I have taken several courses and achieved certification in Sales, Food and Beverage and Hospitality. I am currently interning a few hours weekly within our own Sales department with aspirations to one day have a permanent position.



Xochitl Sierra | she/her

Principal, PimaJTED

My name is Xochitl (Soche) Sierra. First and foremost I am a mom to three beautiful kids. I am also a Principal at Pima JTED. I love my career, leading and being amongst wonderful instructors and students fills my cup every day. Prior to being a Principal I work with individuals with disabilities as an instructor and advocate for their independence and acceptance. This passion has led me to Co-Chair the Pima County Community on Transition forum. Once a month we meet to discuss school aged transition programs for youth with disabilities in Pima County. I am so honored to not only lead and work with amazing people in my career path.