



ARIZONA GRANTMAKERS FORUM

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Arizona Grantmakers Forum Names New Chair and Four New Board Members

PHOENIX, AZ (12-16-08). – Arizona Grantmakers Forum (AGF) has named **Dr. Carol Peck**, as Chair of the Board. Dr. Peck is President & CEO of the Rodel Charitable Foundation of Arizona. Prior to joining the Rodel Foundation, Dr. Peck served as superintendent of the Alhambra School District for 16 years, where she created, developed, and implemented a variety of winning programs that significantly raised student achievement in a large urban district. Dr. Peck has received extensive recognition nationally and statewide including Valley Leadership's 2007 Woman of the Year, National Superintendent of the Year and National Administrator of the Year. In addition to her numerous academic publications, Dr. Peck writes a regular column for the Arizona Republic, highlighting successful education programs throughout the state.

AGF also elected four new board members to serve on the board:

Tom Ambrose, Phoenix Suns – Tom is Senior Vice President and Executive Director of Phoenix Suns Charities. He has served in a variety of public and community relations roles over a 31-year career with the NBA franchise. Tom was instrumental in the formation of Phoenix Suns Charities, the foundation established to raise funds for non-profit organizations that serve youth in the areas of education, health and human services, the arts, sports and recreation.

Lydia Lee, J.P. Morgan Chase - Lydia is Vice President & Regional Manager, National Community Relations, for JP Morgan Chase's operations in Arizona, California, Colorado, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, Washington, and Utah. Lee leads a staff of ten in Community Relations in administering all corporate giving, community development and community involvement. In her sixteen years of direct accountability for JP Morgan Chase's charitable giving in the Southwest, Lee has been responsible for giving more than \$70 million to organizations.

Mary Jane Rynd, The Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust – Mary Jane is Executive Vice President and CFO of the Trust. She is a certified public accountant and a former partner in KPMG LLC and Rynd, Carneal & Ewing, PLC. Before joining the Trust, she served on the boards of numerous nonprofit organizations. She currently serves on the board of the Conference of Southwest Foundations and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Arizona Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Merl Waschler, President & CEO, Valley of the Sun United Way -

Merl was appointed to the CEO position in January 2007, following 14 years of executive leadership experience with United Way. On a national level, Merl has been recognized for leading a consortium of 65 individual United Ways that pioneered technology solutions that moved the national United Way system to the cutting edge of electronic giving. He is also a member of key leadership committees for

United Way of America. He is a Certified Public Accountant and has held a variety of positions focused on finance and accounting with organizations including Oryx Press; the Disclosure Information Group in Washington, DC; and the Bureau of National Affairs.

About Arizona Grantmakers Forum

AGF is a regional association that provides educational resources, research and networking opportunities for grantmakers in Arizona. Member organizations make financial grants to non-profit organizations throughout the state and represent the interests of private foundations, trusts, endowed community foundations, corporations, government agencies and individuals with organized charitable gift programs. AGF's mission is to increase, enhance, and improve philanthropy in Arizona, with the vision that the state's expanding philanthropic community, working collaboratively, invests their resources wisely to make a profound positive difference for Arizona's communities. Learn more about Arizona Grantmakers Forum and our member organizations at www.azgrantmakers.org.

Please contact Marissa Theisen (contact info above) for more information regarding Arizona Grantmakers Forum. Photographs of our new Board members are available upon request.