

# ARIZONA REPUBLIC

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## The pivot to a sound investment in Arizona future

The challenge of identifying and fostering a new and diverse group of leaders is at the forefront of discussions across the nation.

Today's political climate has the potential to divide and to limit progress. As leaders of change-making philanthropic organizations, we understand that collaboration among effective leaders is the key to solving complex challenges.

As a Valley community, we must cultivate and engage leaders who will help our state wield collective impact to take us from ideas and concepts to action and sustainable outcomes. The timing for Valley Leadership's Pivot Toward Impact couldn't be more crucial. Who better to call upon to help identify smarter and effective ways to tackle pressing issues in our communities?

And pressing issues they are: educa-

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tion, healthcare, child welfare, the economy and the environment. It's an extensive list that goes straight to the heart of our vitality — or failure — as a state.

As Arizona's growing and changing population puts greater strain on the seams, and the stakes for success grow

higher, we must harness our sharpest leaders to help us identify well-informed goals, convene powerful partnerships, and put collective impact in motion toward real and sustained improvements.

Arizona's pressing issues have been with us a long time, but the environment in which they're steeped and the factors affecting their complexity are diverse and dynamic. Consider the power of Valley Leadership activating its throng of impressive alumni to bring fresh eyes and proven leadership acumen to the table.

Year after year, for the past 40 years, Valley Leadership has gathered over 2,000 of the Valley's emerging and already-bright young leaders, guided them through a yearlong leadership development and community involve-

ment curriculum, then unleashed those sharpened minds back into the Valley.

Hundreds of these VL alumni have remained in the Valley during ensuing decades and made marks of their own.

We share in their commitment to fortify the Valley and our state through strong, effective leadership, and applaud VL for helping to mobilize leaders with the passion, drive and skills to make a lasting difference.

Our organizations' joint investment of \$1 million over three years will support an organizational shift — a pivot — within VL, helping it maximize a new model of leadership through deeper alumni engagement, more meaningful involvement of current partners, as well as the development of new collaborations with like-minded leaders in all sectors: private, public and nonprofit.

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