

## **Valley Leadership selects Class 39 of its Valley Leadership Institute**

### ***More than 50 of the Valley's proven leaders to embark on a nine-month leadership institute***

**July 10, 2017 (Phoenix, AZ) – Today,** Valley Leadership announced members of Valley Leadership Institute Class 39. After a competitive selection process, the group was chosen from a wide range of business sectors, including corporate and nonprofit executives, small business owners, public officials and servants, and leaders in healthcare, education, law, and technology.

As the Valley's oldest and most prestigious leadership development program, Valley Leadership is known for the lasting impact and strong connections of its alumni. Since 1978, the organization has gathered the expertise of the State's most respected and influential business, civic and leaders to tackle the most critical issues shaping our community today, and in the future.

Since VL's inception four decades ago, more than 3,000 leaders have come through the leadership development programming, 83 percent of VL alumni still reside in Arizona.

"We are excited to welcome this diverse and well-rounded class into the Valley Leadership family," said Sarah Krahenbuhl, Valley Leadership Board Chair and Executive Director of Phoenix Suns Charities. "We look forward to the impact this incoming Class will have on our Valley."

Valley Leadership Institute (VLI), the organization's flagship program designed to advance pursuits and passions of proven leaders. Beginning in August 2017, the nine-month institute will offer increased awareness and understanding of our community, leadership skills development, opportunities for engagement, and a broader network of personal and professional relationships.

#### **The members of Class 39 are:**

Ylenia Aguilar, Osborn School District Governing Board Member

Suzette Armijo, Beatitudes Campus

James Arndt, Isaac Elementary School District

Jennifer A. Barefoot, DMB Community Life, Inc

Tony Benites, Phoenix Fire Department

Ken Bonham, Lucid Agency

Andrea Borg, Versluis Group

Dominic Braham, City of Phoenix City Council District 8

Sheldon Caldwell-Meeks, Cox Communications

Erika Castro, Salt River Project

Latasha Causey, USAA

Sheena Chiang, Maricopa County Office of the Legal Defender

Jenna Dalbey, Tetra String Quartet

Devin Del Palacio, Akos

Jerry Diaz, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Phoenix

Page Englert, Arizona Humane Society

Jessica Everett-Garcia, Perkins Coie

Soilo Felix, Be A Leader Foundation

David Fuller, City of Phoenix, Public Defenders Office

Jim Gallagher, Phoenix Police Department

Colleen Gautam, Valley of the Sun United Way

Jonathon Adam Gonzales, Phoenix Children's Hospital

Adam Goodman, Goodmans Interior Structures

Greg Hyland, CPM, College Success Arizona

Shereka Jackson, City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department

Shelly Jamison, Phoenix Fire Department

Lawrence Joseph, Monster.com

Heather Kivatinos, Gannett/Republic Media

David Larence-Patterson, Banner Health

Cheryl Lewis, Isagenix International

Amy Love, Arizona Supreme Court

Minea Moore, Intel

Mark Murphy, Intel

Earl Newton, Hood 2 Hood Foundation

Jennifer Patel, Phoenix Suns Charities

Jessica Pierce, Career Connectors

Troy Pottgen, RIESTER

Nathan Pullen, DES, Business Enterprise Program

John Randolph, Sherman & Howard L.L.C.

Shawwna Riggers, Arizona Family Law Attorneys

Rodney Riley, CBRE

Ginger Rough, The Arizona Republic | [azcentral.com](http://azcentral.com)

Drew Shaw, Acumen Learning Innovations

Benjamin Smith, Osborn School District - Longview School

Annette Tanori, Shea Homes

Marcos A. Tapia, Renaud Cook Drury Mesaros PA

Steve Trussell, Arizona Rock Products Association

Ashley Trussell, Hospice DreamCatchers Foundation

Cindy Villanueva, Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP

Jennifer Ward, Mountain States Employers Council

Janel White Taylor, Arizona State University

Valley Leadership is holding a reception for alumni to welcome the new Class on Wednesday, August 23, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. The reception will offer an evening of connections and cocktails, while Class 39 members are introduced to the Valley Leadership community.

For more information about the reception or Valley Leadership, contact Sophia Mayberry at [sophia@valleyleadership.org](mailto:sophia@valleyleadership.org), or visit the Valley Leadership website at [www.valleyleadership.org](http://www.valleyleadership.org).

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About Valley Leadership Institute (VLI):

Each year, approximately 50 members are selected for this nine-month program, which is in its 37th year. Through program days, tours, and group projects, participants can expect a life-changing experience that will advance passions and accelerate pursuits for the individual, in turn elevating our community. By drawing from the expertise of the State's most respected and influential business, civic and community leaders, Valley Leadership Institute provides real-time insight surrounding the most important issues shaping our community today, and in the future.

About Valley Leadership Youth (VLY):

Designed to empower youth to lead, Valley Leadership's innovative and experiential workshop series tasks high school students with designing and awarding grant funds to local nonprofits and community organizations. The students work together to gain a deep understanding of the significance of philanthropy. Through the practice of giving time, talent, and treasure, Valley Leadership Youth cultivates change agents early in their leadership careers.

About Valley Leadership

*As the Valley's premier leadership organization, Valley Leadership boasts a proven and long-standing track record of making deep impacts on the community. The organization's roots date back to the late 1970s when a group of Valley visionaries recognized the need to identify and develop the next generation of leadership. Our founders imagined an annual succession of educated change agents dedicated to the best possible future for our region. Almost 40 years later, this vision has produced 3,000 alumni. Through high quality education, unprecedented access and an innovative network, Valley Leadership goes beyond traditional leadership programs by empowering leaders to advance their passions and accelerate their pursuits.*

**LINKS:**

Valley Leadership Advance: <http://www.valleyleadership.org/valley-leadership-advance/>

Valley Leadership Institute: <http://www.valleyleadership.org/valleyleadershipinstitute/>

Valley Leadership Youth: <http://www.valleyleadership.org/valleyleadershiptyouth/>

Valley Leadership: <http://www.valleyleadership.org/>

Valley Leadership Programs overview: <http://www.valleyleadership.org/lead-2/>