

PHOENIX  
BUSINESS JOURNAL

MARCH 27, 2015

# *Outstanding Women* in Business



**30 DYNAMIC WOMEN  
MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN  
BUSINESS AND THE COMMUNITY**

# Ensuring community by insuring business.

At Lovitt and Touché people come first. Whether it's anticipating a client's needs, taking care of our employees, or giving back to the communities where we do business, it's always about the people. We are honored and proud to recognize our Vice President Jody Sarchett. Her passion, vision and leadership helps us make a lasting difference. Learn more at [lovitt-touche.com](http://lovitt-touche.com).



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## OUTSTANDING WOMEN IN BUSINESS

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**Clockwise from top left:** Katherine Cecala, Linda Bishop, Christine Nowaczyk, Karen Dickinson and Kathy Foster are part of this year's class of Outstanding Women in Business. COVER PHOTO BY JIM POULIN

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## Success Is Always Cause For Celebration.

Congratulations Christine Nowaczyk on your Outstanding Women in Business Recognition.

A leader in the community: Thank you for improving the lives of Arizona's most vulnerable children as a champion for Educare Arizona and accelerating Arizona's business landscape with your commitment to ACG Arizona and AZBL. We value your leadership, insight and dedication.

A leader in business: You are the consummate executive, mentor and advocate. Your influence extends well beyond your professional role and we sincerely congratulate you on this recognition.



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## Lauren Bailey

**CO-FOUNDER AND OWNER, UPWARD PROJECTS**

Lauren Bailey is the owner of Upward Projects, a Phoenix-based hospitality business that is responsible for nine concept restaurants ranging from Churn ice cream shops to Federal Pizza and Joyride Taco House. Upward employs about 500 people and has plans to expand its restaurant lineup this year.

Bailey was raised in Indiana, but attended Arizona State University. She graduated in 2002 with dual degrees in communications and fine arts.

Her work in the industry extends to her service as a steering committee member for Devour Phoenix, a citywide nonprofit organization that works to promote Arizona as a culinary destination. In 2014, she

### The Phoenix area's greatest challenge in the next decade:

To continue to build culture and a sense of place in a town filled mostly with transplants.

was inducted into the Arizona Culinary Hall of Fame as Restaurateur of the Year.

Bailey serves as a board member of Local First AZ and the Entrepreneurs' Organization of Arizona. She also serves as a mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona, and she's been working with the Phoenix Suns to organize a BBBS halftime event to promote the association and encourage more men to participate.

On her own time, Bailey enjoys art, cooking and being with her family.

"I love to cook for big parties because I love to make a bunch of different items for people to try, and I am often experimenting with new recipes," she said.

## Rhonda Bannard

**CHIEF CONNECTOR, INSPIRED CONNECTIONS**

Rhonda Bannard has primarily served nonprofits throughout her career in public relations and marketing. She founded Inspired Connections, a marketing consulting business, and calls herself its chief connector.

Bannard graduated from the University of Arizona with a major in television and radio and a minor in communications.

She has worked with organizations such as HandsOn Greater Phoenix (formerly Make A Difference), Arizona Women's Education and Employment, and Vision Quest 20/20.

Bannard also has volunteered with the Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center and the AIDS Memorial Quilt Proj-

**Your advice for today's college grads:** Get experience in many areas and skills. The world needs you to go big and bold.

ect. She served on the Night for Life gala committee for the Southwest Center for HIV/AIDS and serves on the board of the Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits, which she chaired for two years. She helped the alliance launch the first Arizona Gives Day in 2013.

Bannard said working with nonprofits and other organizations is challenging and gratifying, partly because of the goals of the people involved.

"They want to change the world," she said. "It's not about selling a widget or service. It's about helping advance missions that change lives, change our community, change the world. Connecting the dots for them is extremely rewarding."



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## Lynda Bishop

**FOUNDER AND CEO, RELATIONSHIP INSURANCE**

Lynda Bishop is founder and CEO of Relationship Insurance, a family therapy business. She started the venture five years ago as an online divorce recovery support program called Single-not-Broken, then expanded her services to combat rising divorce rates.

Bishop earned a master's degree in professional counseling from Argosy University and a bachelor's degree in psychology from the Arizona School of Professional Psychology.

Through the years, she has founded a number of programs and organizations to fill needs she saw in the community. She launched the Women's Circle Network in 2008 to help connect the entrepreneur-

**Something about you that would shock your teenage self:** I found my voice! I love leadership and enjoy the adrenaline of living outside my comfort zone.

ial community during the recession. The organization grew to five chapters and 300 members.

Prior to that, she left a corporate job to start a coaching company called Summit Alliance Solutions, which she continues to oversee.

She helped launch the first Young Entrepreneurial Academy program in Arizona, which works with underprivileged high school students to give them the tools and skills to plan and launch successful businesses.

Bishop also has strived to support women in business through her six-year tenure on the board of the National Association of Women Business Owners.



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## Jan Blaser-Upchurch

**PRESIDENT, CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS-ARIZONA CHAPTER**

As the widow of a police officer, Jan Blaser-Upchurch uses her experience to help other families in her role as president of the Arizona Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors.

Blaser-Upchurch earned a degree in business administration from Pima Community College in Tucson, and most of her career efforts have been focused on non-profit associations.

A significant part of her work with COPS has been raising funds to send to families who have experienced the death of an officer. She also attends murder trials with several of the families.

Blaser-Upchurch works as a victims'

**Your advice for today's college grads:** Find your passion. For me, it took the death of my husband to find how I could help contribute to our community.

advocate through the Arizona Department of Corrections. She supervises a staff responsible for assisting crime victims, conducting research and writing reports for the victim services program.

She is a recipient of the Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award for Public Policy, as well as the Director's Special Recognition of Service for her work as a public member of the Department of Public Safety Critical Incident Review Board.

She also serves as a national board member for COPS and is a committee member for the Arizona Peace Officers Memorial Board.

## Tess Burleson

**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, TRANSLATIONAL GENOMICS RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
PRESIDENT, TGEN HEALTH VENTURES**

Tess Burleson is COO of TGen and president of TGen Health Ventures. She has worked for more than 20 years in advising and business support in multiple industries, including health care and biomedical research.

She was named COO of TGen in 2007 and managed the institute through the recession, working to keep its future healthy.

"There are such highly intelligent people who are so deeply passionate about creating knowledge toward a better quality of life for humanity," Burleson said. "The ability to support the creation of that knowledge with financial and operation-

**Your advice for today's college grads:** Always accept a challenge, and never allow yourself to believe you are too important for a simple task.

al skills is probably as close as I'll get to doing that work myself."

Burleson holds an MBA from the University of New Mexico's Robert O. Anderson School of Management.

She has served on a number of professional boards and associations, including the Wells Fargo Leadership Board, Arizona Business Leadership Council and Arizona Bioscience Roadmap Steering Committee. She recently was asked to serve on the Arizona Health Subcommittee for Pediatric Auto Immune Disease.

Her community service includes work with the YMCA, YWCA and Tesseract School.



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## Laura Carpenter

**FOUNDER AND CEO, BULALAW | FOUNDER, CARPENTER LAW FIRM**

Laura Carpenter is founder and CEO of BulaLaw and founder of the Carpenter Law Firm, a pharmacy law intelligence company.

As a child, Carpenter assisted her father and grandfather in the family pharmacy. She went on to become a pharmacist and eventually a lawyer, earning a bachelor's degree in pharmacy and a law degree from Ohio State University.

Carpenter left a large law firm in 2007 with the goal of starting her own practice to provide legal services for the health care industry. Her legal work has earned her several honors, such as selections for the Martindale Hubbell Regis-

**The Phoenix area's greatest challenge in the next decade:**

Developing an education infrastructure that is globally competitive, accessible to everyone and affordable.

ter of Preeminent Women Lawyers and inclusion by Southwest Super Lawyers among the top 5 percent of lawyers in the region.

In 2010, Carpenter founded BulaLaw to help pharmacy chains, national law firms and industry associations understand and comply with federal regulations.

Her work in the community includes serving as a member of the American Pharmacists Association and as president of the American Society of Pharmacy Law. Carpenter also sits on the board of Waste Not, a nonprofit that delivers perishable food to organizations that feed the hungry.

## Robyn Barrett

**FOUNDER AND OWNER, FSW FUNDING**

Robyn Barrett founded and serves as managing member of FSW Funding, a company that supports small businesses by providing alternative funding and lending options. FSW's all-female team has assisted more than 360 companies to date.

She earned her bachelor's degree in accounting from Arizona State University's W.P. Carey School of Business and an MBA from Grand Canyon University. Now she is a regular guest speaker at the Carey School.

One of her main career goals has been to support the development of other women in the finance industry. To that end, she serves on two national finance committees focused on mentoring women and has been selected as a co-moderator for this year's Women in Commercial Finance Conference.

In the local community, Barrett has worked to support education in Arizona through the FSW Funding Entrepreneurial Scholarship program and STEM Scholarship. She serves as a mentor to scholarship winners and to Girl Scouts as a troop leader.

Barrett's work in the community includes sponsoring events such as the Scottsdale Walk to Defeat ALS and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, and as a volunteer at her children's elementary and middle schools.

**Something about you that would shock your teenage self:** You can have it all – a successful business and an incredible family. It just takes work.



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Brophy College Preparatory is the only Jesuit high school in Arizona and now serves 6th, 7th and 8th graders through its Loyola Academy.

## Brophy congratulates Vice President Adria Renke

*"I have the privilege of watching young 13-year-old boys turn into responsible, just leaders who are quite certain that they will do something to change the world when they graduate. What a gift for me, every day!"*

In 17 years, Adria Renke has touched the lives of over 8,000 students and their families, students who have gone on to be artists, doctors, teachers, musicians, parents, leaders of businesses, to name just a handful. And she has a story for every one of them because for Adria Renke, it's always personal.



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## Katherine Cecala

**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, VALLEY OF THE SUN UNITED WAY**

Katherine Cecala is COO of Valley of the Sun United Way, a broad-based service organization. Under her leadership, the nonprofit's annual budget has grown from \$50 million to \$119 million.

Cecala worked as a senior management engineer at Samaritan Health System (now Banner Health) and later in multiple high-level positions at the Mayo Clinic, where she made changes to the billing system that saved the clinic a lot of money.

She served for 16 years as a member of the United Way board before becoming COO.

"I find that the more people know about the work of United Way ... the more peo-

**Your advice for today's college grads:** Stay true to your values, work harder than anyone expects, and never stop learning.

ple want to help contribute to that work," she said.

Cecala earned a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from Louisiana State University and an MBA from Louisiana Tech University before graduating from the School of Law at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Cecala has volunteered with many organizations, including the Upward Foundation, Arizona AIDS Project and Phoenix Symphony. She is a recipient of the Sandra Day O'Connor Community Service award, among other accolades.

Cecala sits on the boards of the Children's Museum of Phoenix and the Arizona Women's Leadership Forum.

## Karen Dickinson

**SHAREHOLDER, POLSINELLI PC | CHAIR, ARIZONA DISTRICT EXPORT COUNCIL**

Karen Dickinson is a shareholder at Polsinelli PC, a national law firm based in Phoenix. She also chairs the Arizona District Export Council, where she helps coordinate local organizations focused on international trade.

She earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Duke University and is a graduate of Arizona State University's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. She was a Fulbright scholar.

Much of her work in the international law and trade community has been focused on developing relationships with China.

"I do what I love: I help people from different cultures put deals together," she

**Something about you that would shock your teenage self:** The places I have been able to travel. I have been more places than I ever dreamed possible.

said. "Helping bridge the U.S.-China cultural divide during international negotiations is the most challenging work, the most rewarding work, and the most important work at this point in history."

Dickinson also is a member of the Greater Phoenix Economic Council International Leadership Committee and serves on the board of the Phoenix Sister Cities Commission.

In addition, Dickinson owns a business called Bonfire Photography and serves on the board of Through Each Others Eyes, a nonprofit that strives to facilitate intercultural communication through photography.



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## Brenda Fischer

**FORMER CITY MANAGER, GLENDALE**

Brenda Fischer recently resigned as Glendale's city manager, having served in that position since July 2013. During her tenure, she worked to balance the city's budget, stabilize its credit rating and renegotiate an intergovernmental agreement with the city of Phoenix.

Fischer earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and public relations from the University of Southern California and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

She previously worked as city manager of Maricopa and deputy city manager of Glendora, California. She also spent 15

**Your advice for today's college grads:** Seize every chance you get to broaden your work experience and expand your resume by accepting all opportunities and assignments you're offered. Continuously learn.

years in municipal management positions in Nevada.

"My attraction, and it still holds true today, to serve in local government is to give back and make a difference in the community," Fischer said.

In the community, she has served as a member of the National League of Cities, the International City/County Management Association and Women Leading Government. She has also volunteered at events including Glendale's annual Shop with a Cop, which benefits underprivileged children.



PROVIDED

# Annie Groth

**FINANCIAL SERVICES PROFESSIONAL, MASSMUTUAL ARIZONA**

Annie Groth is a financial services professional at MassMutual Arizona whose work in the community stretches from LGBT rights advocacy to domestic violence relief.

Groth studied at the University of Kansas and earned a master's certification from American College as a certified family business specialist.

In 1994, after working for Quizno's Corp. for almost two years, Groth opened a franchise restaurant in Denver. She expanded into other states and eventually employed more than 400 people in her stores.

Her community efforts have resulted in thousands of dollars of donations to the Sojourner Center, an organization that assists domestic violence victims, via her "Annie's Pearls of Wisdom" program.

"If each person could offer one act of kindness or help once a year, once a month, once a week, once a day ... imagine the world we would live in," she said.

Groth served on the board of Equality AZ (formerly the Arizona Human Rights Foundation) for eight years. She also co-chaired the organization and worked with state and city leaders to expand rights for domestic partnerships.

In 2014, Groth was selected as the National Board of Governors' member of the Human Rights Campaign.

**Your advice for today's college grads:** Always do your job and a little bit more, and you will never have to worry.



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*Mac*

Linda "Mac" Perlich  
President and Publisher

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## Kathleen Foster

**SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, COLLIERS INTERNATIONAL**

Kathleen Foster is a senior vice president at Colliers International, a global commercial real estate company.

She got her start in business more than 20 years ago. As a temporary worker at a health care company, she helped to establish its human resources department. Eventually, she became a leader of its real estate group, managing a number of acquisitions and leases.

She left her corporate position after 13 years and spent seven years at a small tenant representation firm, where she became a partner. She joined Colliers less than two years ago.

**Something about you that would shock your teenage self:** The level of confidence I have been able to gain over the years.

“One of my biggest motivations has been just helping people,” she said. “There’s nothing better than a smile on someone’s face that I’ve helped, and it drives me to do my best.”

Her work in the community includes coordinating donations of thousands of books to Southwest Human Development, Head Start, Homeward Bound and the Strong Foundation. She also serves as vice chair of Aid to Adoption of Special Kids and as a board member of Colliers AZ Cares, an arm of the real estate company that offers community support and helps employees who experience an emergency or significant loss.

## Melinda Gulick

**SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, DMB ASSOCIATES**

Melinda Gulick is a senior vice president at DMB Associates, a development and investment firm where she has worked for 10 years.

Gulick, who graduated from Southern Methodist University with a bachelor’s degree in journalism, also chairs the Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce.

Her community service has included working as chairman of the Arizona Humane Society and raising funds for Southwest Human Development.

“Serving nonprofits as a career was

**Your advice for today’s college grads:** Show up early, stay late, volunteer for special projects. You’ll get lots of experience and maybe find your passion.

a good fit for my DNA – living the missions, advocating for the voiceless, creating measurable success,” Gulick said in a quote provided by her nominator.

Gulick also volunteers with the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy and served as chairman from 2005 to 2007.

“We’re surrounded by one of the most beautiful and enchanting landscapes,” she said. “I love the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. it’s my close escape – the open space is an ‘exhale’ for me.”



PROVIDED

## Diane Haller

**PARTNER, QUARLES & BRADY LLP**

Diane Haller is a partner at Quarles & Brady LLP and national chair of the law firm’s Real Estate Practice Group, where she juggles transactions and land development deals.

Haller earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Utah and went on to graduate from the University of Notre Dame Law School.

She is a member of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers, an invitation-only organization for top real estate attorneys. She also was listed among the Top 25 female real estate lawyers in the 2007-

**Your advice for today’s college grads:** Don’t pick a career just for the money. And if you find out you don’t love it, don’t stay for the money.

14 Southwest Super Lawyers publications.

In the community, Haller is a board member of the Phoenix Community Alliance, an organization dedicated to revitalizing the downtown area.

“I live, work and play in downtown Phoenix,” she said. “PCA is the premier organization that is helping to create a vibrant downtown Phoenix.”

She also serves on the board of Habitat for Humanity of Central Arizona and Valley Partnership, and is a volunteer leader for the Arthritis Foundation’s Greater Southwest Chapter.



PROVIDED



# Jodi Low

**FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT, U & IMPROVED**

Jodi Low is founder and president of U & Improved, a leadership training company based in Scottsdale.

Low graduated from Arizona State University and is a master-certified personal and business coach.

Each year, her company holds an event at Feed My Starving Children, an organization dedicated to addressing child hunger, where graduates of U & Improved's programs package food for children. She also donates training and development classes.

Low said her personal experiences can be a source for her own personal improvement and the way she helps others.

"I always reflect back upon, and draw from, the most challenging moments in my life when helping others advance theirs," Low said. "I continually use those lessons to propel myself and others further."

She currently serves on the board of Angel Mamas, which supports mothers and families faced with significant illness or other hardship; and as president of the North Phoenix Business Leaders Chapter of Business Network International, a business referral and networking group.

**The Phoenix area's greatest challenge in the next decade:**

Showing the nation that we are a state full of open-minded, loving people. We haven't had the best representation recently, and I don't think it's an accurate portrait of who we really are as a community.



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Congratulations  
**Elizabeth Maribito,**  
 Vice President of  
**Oncology Patient Services,**  
 for being honored  
 as one of the  
**Outstanding Women  
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## Nora Hannah

**CEO, EXPERIENCE MATTERS | CEO, LANDISCOR**

Nora Hannah is CEO of Experience Matters, an organization that connects people age 50 and older to groups and associations that could use their talents. She also is CEO of Landiscor, a real estate information business.

Hannah earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Loyola Marymount University and an MBA from Arizona State University.

"I get to help build our community and its culture," she said of her work. "We are a young city and have an amazing opportunity to make it the best place to live,

**Something about you that would shock your teenage self:** What a risk-taker I am! I spent so much of my teen years trying not to stand out. Now I look for ways to live more fully on the edge.

work, raise a family and stay healthy."

Before joining Landiscor in 1997, Hannah was general manager of the Forest Highlands project in Flagstaff. Other community efforts have included work with the Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona.

Hannah has served on the board of the Children's Action Alliance since 1997. The organization works to influence public policy on child abuse, health care, education and other issues related to children.

## Susan Hasenstein

**REGIONAL SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, BMO HARRIS BANK**

Sue Hasenstein is a regional senior vice president at BMO Harris Bank. She got her start in the industry as a teller nearly 30 years ago, and now is responsible for the revenue and growth of BMO Harris' Arizona and Florida premier services teams.

"I wanted to influence, develop and mentor at a bigger scope," she said. "Each new position I advanced to allowed me to do that, as well as build internal bench strength throughout the organization."

In 2008, Hasenstein formed what became the bank's women's affinity group, which works to help women in the company advance in their careers and

### The Phoenix area's greatest challenge in the next decade:

Our infrastructure cannot handle the growth we will achieve. We will have to have a more robust transportation system to accommodate this city.

provide community service.

In the community, Hasenstein served as the 2014 chair of the Scottsdale Cultural council's ARTrageous Gala, one of the organization's biggest fundraisers. She served for two years on the board of the Phoenix Welfare Foundation, which aids women and children.

She also has worked with the Chandler Chamber of Commerce Women's Council Advisory Board and the Boys & Girls Clubs of the East Valley, and served for two years as an advisory board member for Metro Light Rail.



PROVIDED

## Hue Haslim

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH, WESTERN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

Hue Haslim is director of community outreach at Western International University. She started there in 1989 as a work-study student and moved up to her current position in 2013.

Haslim earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Surabaya University in Indonesia and a master's degree in computer information science from WIU, where she now is responsible for promoting the school within the community and coordinating with other organizations.

"Throughout the years, I've enjoyed meeting and collaborating with those inside and out of academia," Haslim said. "Reaching out to the community to cre-

**Something about you that would shock your teenage self:** I never imagined that most of my family would relocate to the United States and now enjoy citizenship.

ate awareness of West and introduce our unique programs has never seemed like a job."

Her position has allowed her to use WIU's reach to support organizations such as St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance and the Tempe Chamber of Commerce.

She also is a board member of Global Ties of Arizona, which coordinates itineraries for foreign leaders who visit Arizona as part of the U.S. State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program. Haslim also chairs the Asian Pacific Islander Caucus of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers.



PROVIDED

# Annie Mooney

**VICE PRESIDENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND ADVOCACY,  
PHOENIX CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**

Annie Mooney is vice president of public affairs and advocacy for Phoenix Children's Hospital, where she develops political strategies and advocates legislation in favor of pediatric health care.

Prior to joining the hospital, Mooney worked in public relations for Cigna Healthcare. She also has worked at a federal level to acquire funding for children's health care.

Mooney attended Pepperdine University as a business administration major. She said she is motivated by a sincere belief in the hospital's goals.

"I am passionate and motivated by the far-reaching impact of PCH and its alignment with my core values," she said.

In the community, Mooney has been involved with the Make-a-Wish Foundation and the Fiesta Bowl for decades. She also serves on the board of the Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry, and on the public policy committee at the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce.

**The Phoenix area's greatest challenge in the next decade:** Keeping millennials in Arizona.



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## Stepping up to support positive change

We congratulate all the women being recognized for their contributions to Arizona businesses.

We're honored to support the **Outstanding Women in Business** awards presented by the **Phoenix Business Journal**, and we thank the participants for their inspiration and hard work.



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## Mary Holman

**SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, NATIONAL BANK OF ARIZONA**

Mary Holman is senior vice president and manager of the retail lending department for National Bank of Arizona.

Holman kick-started her banking career by joining Valley National Bank in Tucson after she earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Arizona.

In her current role, she is responsible for managing the group in charge of services such as consumer and small-business lending, as well as financial testing.

At National Bank of Arizona, Holman also is president of the Women's Financial Group, which works to support the growth of women in the community. The

### Your advice for today's college

**grads:** Understand your unique gifts and use them to be successful.

group's annual gathering, called "Smart Women, Smart Money," features panels and speakers on financial health and empowerment.

"I am driven to promote financial health for everyone," she said. "I find women are eager to learn and are willing to collaborate and be vulnerable when discussing financial matters. It is important to share information and knowledge in order to prepare for the future and feel safe financially."

Holman also serves as an advisory board member of Gabriel's Angels, an organization that provides pet-therapy services for at-risk children.

## Elizabeth Maribito

**VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS, CANCER TREATMENT CENTERS OF AMERICA**

Elizabeth Maribito is vice president of operations for Cancer Treatment Centers of America at Western Regional Medical Center. She joined CTCA in 2005 and now is responsible for the hospital's day-to-day operations.

She started CTCA's first free community screening program, which provides cancer screening services and promotes skin cancer awareness in the community.

Maribito earned a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College and a master's degree in medical informatics from Northwestern University.

She is board president of the Green

**Something about you that would shock your teenage self:** I go to bed before midnight, and I wake up before noon.

Movement Recycling Foundation, which she founded in 2013. The organization coordinates recycling drives to raise money for other nonprofits. In addition, she sits on the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation board.

Her advice to young women looking to enter business or take on a leadership role is to find something that energizes them and then work to be the best.

"You shouldn't accept second-best because it may be what's better for your career," she said. You should always strive to be the best and not be afraid of that."



## Trish McCarty

**FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT, STARSHINE ACADEMY SCHOOLS**

Trish McCarty is founder and president of Starshine Academy Schools, which primarily serves financially disadvantaged families from a variety of ethnic and religious backgrounds.

Last fall, the charter school district launched the StarShine International Network of academic hubs to help develop students' cultural literacy. McCarty already has partnered with Trinity College in Dublin and with the Studies Abroad for Global Education program, and she is working toward arrangements with Families Helping Families and the Institute of EcoTourism.

### Your advice for today's college

**grads:** Know that every person you meet is doing the best they can.

She also is organizing a team to create tablet software for teaching reading, writing and math as part of the Global Learning XPrize competition.

McCarty's community involvement includes Charter 100, Women & Philanthropy at ASU Foundation, and Central Phoenix Women. Her outside interests are music, hiking, skiing and yoga.

McCarty has won a number of awards and honors during her career. In 2014, she received the Women Who Care award from Phoenix Theatre and the Human Rights Award from the United Church Women of the United Nations.

# LindaMacPerlich

**OWNER, PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER,  
ON MEDIA PUBLICATIONS**

**FOUNDER, ACT ONE FOUNDATION**

Linda Mac Perlich is owner, president and publisher of ON Media Publications, which produces visitor guides and programs. She is also founder of the Act One Foundation, which helps schoolchildren participate in visual and performing arts field trips.

Perlich graduated from the University of Arizona College of Nursing and later earned her master's degree in nursing. Following the completion of her master's, she taught at her alma mater in Tucson for more than 16 years. She later moved to Phoenix and published Programs for the Arts, which evolved into ON Media.

Perlich has served on multiple boards, including the Wellness Community and Teach for America Phoenix.

Perlich also has dedicated time to the arts community, serving terms on the boards of Ballet Arizona and the Herberger Theatre. She also sits on the UA College of Nursing advisory board, as well as the board of the Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center.

**Your advice for today's college grads:** The learning never stops, so keep the No. 2 pencil sharp, the spiral notebook out and the brain cells synapsing.



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## Christine Nowaczyk

**SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND CORPORATE BANKING EXECUTIVE, BANK OF ARIZONA**

Christine Nowaczyk is a senior vice president and corporate banking executive at Bank of Arizona. She said the most engaging aspect of her job is the variety of clients she serves.

“I get to live vicariously through my clients, which are all different sizes of businesses in different industries that go through different cycles with varying types of management teams and boards,” she said. “It’s really the diversity of the business that I enjoy the most and that has kept me at it for so long.”

Nowaczyk graduated from Michigan

**Something about you that would shock your teenage self:** I became a banker like my dad. I would have never dreamed of wearing a suit every day, or that I would enjoy reading financial statements.

State University with a bachelor’s degree in finance and earned her MBA from Eastern Michigan University.

She served for two years as the first female president of ACG Arizona, part of an international network for middle-market professionals. She now chairs Educare Arizona, an advocate for children’s education.

Former Gov. Janet Napolitano appointed Nowaczyk to the P-20 Council, with an eye on improving public education. Nowaczyk also served on the Children’s Action Alliance board for a decade.

## Hope Ozer

**FOUNDING CHAIR, VALLEY YOUTH THEATRE  
PRESIDENT, PHOENIX MANHATTAN GROUP**

Hope Ozer is best known for her role in the growth and development of Valley Youth Theatre.

Ozer said she founded VYT’s board and chaired it for more than a decade because she believes exposure to the performing arts is critical to the development of young minds.

“In 1989, there were limited performing arts opportunities for children in the Valley,” Ozer said. “I knew the fledgling Valley Youth Theatre had the ability to become a vibrant arts organization and was determined that it would gain and maintain the public trust.”

**Your advice for today’s college grads:** Don’t worry about what to be for the rest of your life. Be open to nontraditional paths. Take chances. Seize opportunity. Find a need and fill it.

Ozer also has served on the Phoenix Arts and Culture Commission and as a judge for the Arizona Theatre Awards. She was appointed to the board of the Arizona Diamondbacks Foundation in 1997, where she has served on the allocations committee, reviewing grant applications and providing funds to local nonprofits.

Ozer, who majored in business at Temple University, founded *CitySunTimes*, a publication that circulates throughout the north Valley. Although she sold the business in 2013, she continues to write a monthly column.



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## Adria Renke

**VICE PRESIDENT, BROPHY COLLEGE PREPARATORY**

Adria Renke has served for 17 years as vice president of Brophy College Preparatory, a Catholic school for boys. She holds a bachelor’s degree in education from the University of Michigan.

Renke said she is driven by watching Brophy’s students learn and grow.

“Watching little boys come in as freshmen, and then watching how they have grown as they walk across the stage as confident leaders who are full of hopes and dreams to change the world when they graduate, makes every day worthwhile,” she said.

**Your advice for today’s college grads:** Stay where you find fruit so you can turn your passion into making the world a better place.

Renke has managed a number of Brophy initiatives and charities in the community, such as the Brophy Fashion Show and Major Gift Campaign, which have raised millions of dollars over the years. She also helped establish the Brophy Community Foundation, which provides financial aid for students to attend the private school.

Prior to working with Brophy, Renke volunteered with the St. Luke’s Board of Visitors and the Junior League of Phoenix.

## Linda Walton

**FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT, ACHIEVING MY PURPOSE**

Linda Walton founded Achieving My Purpose, a non-profit organization that serves young women, after working as an economic development specialist and diversity consultant for the city of Scottsdale.

She was also director of minority affairs for Hallmark Cards for a time, and she owned and operated a management consulting firm called LGC Enterprises for 17 years.

“Running my own business allowed me to work with a variety of organizations and industries from all over the country and world,” Walton said. “It gave me a wonderful perspective of different industries and work environments. I also learned how to manage financially in running a small business, where the budgets are a lot smaller than when I worked in Corporate America.”

Walton earned a bachelor’s degree from Florida State University and an MBA from Indiana University, and she is a doctoral candidate in psychology at Grand Canyon University.

In the community, she is international chair of leadership training for the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. She also is president of the Phoenix Chapter of the Links, an international nonprofit for women of color dedicated to community service.

**Your advice for today’s college grads:** Consider an international assignment for the global experience.



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## Nancy Roach

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES OF PHOENIX**

Nancy Roach is executive director of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Phoenix, which assists families with children with severe medical conditions.

Roach, who holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Oklahoma State University, said she admires those families for their fortitude in the face of adversity.

"The families served by the Ronald McDonald House prove, on a daily basis, that the word 'hero' was coined for them," she said. "They are sometimes in the fight of their lives, and they give it everything they have."

### Something about you that would shock your teenage self:

That I am old enough to have a 30-year-old daughter. When you are young, getting older seems very far away.

Roach said seeing those families fight and succeed during her 14-year tenure has been uplifting.

"I have seen so many families that fight to make sure their children grow to reach their full potential," she said. "They are what inspires me."

Roach also has served on the board of the Junior League of Phoenix, and as a member of the State Society of Certified Private Accountants and the Maricopa County Community College Audit and Finance Committee. She also is a former finance director of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Arizona.

## Jody Sarchett

**VICE PRESIDENT, LOVITT & TOUCHE**

Jody Sarchett is vice president of Lovitt & Touche, an insurance company, where she has worked since 2003. After earning a bachelor's degree in business administration and finance from Tarleton State University, she began her career in the finance industry, but soon changed tracks to insurance.

"I liked that it was an industry and a product that everybody needs and was always going to need," she said. "I also liked ... that there's no limit to your potential."

### Something about you that would shock your teenage self:

I can run a half-marathon in under 2.5 hours.

Professionally, she is a member of the Arizona Chapter of Financial Executives International and the Risk and Insurance Managers Association, among other organizations.

Sarchett has served for a decade on the board of Homeward Bound, a nonprofit that provides temporary housing and assistance to victims of domestic violence.

She also sits on the health and human services advisory board for Chicanos por la Causa, which works to aid low-income individuals and families.



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## Kari Yatkowski

**CEO, CORPORATE CITIZEN  
CEO, HAVEN CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**

Kari Yatkowski is CEO of Corporate Citizen and the Haven Charitable Foundation. Corporate Citizen is a firm that helps guide businesses through the process of community engagement, while Haven is a nonprofit that has funded charities addressing domestic violence, at-risk youth, animal abuse and other issues.

Yatkowski graduated from Arizona State University's W.P. Carey School of Business with a bachelor's degree in supply-chain management. Following graduation, she worked in the technology industry, then founded Haven in 2003.

In her role at Haven, Yatkowski works

**Your advice for today's college grads:** Don't set your path in stone. As you gain perspective, you may find yourself exploring a whole new career than you set out to have.

as both donor and fundraiser to try to make a positive impact on the community. She founded Corporate Citizen in 2011 to bring businesses and community members together.

She also sits on the board of and serves as fund development chairman for O'Connor House, where she works to secure funding for the organization's initiatives.

In addition, she has served on the executive steering committee of the Employers Against Domestic Violence Initiative and as a board member and gala chairman for the Phoenix Suns Charities.



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