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Alan Pedroza (He/Him/His)

United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona, Project Manager

Alan Pedroza is a young professional with Project Management experience in the Nonprofit Industry. He was born in Douglas, AZ and moved to Tucson at a young age where he spent his educational career and pursued an undergraduate degree at the University of Arizona's Eller College of Management. During his time at Eller, Alan accumulated a wide range of experience in various fields; from information technology and accounting to finance and marketing. Alan is incredibly ambitious, disciplined, a bit of a perfectionist, and he loves collaborating with others on long term projects to meet specific goals that benefit his community. As a firm believer in teamwork, Alan strives to provide a supportive, compassionate, and understanding space for anyone he meets. After earning his bachelor's degree in Business Management, Alan immediately entered the workforce and began his professional career as a Project Manager for United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program, a program that provides free tax help for low to moderate income households & individuals, from filing tax returns to facilitating tax withholding workshops for local communities in Tucson. Beyond his professional life, Alan enjoys fitness and exercise. He's a die hard soccer fan and plays in a recreational league every week in addition to working out in a gym whenever he can. His other hobbies include amateur photography, cooking, and travelling.



Alexis Ryland

Cushman & Wakefield | PICOR, Commercial Property Manager

Alexis Ryland is an East Coast native and a graduate of Penn State University. After building a foundation in hospitality, she made a bold move to Tucson—sight unseen—five years ago. Upon arriving, Alexis transitioned into commercial real estate and joined Cushman & Wakefield | PICOR in early 2022 as a commercial property manager. She currently oversees a diverse portfolio of properties, including Main Gate Square on behalf of the Marshall Foundation. Alexis is passionate about team culture and community engagement. She is an active member of PICOR's Charitable Foundation and founded the local chapter of WIN (Women's Integrated Network), an employee resource group through Cushman & Wakefield aimed at supporting and empowering women in the workplace. She also serves on the Park Tucson Commission and has been involved with CREW Tucson since 2021. Outside of her professional commitments, Alexis enjoys spending quality time with her children—supporting their extracurricular interests, discovering new restaurants, and exploring Tucson's hiking trails.



Anaid Moreno (She/Her)
Tucson Unified School District, Educator & Coordinator

Anaid Moreno is a Tucson-born and raised educator, program coordinator, and small business owner whose work blends community leadership, educational advocacy, and entrepreneurship. She coordinates student-centered programs that support multilingual and first-generation youth, partnering with families, educators, and local organizations to expand pathways to opportunity. Anaid is currently working toward her doctorate in education. Outside of education, she co-owns Sunset Stucco LLC, a construction business she operates with her father. She serves as Secretary of the University of Arizona Hispanic Alumni Board and recently joined the Southern Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce as an Ambassador. Anaid and her husband both work in public service while raising two children and staying connected to the community they serve.



Ariana Deitch (She/Her/Hers)
Tech Parks Arizona, Communications Specialist

Ariana Deitch is a Communications Specialist at Tech Parks Arizona, where she works closely with the marketing and communications team to drive brand-building campaigns. With her skills in marketing, photography, and creative storytelling, she's enhancing digital and print campaigns to showcase the Tech Parks Arizona experience. Ariana develops and executes targeted campaigns, enhances the organization's social media presence, and supports marketing initiatives that drive business development and engagement. A proud Wildcat, Ariana earned her Bachelor's degree in Marketing with a minor in Psychology from the Eller College of Management at the University of Arizona. During her time at Eller College of Management, she served as Vice President of Communications for the American Marketing Association, was a preceptor for a Marketing Concepts course, and won the Eller Business Communications Case Competition. After graduating, she completed a five-month internship at Shamrock Foods Company, where she contributed to internal communications and digital marketing efforts, including capturing event photography, creating engaging social media content and editing the company's quarterly newsletter. Ariana brings energy, enthusiasm and a passion for making a difference in her community. With a strong background in photography and videography, she is dedicated to creative storytelling and impactful marketing.



Austin B. Frazier, Jr.
Carondelet Health Network, Market Chief Financial Officer

Austin B. Frazier, Jr., currently serves as the Market Chief Financial Officer for Carondelet Health Network (CHN) in Tucson, AZ. In this role, Frazier oversees all financial operations relating to the management of the three-hospital health system. Prior to joining CHN, Frazier worked in the Chicagoland area of Illinois, most recently as CFO of KSB Hospital, where he led a successful full merger integration with OSF Healthcare in 2024. He has also served with Loyola Medicine, as Regional Vice President of Finance - Loyola Medical Group, and held various leadership positions with Texas Children's Hospital, Bon Secours Virginia Health System, Peak Health Solutions, M*Modal (formerly MedQuist, Inc.), and other boutique consulting firms. Presently, he sits on the Board of Visitors for Temple University's Cinematic and Performing Arts in Philadelphia, was a two-term Board member of Chicago Hope Academy and served on the Board of Directors for the First Illinois chapter of HFMA. Frazier received his bachelor's degree from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA, and his Master of Business Administration (MBA) in healthcare finance from George Washington University in Washington, D.C.



Brittany Smith (She/Her)
Youth On Their Own, Associate Director, Development & Communications

Brittany Smith is a seasoned nonprofit professional with over a decade of experience in communications, fundraising, and event strategy. As the Associate Director of Development & Communications at Youth On Their Own (YOTO), she leads organization-wide messaging and donor engagement through innovative campaigns like YOTO Giving Week and the annual Spring Lunch. Originally from Southwest Michigan, Brittany has lived in Tucson for the past five years and loves getting to know the people and stories that shape her community. She holds a Master of Public Affairs from the University of Missouri and a BA in Communication from Loyola University Chicago. Brittany is a Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE) and an active leader in the local philanthropic community, serving on the board of AFP Southern Arizona and the Philanthropy Committee for Tucson Young Professionals.



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Chris Desborough

**City of Tucson, Office of Councilmember Paul Cunningham, Ward 2,
Community Outreach Director**

Originally from London, England, Tucson has been home since March 2009. He is very active statewide advocating for the rights of individuals with disabilities. Served 4.5 years on the Governor’s Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment deafblind issues sub-committee and successfully helped pass a state budget amendment that provided services for individuals with acute combined visual and hearing loss. He is a passionate advocate of equal rights for individuals with disabilities within the workplace and community. He created the City of Tucson’s first ever celebration of disability, Disability Pride Day which is establishing itself as an annual Tucson tradition and is the only event of its kind in Arizona. His responsibilities at work include managing the speed hump program for the Ward, transportation, disability related issues including internal and external policy change, and I also manage the Ward 2 intern program. A double graduate of Arizona State University, he holds both a bachelor’s and master’s degree in social work and was also a recipient of the Gabe Zimmermann scholarship for community service in 2017. Away from Ward 2, he is active in the community serving on a couple of non-profit boards, spending time with family and friends, watching movies and enjoying travel both domestically and internationally. He is also a lifelong fan of the San Francisco 49ers, San Francisco Giants and the English soccer clubs, Watford and Arsenal.



Deity Sullivan-Fonts (She/Her)

FRIDAY Pilates & Let's Sweat, General Manager

Deity Sullivan-Fonts is a recent transplant from the Midwest. After spending eight years in Chicago earning a degree in Health Science Systems Management with a minor in Business, she worked at a community-based hospital on the city’s north side addressing social determinants of health. She has now ventured to Tucson, where she is excited to immerse herself in the Southern Arizona community. Deity is applying her passion for the health and wellbeing of her community as the General Manager for FRIDAY Pilates and Let's Sweat, a chain of local fitness studios committed to building a strong and vibrant community. Her leadership style is defined by her ability to foster intentional connections and create opportunities for collaboration. As a young leader, Deity strives to set an example for those around her, encouraging and inspiring others to share their strengths with the world. Outside of her professional life, she enjoys exploring Tucson, experimenting with new recipes, and preparing staple dishes for her loved ones. She also hopes to soon become a youth volleyball coach.



Denisse Alvarez (She/Her)

Better Business Bureau Serving Southern Arizona, VP & COO

As Vice President and COO of the Better Business Bureau Serving Southern Arizona, Denisse Alvarez leads operations, communications, and marketing efforts that drive the organization’s mission of trust and ethical business practices. A proud Nogales native and one of five sisters, Denisse often jokes her conflict resolution skills began at home. That early foundation led her to become a certified mediator through the Arizona Attorney General’s Office. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Family Studies and Human Development with a minor in Spanish from the University of Arizona and a Master’s degree in Psychology, specializing in Industrial and Organizational Psychology. Denisse is deeply committed to service, having volunteered with Junior Achievement, served on Community Justice Boards, and worked with the University of Arizona’s Hispanic Advisory Council. She is a graduate of the Hispanic Leadership Institute and a member of 100+ Women Who Care Tucson and eWomen Network. Through her leadership, BBB has supported more than 70 local organizations via charitable giving, partnerships, and volunteerism. Denisse continues to be recognized for her commitment to strengthening Southern Arizona’s business and nonprofit communities.



Elena Montañó-Rock (She/Her)

Intermountain Centers, Director of Foster Care Operations – Southern Arizona

With over two decades of commitment to uplifting communities, Elena Montañó-Rock has dedicated her career to supporting foster families and improving outcomes for children in care. Since entering the field in 2004, she has worn many hats—group home parent, therapeutic foster parent, and community foster parent—caring for 17 children through her time in foster care. Elena’s academic foundation in Family and Human Development, with a concentration in Infancy and Childhood, set the stage for her lifelong mission to enhance the well-being of vulnerable children. Her passion for systemic change led her to pursue a Master of Public Health in Family and Child Health Global emphasis, where she deepened her expertise in creating environments that nurture healthy relationships from an early age. As Director of Foster Care Operations at Intermountain Centers, Elena leads with empathy, vision, and experience. She equips families with critical tools, knowledge, and community resources, empowering them to thrive in the complexities of foster care. Her leadership is rooted in a profound belief in the power of strong relationships and resilient communities to transform children’s lives.



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Eric Reuter (He/Him)
Raytheon Systems, Test Engineer

I am a systems test engineer with bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering from the University of Michigan. For the past two years, I've lived and worked in Tucson, where I contribute to the development of advanced technologies at Raytheon. Beyond work, I'm passionate about connecting with this community through volunteering, enjoying Tucson's natural spaces, and engaging in local initiatives. In my free time, I enjoy going for runs to see the sunsets, working on DIY projects, and spending quality time with friends. I believe in leading through collaboration, communication, and integrity, and I'm eager to build lasting connections and grow as a community advocate through the Lead Tucson program.



James Allerton
Alentar International, Development Director

After spending Ten years as a Pastor and Church Planter, James Allerton became involved in Law Enforcement and currently serves as a Detective and Chaplain for a law enforcement agency in Tucson, Arizona. He serves on the board of and is the director of development for Alentar, a non-profit organization that works to encourage and inspire international Christian leaders to effectively continue in their life of service. James helps law enforcement officers, leaders, and emerging leaders remain inspired, motivated, and engaged in their calling, as well as promoting self-care and creativity in the workplace. He has previously served as a pastor, non-profit board leader, spokesperson for law enforcement and ministry organizations, marketing director, is an ordained minister with the Church of the Nazarene and a degree in Practical Theology. With his wife Diane, they have raised 4-children into adulthood and currently have one grandson. Diane and James have been married for 31 years and are continually looking forward to life's adventures together. James is a proud member of the The Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) and is enjoying discovering tribal heritage. When he is not working, you can find him hanging out with family and friends and hiking some of the local trails.



Jamie Snyder (She/Her)
Our Family Services, Chief Executive Officer

Jamie Snyder is the Chief Executive Officer of Our Family Services, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending homelessness in Southern Arizona. Jamie is an award-winning CEO who brings over 19 years of nonprofit experience to Our Family Services with executive leadership expertise in homelessness prevention, emergency shelter, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing programs. Jamie works collaboratively with local, state, and federal partners to create innovative solutions to

homelessness and has secured over \$3 million in annual federal funding to end homelessness for youth and families in Southern Arizona. Jamie is a lifelong Arizonan raised in a small town near the U.S.-Mexico border. She earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff (Go, Lumberjacks!) and now resides in Tucson with her husband and two young sons. Jamie enjoys long-distance runs, CrossFit workouts, traveling, and baking for her family in her free time.



Jenn Copenhaver-Celi (She/Her)
Kinghorn Law | Financial Attorney

Jennifer Copenhaver-Celi was born and raised in Tucson. She graduated from the University of Arizona, Eller College of Management with a BS in Business Administration (major in Business Economics) and then graduated with her JD from the James E. Rogers College of Law, also at the University of Arizona. Jenn has a diverse legal background – she was previously a prosecutor with the Pima County Attorney’s Office and also previously managed government contracts and compliance for a local engineering firm. Now Jenn is happy to be working at Kinghorn Law | Financial, specializing in estate planning. She advises on trusts and wills, probate and trust administration, guardianships and conservatorships, tax planning, business formation and succession planning, and special needs planning. Jenn and her husband are the proud parents of three amazing kids – a son and a daughter in high school and a daughter in middle school. They all share their home with two troublemaking rescue dogs and a bird. Jenn and her family enjoy soccer, swimming, and exploring new places, and they are enthusiastic supporters of their favorite sports team, Tottenham Hotspur FC.



Jonathan Gordon (He/Him/His)
Banner Health, Director - Guest Services

Born and raised in Tucson! Jonathan is a graduate from the University of Arizona studying General Business Administration, Music, and Japanese Language. He currently serves as administrative support and leader for the culinary, clinical nutrition, and environmental service departments throughout the Banner Health facilities in Tucson. He loves working with people and started his career in hospitality, spanning Hyatt Hotels in Seattle, Honolulu, Vancouver (BC), and Scottsdale. The COVID-19 pandemic facilitated a career shift to healthcare operations, and he is so grateful to have found the intersection of customer service and healthcare back in his home town! Jonathan is a lover of group fitness, arts and entertainment, especially music. He grew up playing baritone horn and has performed as section leader for the Pride of Arizona Marching band, as well as played professionally in Sound Wave, the official band of the Seattle Sounders MLS Team. In addition to his professional work, Jonathan coaches part-time at F45 Training as well as sings in Reveille Men’s Chorus. He looks forward to continuing to learn, grow, and engage with the Tucson community!



Jonathan LePage (He/Him)

United States Patent and Trademark Office, Patent Examiner

Jonathan LePage was born and raised in Tucson, AZ and has lived here most of his life. He graduated from University High School and went on to the University of Arizona to complete a Bachelors of Science in Biosystems Engineering. After graduation, he worked for a local home security company for about 10 years. He then finally decided to put his degree to use and now works for the US Department of Commerce. Outside of work, he has an incredible wife and 7 amazing step-kiddos. In 2020, he founded a local giving circle called 100+ Guys Who Give Tucson which has donated over \$150,000 to local non-profits over the last 5 years. He also enjoys snowboarding, football, and all things gaming (video and board).



Jorge Hernandez (He/Him)

JW Marriott Tucson Starr Pass Resort and Spa, Senior Catering Sales Executive

My name is Jorge Armando Hernandez Coronado, and I bring over 30 years of experience in luxury hospitality and customer service. I was born in Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico, and raised in Tucson, Arizona; a blend of cultures that shaped my values of warmth, integrity, and hard work. Throughout my career, I've had the privilege of working with some of the best teams in the hotel and events industry. I specialize in creating seamless, memorable experiences for both guests and clients, whether it's through high-end corporate functions, social celebrations, or community-focused events. I take pride in supporting local businesses and always strive to offer value-driven solutions without sacrificing quality. I'm passionate about relationship building, creative problem-solving, and staying calm under pressure, because great service is just as much about attitude as it is execution. I believe every detail matters, and I love turning a client's vision into something unforgettable. Outside of work, I'm a proud husband and father of two girls (8 & 10), and I enjoy spending time outdoors hiking, especially here in Arizona. Every day, I'm grateful for the journey that brought me here and excited for the opportunities still ahead.



Kaili Wagoner

Banner Health, Operations Support Program Manager

Kaili Wagoner is an Operations Support Program Manager at Banner Health, where she leads the patient experience program. In this role, she supports all service lines across two acute care facilities, working to advance Banner's patient experience goals. She holds a master's degree in public health with a concentration in health services administration from The University of Arizona. A proud Tucsonan since childhood, Kaili is deeply committed to serving her community. She is also passionate about

advocating for the congenital heart disease community, a mission she furthers through her partnership with the American Heart Association.



Kasandra Prieto (She/Her)
Coldwell Banker Realty, Realtor, Radio & TV Host, Hispanic Spokeswoman, Community Advocate

Kasandra Prieto is a bilingual Realtor, media personality, and passionate advocate for Latino entrepreneurship and women’s empowerment in Tucson, Arizona. She is the host of Lifting You Up with Kasandra Prieto on Urbana 92.5 FM, a bilingual radio show sponsored by Tucson Appliance Company, where she spotlights inspiring stories of Hispanic business owners and changemakers. Kasandra also proudly serves as the Hispanic Spokeswoman for Tucson Appliance Company, using her voice to connect with and uplift her community. She regularly guest-hosts two Spanish-language television shows on Estrella TV: Arriba Tucson and Nuestra Hora con Lety, bringing energy, heart, and authenticity to every appearance. A former Vice President of both Rumbo al Éxito, a Spanish-speaking business referral group, and the Board of Directors for the Arizona Diaper Bank, Kasandra brings leadership, life experience, and heart to everything she does. Her personal journey has shaped a deep commitment to growth, connection, and helping others rise above their circumstances to create new possibilities. Outside of work, Kasandra enjoys boxing workouts, music, and quality time with loved ones. She believes in showing up with purpose, sharing stories that matter, and lifting others as she climbs.



Kate Schmidt (She/Her)
Pima Community College, Assistant Vice Chancellor – Academic Resources & Services

Kate Schmidt has worked for almost 20 years at Pima Community College in a variety of roles. She currently serves as the Assistant Vice Chancellor of Academic Resources & Services. In this position, she champions college-wide initiatives focused on faculty success, student learning, and inclusive academic culture. Her portfolio includes oversight of the Teaching and Learning Center, faculty resource centers, libraries, testing and learning centers, and critical areas such as faculty hiring and elearning quality. Kate is also a key contributor to shared governance, representing administration in working conditions and wage policy negotiations with the All Employee Representative Council. Beyond her administrative leadership, Kate is committed to continuous growth and has recently completed a Leadership & Executive Coaching Certificate. Over the past few years, she has also pursued certificates in Business Analytics and Strategic Human Resources and Change Leadership. She is an active advocate for women in leadership, serving on the board of the Arizona Women in Higher Education Network. Bringing both heart, humor and strategy to her work, Kate is a creative thinker and embraces learning new things. Outside of her professional life, she enjoys hiking, traveling, and exploring various creative outlets, currently honing her skills in screen printing.



Kendra Thompson-Dyck (She/Her)
University of Arizona, Director - Assessment & Research

Dr. Kendra Thompson-Dyck is deeply invested in public institutions that foster access and opportunity. She currently serves as Director of Assessment & Research in Student Success at the University of Arizona, where she leads campuswide efforts to leverage data for continuous improvement—focusing on survey strategy, program evaluation, and cross-campus collaboration. Kendra’s career spans nonprofit work, academic research, and higher education leadership. She holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in Sociology from the University of Arizona and a B.A. in Communication from Seattle Pacific University. As a parent, she actively supports Arizona’s K-12 public education system through volunteerism and advocacy. Kendra is excited to join GTL to deepen her understanding of Tucson’s civic landscape and explore new ways to contribute to a more connected, resilient community.



Kiana Green (She/Her)
Goodwill of Southern Arizona, Program Manager

Dr. Kiana Green is the current Program Manager for Goodwill Youth Reengagement Centers through the Goodwill of Southern Arizona. In 2018, Kiana obtained her Master’s degree in General Psychology with Grand Canyon University and recently completed her Ph.D. in General Psychology with an emphasis on Industrial and Organizational Psychology. She has 12 years of experience working with at-risk adults, young adults, and youth in the Tucson area. In her professional positions, Kiana has worked closely with Education Enrichment Foundation, Tucson Fire Department, and government agencies, and more, to coordinate support and services for opportunity youth. She also assisted with coordinating and facilitating behavioral health workshops, events, groups, and school programs, such as gardening and alternative school programs for students at-risk academically. She is also co-chair for the Network for Equity and Education Development (NEED), which is a community initiative to reduce disparities for black and brown youth through collaboration with other community agencies.



Krista Baker (She/Her/Hers)
Banner University Medicine-Tucson, Division Administrator

Krista Baker moved to Tucson from Baltimore, MD in May 2024 to be the Division Administrator for Psychiatry & Behavioral Medicine for Banner University Medicine. In this role, her responsibility is the departments financial and operational performance in its clinical practice, research, education and training activities. Krista previously spent 23 years working for Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, in both clinical and administrative roles. She is recognized nationally as a leader in the

operational and administrative management of psychiatric outpatient programs and is lauded for her work in launching both innovative and program improvement initiatives. Krista has expertise in obtaining and executing state and federal clinical service grants and has been a key administrative stakeholder in several first-episode psychosis research collaborations. Her clinical expertise is first-episode psychosis and schizophrenia spectrum disorders. She created an outpatient schizophrenia service line at Johns Hopkins and has published several papers and book chapters on psychosis and schizophrenia. Krista earned her bachelor's degree from East Carolina University and a master's in applied psychology from the University of Baltimore. New to the Tucson area, she is enjoying the weather, biking, hiking and the restaurant scene. She is most excited about her youngest daughter moving to Tucson to become a Wildcat in August 2025.



Kristen Lamott (She/Her)

Educational Enrichment Foundation, Development Manager

Kristen Lamott is the Development Manager for the Educational Enrichment Foundation (EEF), a nonprofit that supports students and educators across the Tucson Unified School District. In her role, she is responsible for building partnerships, engaging with donors, and supporting programs that enhance educational opportunities for students—ensuring they have the resources and support needed to succeed. Prior to joining EEF, Kristen worked in the University of Arizona’s College of Science Development Office, where she advanced from Administrative Assistant to

Program Coordinator for Alumni Engagement and Donor Events. She played a key role in coordinating celebrations that honored student achievement, alumni impact, and donor generosity. During her time at the UA, she served on the College of Science Staff Advisory Council and was recognized as Employee of the Month by the UA Foundation in 2023. Originally from rural Pennsylvania, Kristen moved to Tucson in 2008 and is a proud alumna of the University of Arizona, earning her BA in Interdisciplinary Studies with an emphasis in Science, Technology, Health, and Society. Whether painting, crocheting, or creating handmade gifts, she finds joy in expressing herself through arts and crafts. Kristen brings heart, imagination, and a sense of fun to everything she does.



La Tonya Jangdhari (She/Her)

Emerge Against Domestic Violence, Executive Administrative Manager

I am a Black woman from Los Angeles and have been a resident of Tucson, Arizona, since August 2025. My professional background is in Social Work and Human Services, which has always been my ultimate purpose in life. I have a natural desire to help people and understand the challenges that life can present, having been involved in some unfortunate situations myself. I take pride in overcoming these challenges and aspire to be a positive example for others in my community, especially for people of color. I moved to Tucson to join Emerge, an organization whose mission aligns

with my calling. I am honored to be a part of Emerge, where I can contribute to bringing positive change to our community and actively participate in making that change happen.



Lauren Vidal (She/Her)
iTI, Director- Lifecycle and ITAD

Lauren Vidal is the Director of Lifecycle and ITAD Services at iTI, a global technology solutions provider. With a background in marketing and communications, she has taken on roles of increasing responsibility across IT operations and strategic service delivery. Lauren brings over 12 years of experience in emerging products and technologies and is passionate about building programs that merge innovation with scalable execution. Lauren holds an MBA from Arizona State University and thrives at the intersection of strategy, operations, and people. She believes clear communication and cross-functional collaboration are essential to exceptional performance. At iTI, she leads programs across the full device lifecycle from procurement to secure recovery, applying data-driven insights and structured processes to drive client value, compliance, and sustainability. She served as Treasurer of the Junior League of Tucson and is slated to serve as President for the 2026–2027 year, furthering her commitment to community leadership and service. Lauren enjoys mentoring early career professionals and actively contributes to local impact initiatives in Southern Arizona. Outside of work, Lauren enjoys spending time with her husband, two sons, and their dog, whether cheering from the sidelines of a soccer or baseball field, exploring new places, going for a bike ride on the loop, or spending time with friends and family at home.



Lisa Floran (She/Her)
United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona, Senior Director - Financial Wellness

Lisa is the Senior Director of Financial Wellness at United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona, where she leads program and policy efforts related to financial empowerment, housing stability, and homelessness. A self-professed policy nerd, her research and recommendations have informed local government initiatives related to early childhood (PEEPs), chronic homelessness (Housing First), and generational poverty (Prosperity Initiative). She is currently a Board Member for the Tucson-Pima Collaboration to End Homelessness (TPCH) and a Community Advisory Board Member for the Urban Institute’s Runaway and Homeless Youth Prevention Demonstration Project. Prior to moving to Tucson, Lisa worked on a public-private partnership to reduce youth gun violence in Chicago and served as a Peace Corps health volunteer in Senegal. She earned her MPH from the University of Arizona, BA from the University of Notre Dame, and certificates in French Language and Comedy Writing from the L’Université Catholique de l’Ouest and the Second City Training Center, respectively. Outside of work, you can find her dancing, paddleboarding, storytelling, or writing original murder mystery parties for her friends.



Lisa Hagins

Arizona Transportation Builders Association, Executive Director

Lisa Hagins has worked in regional roles with Banking and Credit unions for many years. Most recently, as the Regional President of Southern Arizona for OneAZ Credit Union. Her passion has always been about community and supporting women. As an industry leader, she was one of the founders of the Southern Sister Society for the Global Women's Leadership program here in Tucson, which supported women in developing leadership skills and fostering relationships worldwide. Lisa also worked to get her certificate from Cornell in Women in Leadership and was honored in Tucson as a Woman leading the Region in 2022 by Biz Tucson Magazine. In 2024, Lisa decided to give back and positively impact her local communities and the economy in Tucson. She was appointed Executive Director at the Arizona Transportation Builders Association in August. Lisa serves her local members, helps grow relationships with local officials and chambers, and supports and develops women in the field of construction and transportation. Lisa is committed to supporting the Southern Arizona Region in growth and prosperity, while working in the infrastructure and transportation industry. Advocating for her members' needs drives her passion to serve.



Lovely Ganthier

United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona, Senior Staff Accountant

Lovely Ganthier serves as the Senior Staff Accountant at United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona, where she supports mission-driven financial operations. She is also a Notary Public and founder of Team Wright Taxes, a boutique firm helping individuals, small businesses, and nonprofits build lasting wealth through strategic tax planning and financial clarity. Lovely holds a degree in Biochemistry and began her career conducting federal research on the FHIT gene and its role in apoptosis. Her analytical background led her to pivot into finance, earning a Business Management degree and building a career rooted in service and strategy. She previously worked at the University of Arizona, serving on multiple staff councils and as UA Cares Honorary Co-Chair. She now serves as Treasurer of the NAACP Tucson Branch, Board Member of I Am You 360, Advocacy Chair for the League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson, and is a member of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., Eta Delta Chapter. She is also an engaged member of Tucson Young Professionals and a proud sponsor of Tucson Thrive. Outside of work, Lovely enjoys hiking, reading, and praise dancing at New Trinity Temple CME Church. Recognized for her strategic mindset, authenticity, and heart for service, she welcomes opportunities to connect, collaborate, and uplift others.



Luciano Lobos

Southwest Gas Corporation, Supervisor - Customer Service

A proud Tucson native, Luciano Lobos has been with Southwest Gas Corporation for nineteen years, where he currently serves as Supervisor of Customer Service, overseeing both company and contract employees. Deeply committed to employee advocacy, Luciano is passionate about supporting professional development and helping others achieve their goals. Luciano’s roots in the Old Pueblo run deep, and he is an enthusiastic supporter of University of Arizona athletics – Bear Down! Beyond his professional role, he serves on the Board of the Southern Arizona Building

Officials and is the Committee Chair for the Blue/Fuel Committee at Southwest Gas. Through these committees, Luciano helps cultivate a culture of service, encouraging employees to give back and make a meaningful impact in their communities. Driven by a strong sense of philanthropy and civic engagement, Luciano is excited to begin his next chapter as a member of the Greater Tucson Leadership Class of 2026. He looks forward to broadening his perspective, removing his “utility blinders,” and growing alongside a diverse group of community leaders.



Michael Velarde

Casino Del Sol, Assistant Manager - PY Steakhouse

I am a 27 year old born and raised member of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. I grew up on the South Tucson Pascua Native Reservation and graduated from Cholla High Magnet School in 2016. I am a proud father and a team member at the Casino Del Sol. I started my career bussing tables in the 24 Hour diner inside the Casino, then quickly moved from position to position and eventually into management. It was here where I found my love for being a leader and trying to better both myself and the environment around me. I also eventually started working in PY Steakhouse, a fine-dining

restaurant, where I also found my love for high end food, craft cocktails, and amazing wine. I have obtained my level 1 sommelier and am participating in all Casino Del Sol offered trainings to better myself as a competent leader. In my role I get to train tribal members and team members the world of high end hospitality and high end Food and Beverage. As a leader it is my responsibility to help those under me reach their fullest potential and become the best versions of themselves. I aspire to become a community leader so I can help those around me do this on a bigger scale.



Michelle Beaumont Owens (She/Her)

Artifact Photography Studio, Creative Director & Photographer

Michelle Beaumont Owens is the founder of Artifact Photography Studio and creator of The 50 Over 50 Experience, a transformational portrait series celebrating women over 50. A visual storyteller at heart, she specializes in magazine-style portraits, headshots, and branding imagery that help individuals and organizations connect with their voice, image, and impact. Before launching her studio full-time, Michelle built a 30+ year career in the high-tech industry, holding leadership roles in sales, business development, operations, and marketing with companies including Intuit Inc.

and its ecosystem, SUTUS Inc., and Avnet. Her experience includes launching national account programs, developing Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) platforms, and scaling startups serving franchise and small business sectors. Michelle blends strategic insight with creative vision to empower women, support local nonprofits, and foster community connection. She is passionate about redefining beauty, championing entrepreneurship, and using the power of image to inspire transformation.



Nick Wayne Eggman (He/Him)

HighWire Tucson, Owner

Nick Wayne Eggman is a third-generation Tucsonan and entrepreneur whose impact on the city's downtown landscape is both profound and ongoing. Nick has always carried a deep-rooted connection to his hometown—one that continues to fuel his drive to create, uplift and invest in the community around him. In 2015, Nick opened HighWire, a craft cocktail lounge that began as a 785 square-foot concept. With his business partner, John Hardin, they have since established a thriving 25,000 square-foot hospitality and entertainment complex in the heart of

downtown that employs nearly 100 people. Their ventures expanded to include The Grand, Catering Tucson, SphereX Distilleries and they're set to launch Gibson Food Hall & Market at the end of 2025—further anchoring a legacy downtown. Beyond his success as a business owner, Nick has dedicated over a decade to community leadership and work with nonprofits. In 2021, he completed the Green Leaders program and has since been a driving force in local environmental efforts. His commitment is evident through initiatives such as installing a 1,500-gallon rainwater cistern at HighWire and serving on the Board of Directors for Watershed Management Group. For Nick, giving back isn't a side effort, it's a core principle of how he does business. His work consistently bridges economic growth with social responsibility, making him a respected figure in the Tucson community.



Olivia Schaub
Caterpillar Inc., Human Resources Business Partner

Olivia was born and raised in New Jersey and attended Penn State University where she received her bachelors and masters degree in Labor and Employment Relations. After graduating from Penn State, Olivia moved to central Illinois to join the Human Resources Rotational Program with Caterpillar Inc. Moving from central Illinois, to Chicago, then to Tucson, AZ with Caterpillar, Olivia has a wide range of experience with Labor and Employee Relations at the company. In addition, Olivia has led Employee Resource Groups at Caterpillar, including Young Professionals and Womens Initiative Network, from being the Early Talent Chair to leading 20+ North America chapters. Olivia in her free time volunteers at United Way, and has led campaigns at Caterpillar with United Way as well. Outside of working and volunteering hours, Olivia loves to spend time with her family and friends, bike and hike around Tucson and garden.



Robert Contreras
The SOSS Co., SOSS Boss

Robert Contreras is a Marana-based entrepreneur and community leader with over a decade of experience in food and beverage, advertising, and brand strategy. He is the founder of SOSS/The SOSS Co., a small-batch salsa and hot sauce brand that celebrates Arizona’s flavors and culture, and RU Ready, a boutique marketing and advertising business specializing in branding, messaging, and campaign strategy for local businesses and political candidates. Robert currently serves as Executive Director of the Pima County Republican Party and Co-Chair of the Pima County Young Republicans for the 2025-2026 cycle, where he has led a brand refresh, launched new grassroots donor and training programs, and expanded outreach efforts to energize local engagement. His career includes working with notable brands like Bitchin’ Sauce, Parris Law Firm, and campaigns including Heather Lappin for Sheriff (2024) and Rex Scott for Supervisor (2020). With a background in restaurant management and years of experience in print and advertising, Robert excels at building brands from the ground up; developing messaging, marketing strategy, and community connections that drive real results. A father and active community member, Robert believes in leadership through action and authenticity. His work blends entrepreneurship, public service, and strategic communications to help ideas grow, whether it’s a business, a campaign, or a community initiative.



Robert Ramirez (He/Him/They)

Pima Community College, Program Manager - Pima for Youth

Robert M. Ramirez is a dedicated community leader, youth advocate, and workforce strategist with over 15 years of experience in higher education and public service. As the Program Manager for Pima for Youth at Pima Community College, Robert leads initiatives that connect young people—especially those from underserved and nontraditional backgrounds—to career pathways, college readiness, and personal development opportunities. A proud single father and lifelong Tucsonan, Robert brings lived experience and generational insight to his work, mentoring at-risk youth and reentry populations with authenticity and purpose. Robert has been instrumental in expanding dual enrollment, summer bridge, and apprenticeship-aligned programming across Southern Arizona. His work is grounded in equity, access, and pragmatic results—helping youth build real-world skills and make informed choices about their futures. A passionate advocate for boys and young men of color, Robert is currently developing a mentorship model that addresses systemic gaps in education, fatherhood, and male workforce participation. Through the Lead Tucson program, Robert aims to deepen his civic leadership, grow regional partnerships, and support transformational solutions that make Tucson a model for intergenerational impact and inclusive opportunity. He believes the future of Southern Arizona depends on bold leadership that confronts hard truths, rebuilds trust, and centers the voices of those too often left behind.



Sarah Spearman (She/Her/Hers)

Pima Council on Aging, VP - Philanthropy and Communications

Sarah Spearman serves as Vice President of Philanthropy and Communications at Pima Council on Aging, Southern Arizona’s largest nonprofit serving older adults and their families. She leads fundraising, marketing, and strategic communications, shaping how the organization tells its story and connects with the community. With more than two decades in nonprofit leadership across higher education, animal welfare, and human services, Sarah has a track record of building meaningful partnerships and launching initiatives that make a difference - including two nationally recognized efforts focused on animal protection and civil liberties. She thrives in moments that call for clarity, collaboration, and trust - mobilizing people around shared purpose and values. While originally from the Midwest, Sarah has lived across the Western U.S., most recently relocating to Tucson from Santa Fe. She arrived with the loveliest old Lab named Tillie and a chatty orange tabby named Sherman. She holds a Master of Science in acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine, and believes deeply in whole-person care, intergenerational connection, and civic engagement as forces for community good. Sarah joined the Lead Tucson cohort to deepen her connection to Tucson, contribute meaningfully to its future, and learn alongside others who care deeply about this place.



Shahed Shidoosh Posey
Children's Clinics, Director of Human Resources

Shahed joined the Children's Clinics in 2019 and serves as the Director of Human Resources. A consummate professional and trusted advisor, Shahed believes developing strong relationships is foundational to everything in life, both professionally and personally. Shahed has garnered a progressive and broad range of experience from supporting local non-profit organizations to global for profits in academic, healthcare and the financial services industries. With proven success as a business partner who collaborates using a consultative approach, Shahed is passionate about and excels at aligning people initiatives with organizational strategy to create inclusive cultures and ultimately further the mission of the organization. Following completion of her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Arizona, Shahed received her Master's degree in Counseling from Chapman University and is frequently found helping others to unleash their full potential as a Gallup Certified Strengths Coach. Outside of work, Shahed relishes in the Arts (dance, music, theater, culinary), maintaining an active lifestyle (barre, yoga, spinning, body pump, dance), traveling whenever and wherever possible (favorites include UAE, Japan, Europe) and enjoys a good Netflix binge from time to time. Shahed has called the beautiful Old Pueblo home since 1991. She is married to her husband, Joe, and together they are raising two children, Sofia and Liam.



Shirley Reilly (She/Her)
Tucson Electric Power, Community Program Assistant

I am a Community Program Assistant with Tucson Electric Power. I have a unique opportunity to be able to engage within our community. My team and I work closely with our local nonprofits, as well as our employees, encouraging board services, volunteerism, and fun engagement opportunities for all. It is important to me to give back to our community, with Tucson critical needs and resources. Fun fact about me, I am a retired 4 time Paralympian and Gold medalist in the marathon in 2012. I am a UofA grad and proud wildcat-Go Cats! I am very excited to be joining GTL Team and getting to know you all.



Sydney Harvey (She/Her/Hers)
Southwest Solutions, Purchasing Manager

Sydney moved to Tucson two and a half years ago and quickly made an impact as Purchasing Manager, and self-proclaimed “Warehouse Wizard”, at Southwest Solutions. Known for her drive and problem-solving mindset, she played a crucial role in the successful implementation of a new operating system, as she is always seeking ways to make processes more efficient and effective. Sydney also serves as Vice President of the state-wide non-profit Arizona Promotional Products Association (AzPPA), where she brings the same energy and commitment to leadership. Outside of work, she’s a devoted dog mom to four pups who share her love of walks, swimming, and car rides. A true gearhead at heart, Sydney enjoys keeping her car in pristine condition. Whether in the warehouse or the wider community, she leads with pride, innovation, and purpose. Through Greater Tucson Leadership, Sydney looks forward to building meaningful relationships and making a lasting, positive impact on the community she now calls home.



Sydney Wells (She/Her)
Community Foundation for Southern Arizona, Events Manager

Sydney Wells currently serves as the Events Manager for the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona. Her exciting role allows her the opportunity to connect and serve dozens of nonprofits and local businesses in Tucson, hosting numerous community events, celebrations, fundraisers, and professional networking events every year. Born in Tucson, she is passionate about the community she grew up in and bringing people together for moments of joy. After graduating from the University of Redlands with a bachelor's degree in Anthropology and Sociology, Sydney returned to Tucson in 2020 to reconnect with her roots. With over 10 years experience working within the nonprofit sector in Arizona, Illinois, and California, Sydney seeks opportunities for learning and togetherness to hear from those around her in search of ways she can improve the lives of others through her work. Sydney is greatly looking forward to being part of the GTL Lead Tucson Class of 2026 in order to deepen her understanding of the issues facing the people of southern Arizona and grow her leadership skills through connection!



Tina Cervantez (She/Her/Hers)

City of Tucson, Public Safety Communications Department Manager

Tina is a native Tucsonan with over 20 years of experience in the Electric Utility industry, where she held various leadership roles focused on operations, customer service, and project management. She now serves as a Manager in the Public Safety Communications Department with the City of Tucson. Tina played a key role as project manager in the successful launch of the 311 non-emergency line and continues to support its growth as a regional service. She is passionate about community service and values being in a role that allows her to make a positive impact through public outreach and engagement. Outside of work, Tina enjoys hiking, being outdoors, and spending quality time with her husband, children, and grandchildren.



Tracy Garcia

City of Tucson, Procurement Manager

Tracy Garcia, MOL, CPM, NIGP-CPP, CPPB, serves as a Procurement Manager with the City of Tucson's Business Services Department. She leads a team that supports key departments including Tucson Fire, Tucson Police, IT, Human Resources, and various city-wide initiatives. With over 20 years of service, Tracy has held progressively responsible roles at Tucson Water, Tucson Fire, Department of Transportation & Mobility, and Business Services. She is deeply committed to engaging the local vendor community to cultivate partnerships that strengthen Tucson. Tracy holds a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership from Northern Arizona University, a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Grand Canyon University, and an Associate's degree from Pima Community College. She also earned a Certified Public Manager certificate from Arizona State University. Since 2020, she has served on the board of the Copper Chapter of NIGP, contributing as Vice President of Membership and Treasurer. A lifelong learner, Tracy is passionate about service, especially causes benefiting children. Her volunteer work includes efforts with Habitat for Humanity, Tucson Fire's holiday food boxes, and the Climb to Conquer Cancer. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her husband, family, and two dogs, as well as camping, traveling, kayaking, and attending Broadway shows. A Tucson resident since 1989, Tracy looks forward to how GTL will help her give back to the community that's given her so much.



Vanessa Martinez (She/Her)
Psomas, Regional Pursuits Manager

Vanessa Martinez, CPSM, is the Regional Pursuits Manager for Psomas, a civil engineering and land surveying firm. She is a seasoned marketing and business development strategist with over 15 years of experience helping engineering firms grow by developing new ideas, competing more effectively, and increasing revenue. Vanessa has served in multiple roles on the Board of Directors for the Building Insight, Leadership, and Development (BILD) organization. She is also an active member of the Metropolitan Pima Alliance, serving as the 2025 Common Ground Awards Event Chair. Vanessa holds a bachelor's degree in business administration, is a Certified Professional Services Marketer, and is a Society for Marketing Professional Services member. An Arizona native, Vanessa enjoys outdoor adventures, traveling with her family, reading, and listening to podcasts. She is a proud wife, mother of five, and soon-to-be grandmother.



Victoria Umeda (She/Her)
Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc., Legal Operations Manager

Victoria currently serves as the Legal Operations Manager at Chicanos Por La Causa. Prior to this role, Victoria was the legal department paralegal with a primary focus in litigation and dispute resolution. In her current role, she oversees all facets of the legal department including supervising staff and interns, implementing strategic goals, overseeing data analytics and reporting, and assisting with financial management. Victoria has over eight years of experience in the legal field and a strong passion for serving the community and those in need. Prior to joining Chicanos Por La Causa, Victoria held roles as a paralegal with Pima County Legal Defender's Office and a judicial assistant with Pima County Superior Court. Victoria enjoys learning, growing as an individual and professional, and is currently pursuing a degree in Business Administration to further support her long-term career goals. Outside of her professional life, she enjoys spending time with her husband and dog, watching sports, reading, and is an active member of Southern Arizona Roadrunners.



Vondi Grijalva (She/Her/Hers)
The Haven, Admissions Supervisor

Vondi Grijalva is a native of Tucson who proudly embraces her Indigenous heritage. Vondi is the Admissions Supervisor at The Haven, a nonprofit substance use treatment center dedicated to supporting women and children on their path to recovery. In this role, she leads the agency's intake team with compassion, integrity, and a deep commitment to accessible, member-centered care. Since 2015, Vondi has been deeply engaged in the behavioral health field, where she integrates lived experience, trauma-informed care, and a strong commitment to equity into every aspect of her work. Beyond her professional role, Vondi is an active and respected voice in the movement for criminal justice reform, substance use recovery, and community healing. She is deeply committed to honoring and uplifting the voices of those impacted by substance use and incarceration. Her lived experience and leadership make her a powerful voice for systemic change, healing, and hope. Vondi is deeply rooted in her community and passionate about creating systems that restore dignity and opportunity. Vondi actively contributes to her community through her involvement in impactful initiatives such as Second Chance Tucson, the Pima County Jail Review Committee, Red Road to Wellbriety, and Pillars and Bridges. Through these platforms, she helps bridge gaps between systems and individuals, ensuring that compassion and dignity remain at the heart of every solution.