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Opinions

Valley Leadership pivoting to greater focus on impact



Your Turn
David C. Brown
Guest columnist

The work of today is the history of tomorrow and we are its makers. — Juliette Gordon Law

How do we create a leadership environment that builds and cultivates a community of impact-makers?

For Valley Leadership, it all comes down to impact. An overused word perhaps, but one that sets the expectation for getting things done. We're pivoting the way we do our work so that our focus is always on having impact, big or small.

We'll work toward outcomes that make things better in the Valley and in Arizona by rallying our alumni, partners, supporters and program partici-

pants to come together to have thoughtful conversations on Arizona's most pressing issues.

This work will lead to solutions and actions that frame the issues thoughtfully and allow us to tackle them collectively by connecting the dots of current work, expertise, passion and social and political capital.

Together we can cultivate, grow and nurture a culture and path of impact-making — among our alumni, our partners and all of Arizona's leaders.

This pivoted focus on building a culture of leadership will advance solutions on issues in education, water, child welfare, the economy and more.

This work can be politically agnostic. This work can be civil. It can be incremental or all-at-once. And by working together, we can mitigate the political risk of failure and help people and or-

ganizations find their sweet spot of "doing."

We plan to lead with a multi-faceted response system. A system that bridges past and future leaders to leverage our collective successes and engage Arizona's can-do spirit to solve our challenges. This system requires individuals and organizations to step up for our state's success.

Boomers who have led our state and its growth in recent decades recognize the torch of leadership must be passed on. We need to convene and connect the next set of impact-makers. We need to ignite that spark and set the bar of expectation high on what's possible.

So, what can you do? Stand up and lead. You and your organization (private, non-profit, public, it doesn't matter), neighbors, friends and family can help build a culture of systemic leader-

ship.

Start by thinking civic discourse and lead with an openness to different solutions and accomplishment. What's needed in your community? Better after-school programs? Healthier food options? Clean roads and sidewalks? The right jobs? Who needs to be involved?

Find out, take action and impact our community and state.

Ready to step up?

The time is now.

Join us in our pivot and let's accelerate the motion of doing. There's much work to be done.

David C. Brown is CEO of Valley Leadership, which empowers and mobilizes leaders to impact pressing issues facing Arizona. Reach him at dave@valleyleadership.org; on Twitter, @VLeadership.