



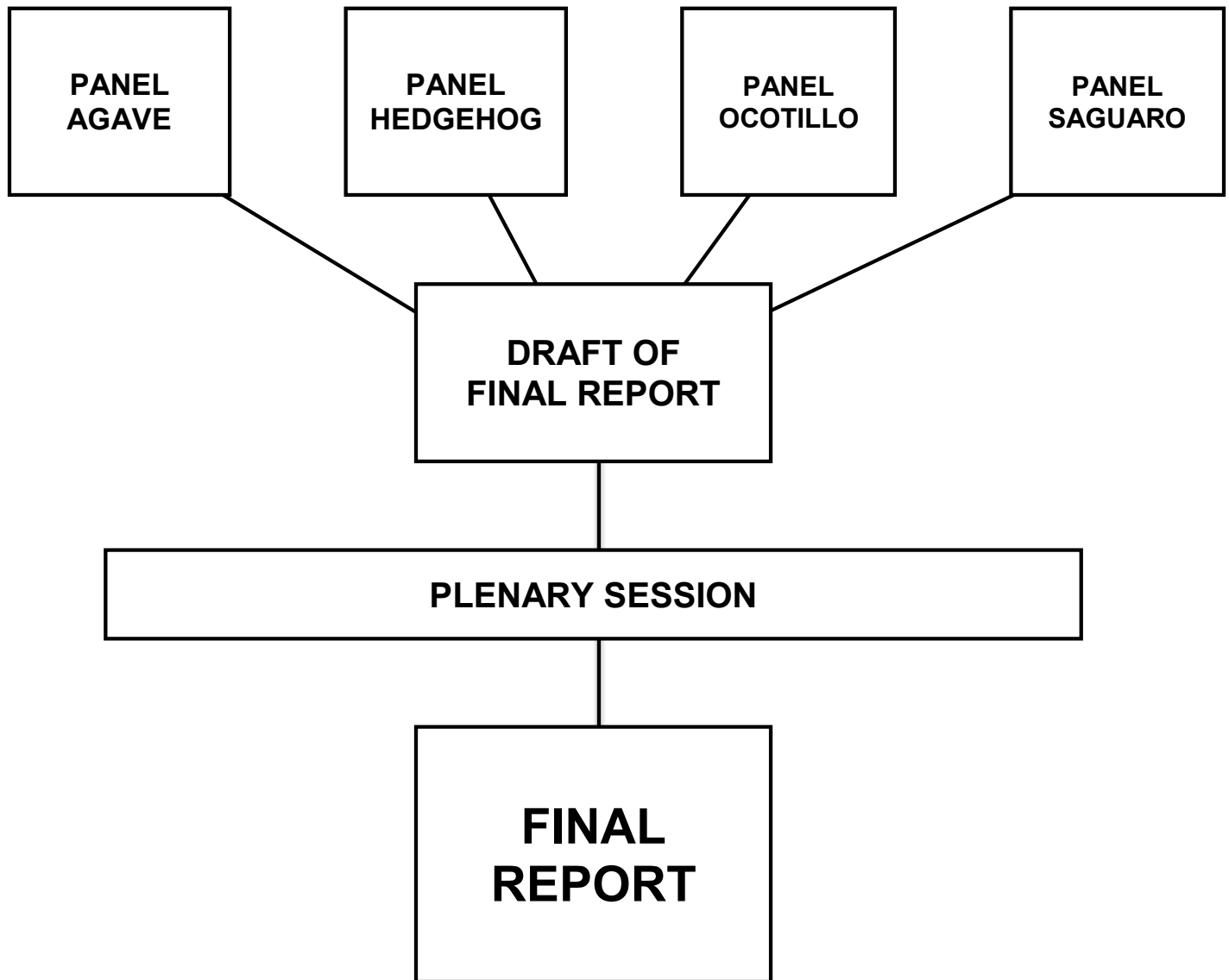
# ***Funding preK-12 Education***

**110th Arizona Town Hall - November 12-15, 2017 - Mesa, Arizona**



# The Arizona Town Hall Process

## From the Group Statement to the Final Report



***“Seek first to understand, then to be understood.”***

Stephen Covey, *The 7 Habits of Highly Successful People*

# OVERVIEW OF THE ARIZONA TOWN HALL PROCESS

Arizona Town Hall is a private nonprofit organization founded in 1962 for the purpose of educating, engaging, connecting and empowering people to resolve important issues. Much of the success of Arizona Town Hall lies in the fact that the process incorporates the knowledge, thoughts and ideas of all the participants. The Town Hall process has been adapted and utilized by many other groups who strive to create solutions by drawing upon diverse views and building informed coalitions.

## **PANEL DISCUSSIONS**

The Town Hall begins with panel discussions. Each panel addresses the same discussion questions during the first portion of the Town Hall. The process and guiding principles for the panel discussions are as follows:

- The Panel Chair reads one question at a time and discussion follows.
- It is important to stick to the question at hand.
- The panel strives for consensus (votes are taken only if absolutely necessary).
- Consensus is reached when no one wants to add anything, and no one objects strongly to the wording offered.
- The Panel Recorder's role is to keep the panel on time, capture the consensus comments, read back consensus statements to the panel and make edits with participants.
- Viewpoints of all participants are considered equally valuable, regardless of title or position.
- Discussions are encouraged to be robust while maintaining a respect for different viewpoints.
- Participants are allowed to criticize concepts—not people.
- Minority viewpoints must be very strong to find their way into the final document.
- Media may be present at the Town Hall and may be in attendance during panel discussions. You should assume that your comments may be quoted at any time.
- Observers may attend the sessions but generally cannot contribute to discussions.
- The process is as valuable as the recommendations.

## **CREATION OF THE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT**

Once complete, the consensus statements are taken from each panel to the Report Chairs. The Report Chairs review the statements and look for consensus across all of the panels. With assistance from the Panel Recorders, the Report Chairs create a draft report of what appears to be the consensus of the Town Hall participants.

The draft report is distributed early in the morning before the plenary session on the Wednesday of each Town Hall. Panels meet prior to the start of the plenary session to review the draft and outline any areas the panel wants to address at the plenary session.

## **THE PLENARY SESSION**

At the plenary session, Arizona Town Hall's Board Chair leads all of the Town Hall participants, as a full body, in an organized review of the document. All participants work to approve, amend or reject each section of the report of recommendations.

# AGENDA

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Town Hall Registration – Kiva Foyer

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Social Hour – Atrium

7:00 p.m.

Opening Dinner & Orientation – Kiva AB

Welcome: **Tara Jackson**, President, Arizona Town Hall

Invocation: **Kathy Kitagawa**, Owner/Consultant, KAK Compensation Services, LLC

Dinner

Opening Comments & Overview:

**Tara Jackson**, President, Arizona Town Hall

**Alberto Olivas**, Executive Director, Pastor Center for Politics and Public Service, Arizona State University College of Public Service and Community Solutions, Phoenix

**Elizabeth McNamee**, Retired; Frmr. Associate Director, Community Innovation and Development, Vitalyst Health Foundation

**Hank Peck**, Board Chair, Arizona Town Hall; Partner, TCI Wealth Advisors, Inc.

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Breakfast Program – Kiva AB

Welcome: **John Giles**, Mayor, City of Mesa

Presiding: **Pat Norris**, Supervisor, Lawyer Development, ASU Alumni Law Group; Ret. Judge, Arizona Court of Appeals

Sponsor Highlighted: **Arizona Lottery**

Panel Presentation: Town Hall Background Report Authors and Editors

**John Arnold, Dick Foreman, Joseph Martin, and Karla Esparza-Phillips**

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Panel Discussions – (Coffee break mid-morning)

**Panel Agave** – Kiva C

Patrick McDermott, Chair

Hilary Hiser, Recorder

**Panel Hedgehog** – Kachina AB

Pat Norris, Chair

Shanna Bowman, Recorder

**Panel Ocotillo** – Pueblo AB

Linda Elliott-Nelson, Chair

Nina Targovnik, Recorder

**Panel Saguaro** – Fiesta

Gordon Lewis, Chair

Travis Le Duc, Recorder

## **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13 (Cont.)**

- 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Luncheon Program – Kiva AB  
Presiding: **Shelley Mellon**, CEO, RL Jones Insurance & MVD Services  
Keynote Speaker Introduction: **Patrick McDermott**, Community Affairs Manager, Arizona Public Service  
Sponsor Highlighted: **Arizona Public Service (APS)**  
Keynote Speaker: **Kristin Blagg**, Researcher, Education Policy Program, Urban Institute
- 2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Continuation of panel discussions (Coffee break mid-afternoon)
- 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Social Hour – Atrium
- 7:00 p.m. Dinner Program – Kiva AB  
Presiding: **Flo Eckstein**, Community Volunteer  
Keynote Speaker Introduction: **David Rousseau**, President, Salt River Project (SRP)  
Sponsor Highlighted: **Salt River Project (SRP)**  
Keynote Speaker: **Michael Griffith**, School Finance Strategist, Education Commission of the States

## **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14**

\* *Breakfast on your own*

- 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Continuation of panel discussions (Coffee break mid-morning)
- 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Luncheon – Kiva AB  
Presiding: **Tara Jackson**, President, Arizona Town Hall  
Sponsors Highlighted: **Stifel Nicolaus & Company, Inc.; University of Phoenix; Arizona Water Company; and Hufford, Horstman, Mongini, Parnell & Tucker PC**  
Special Entertainment: **African Rhythm**  
**What Happens Next?**  
**Zoe Richmond**, Executive Board Member, SAHM; Ret. Director, Public Affairs, Union Pacific Railroad  
**Evelyn Casuga**, Sr. Advisor, Community Relations, Central Arizona College; Ret. General Manager, Community Affairs, Arizona Public Service (APS)  
**Ted Maxwell**, President, Southern Arizona Leadership Council  
**Hank Peck**, Partner, TCI Wealth Advisors, Inc.

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\* Options for breakfast: In-Room Dining (starting at 6:00 a.m.) and Zuni Grill (starting at 6:30 a.m.).

## **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14 (Cont.)**

2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Continuation of panel discussions (Coffee break mid-afternoon)  
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Social Hour – Atrium  
6:30 p.m. Dinner Program – Kiva AB  
Sponsors Highlighted: **Helios Education Foundation**  
**Connecting and Sharing Ideas** from the Community and Future  
Leaders Town Halls  
**Recognition of student participants**

## **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

6:45 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. Individual panel caucuses  
(Coffee & Danish will be available in Ballroom Foyer)  
Panel Agave – Kiva C  
Panel Hedgehog – Kachina AB  
Panel Ocotillo – Pueblo AB  
Panel Saguaro – Fiesta

8:30 a.m. - approx. 12:30 p.m. Plenary Session – Kiva AB  
Presiding: **Hank Peck**, Board Chair, Arizona Town Hall  
Adoption of Recommendations  
(Coffee & Danish will be available during the session  
– there will be no formal break)  
Adjournment at approximately 12:30 p.m.

# 110TH ARIZONA TOWN HALL PROGRAM SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

## Monday, November 13, Breakfast Program

### *Welcome*

#### **John Giles**, Mayor, City of Mesa

Born and raised in Mesa, Giles earned degrees from Brigham Young University in Political Science and Arizona State University's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law and has managed his own law firm in downtown Mesa for more than twenty years.

### *Panel Presentation: Town Hall Background Report Authors*

#### **John Arnold**, Vice President, Business Management and Financial Affairs, Arizona Board of Regents

John Arnold is the Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs at the Arizona Board of Regents. Prior to this appointment, Arnold served as the State Budget Director for six years and worked for ten years with the Arizona School Facilities Board. Arnold holds a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Brigham Young University.

#### **Karla Esparza-Phillips**, Policy Director, Foundation for Excellence in Education

Karla Esparza-Phillips is a Policy Director for the Foundation for Excellence in Education. Esparza-Phillips previously served as a special assistant at the Arizona Department of Education. Esparza-Phillips also served as the Education Policy Advisor for Governor Jan Brewer and the vice-chair of Arizona's Developmental Disabilities Planning Council. Prior experience includes roles in government relations for Arizona State University and as senior staff at the Arizona Legislature.

#### **Dick Foreman**, President & CEO, Arizona Business & Education Coalition

Dick Foreman is the President & CEO of the Arizona Business & Education Coalition (ABEC). Prior to his time at ABEC, Foreman spent 27 years with Southwest Gas as the Director of Corporate Public Affairs. He also served for ten years as a governing Board member for Tempe Union High School District and has served on the school boards of two charter schools.

#### **Joseph Martin**, Administrator and Professor, Northern Arizona University

Joseph Martin is a former school Superintendent, tribal college President and university administrator. Martin is the founder and Director of the American Indian School Leadership Program and faculty in the Department of Educational Leadership, College of Education at Northern Arizona University. Martin's professional career outside of academia includes service as a Board member for the Navajo AdvancED State Committee, consultant on tribal education school planning, turn-around coach and consultant for K-12 superintendents under the Arizona Department of Education, and as a school reform consultant for several tribes desiring to improve their schools.

## **Monday, November 13, Lunch Program**

### *Keynote Speaker*

**Kristin Blagg**, Researcher, Education Policy Program, Urban Institute

Kristin Blagg is a research associate in the Education Policy Program at the Urban Institute. Blagg's research focuses on K-12 and postsecondary education. Blagg has conducted studies on student transportation and school choice, student loans, and the role of information in higher education.

Blagg spent four years as a math teacher in New Orleans and New York City. In addition to her work at the Urban Institute, Blagg is pursuing a PhD in public policy and public administration at George Washington University. Blagg holds a BA in Government from Harvard University, an MEd from Hunter College, and an MPP from Georgetown University.



## **Monday, November 13, Dinner Program**

### *Keynote Speaker*

**Michael Griffith**, School Finance Strategist, Education Commission of the States

Mike Griffith has worked in the field of school finance policy for the past 19 years with Education Commission of the States, the consulting firm of Augenblick & Myers and the Michigan State Senate. Griffith's research has focused on the condition of state budgets, the adequacy and equity of state finance formulas, and promising practices in funding programs for high-need students. Griffith is an expert resource to national news media and has been quoted more than 300 times by such outlets as CNN, Education Week, NBC Nightly News, National Public Radio and The New York Times. Griffith holds a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University, a master's degree in public administration from Ohio State University and a master's degree in education management from Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland.





## **Tuesday, November 14, Lunch Program**

### ***Special Entertainment: African Rhythm***

Members of African Rhythm come from different countries in Africa: Zimbabwe, Gambia, Rwanda and Zambia. Though from different countries, they speak the same language. Not a language we speak everyday, but one that unites the most different of people—song. A mixture of vibrant and young talented individuals who find joy in sharing a piece of their culture with each other and everyone they encounter. An African Cinderella story, from the ashes they rise. The group is composed of three ladies (Evelyn Ladipo from Gambia, Lovender Phiri and Ntombizodwa Makuyana from Zimbabwe) and two gentlemen (Stephano Sinyangwe from Zambia and Tresor Cyubahiro from Rwanda).



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## 110TH ARIZONA TOWN HALL

### **SESSION I - MONDAY MORNING – NOVEMBER 13**

#### **SETTING THE STAGE**

1. What goals are we trying to accomplish with Arizona's preK-12 education system? How well are we meeting these goals today? How well are we positioned to meet these goals in the future?
2. How does state funding for Arizona's preK-12 education system affect the accomplishment of the goals identified in question one? What role should state funds play in achieving these goals? *Consider the differences, if any, in the state funding among urban, rural and tribal communities.*
3. What resources other than state funds play a role in accomplishing the goals identified in question one? How do these additional resources affect the accomplishment of these goals? How do these resources vary across the state? *Consider resources such as family and community involvement, grant availability, and bond capacity.*
4. How has Arizona's move toward school choice impacted education in Arizona? *Consider impacts on funding, quality, location, availability, socioeconomic levels, and equity.*

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS, Cont.

## **SESSION II - MONDAY AFTERNOON – NOVEMBER 13**

### **EFFICIENCY, EQUITY AND TEACHERS**

1. To what extent are the methods currently used to distribute available funds for preK-12 education effective, equitable and efficient? What changes in the methods of distribution of available funds, if any, should be considered?
2. How does state funding for education affect the ability of preK-12 schools to recruit and retain teachers? How does current teacher compensation affect the quality of preK-12 education? *Consider the pipeline of teachers entering the field and how long they stay in Arizona preK-12 schools. Consider the differences, if any, between urban, rural, and tribal communities as well as communities of different socioeconomic levels.* What changes, if any, need to be considered?
3. How does state distribution of funding for education affect preK-12 school infrastructure? *Consider new construction, major renovations, continuing maintenance, technology, equipment, and information resources.*

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS, Cont.

## **SESSION III - TUESDAY MORNING – NOVEMBER 14**

### **REVENUE SOURCES**

1. What amount of state funding is needed to achieve the goals of our public education system identified in Session I? *Consider what Arizona has historically spent, what other states currently spend, and the amount of state funding needed to operate a general and uniform system of public schools as required by the state Constitution.*
2. How do revenues from Propositions 301 and 123 affect current and future revenues for Arizona's public schools? What impact will the expiration of Proposition 301 on June 30, 2021 have on Arizona's public school systems? What actions, if any, should be taken with respect to current and future revenues received from Propositions 301 and 123?
3. What revenue sources should fund Arizona's public schools? *Consider existing sources; different or additional sources; sales, property, and excise taxes among others; tuition tax credits and other tax policies that impact the General Fund; state trust lands; and private, local, and federal sources of revenue.*
4. What are the barriers to improving Arizona's public school funding system to meet current and future goals identified in Session I? How can these barriers best be overcome? *Consider the amount of funding needed, funding limits, the method of distributing funds, constitutional and statutory requirements and limitations, political and public will, and other factors.*

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS, Cont.

## **SESSION IV – TUESDAY AFTERNOON – NOVEMBER 14**

### **SETTING PRIORITIES AND TAKING ACTION**

1. Considering the discussions from the previous sessions, what actions should be taken that will have the most beneficial impact on Arizona's future? How should they be prioritized and when can they be implemented? *Consider which actions are realistically achievable, have the greatest return on investment, and are most likely to be accomplished. Also consider how actions and priorities may vary for urban, rural and tribal communities.*
2. Who should lead the actions identified in question one? *If the action requires changes to financing systems, funding or changes to the law, identify how the action will be accomplished.*
3. What action or actions will you take as a result of your participation in this Town Hall?

# **KEY POINTS FROM FUTURE LEADERS TOWN HALL ON “FUNDING PREK-12 EDUCATION”**

## **GOALS OF ARIZONA’S PREK-12 EDUCATION SYSTEM**

- Prepare students for careers and their futures as individuals in the community.
- Aspire to send more students on for post-secondary education.
- Build critical life skills and teach common knowledge.
- Encourage students to become lifelong learners with a passion for education.
- Foster good values and develop community engagement.
- Incorporate a flexible and relevant curriculum to empower students to explore diverse opportunities.

## **IMPACT OF FUNDING LEVELS AND METHODS**

- Constrains ability to recruit and retain high quality teachers.
- Limits resources available for implementation of technology.
- Restricts budgets for purchasing supplies and maintaining facilities.
- Reduces dollars available for extracurricular activities.
- Increases class size and reduces individualized instruction when funding is low.
- Directly influences the variety, availability and quality of educational opportunities.

## **WAYS TO IMPROVE FUNDING**

- Reallocate funds in the state budget from other areas such as prisons.
- Generate more funding through donations such as the tax credit program.
- Ensure more transparency and accountability in how funds are spent.
- Support bond issues and budget overrides.
- Renew Proposition 301.
- Involve more businesses in supporting specific programs or adopting schools.

## **MESSAGES FOR ARIZONA’S ELECTED LEADERS**

- Raise teacher pay and invest in their development.
- Increase overall funding to improve Arizona’s educational ranking nationally.
- Become directly involved in schools in your area and embrace education as a top priority.
- Focus on preparing students for career and life success and reduce emphasis on test scores.
- Consider long-term effects of education funding on our state’s future.
- Fund all aspects of education including extracurricular activities and life skills programs.

## **INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS TO ACTION**

- Use my voice and my vote to influence education funding.
- Engage political leaders in understanding the importance of making education funding a priority.
- Expand other students’ knowledge on school funding including holding a resource fair.
- Continue to push for higher salaries for teachers.
- Talk to my parents about education funding and the Town Hall experience.
- Post about these issues on social media.

*"I will attempt to convey our ideas to our school boards so they can help bring together our community and entice them to look into reform and change within the district."*

– Prescott Future Leaders Town Hall

## **FUTURE LEADERS TOWN HALL LOCATIONS**

Mesa Community College • University of Arizona • City of Phoenix

Payson High School • South Mountain Community College

Arizona Western College - San Luis Learning Center, Somerton Center & Yuma Campus

Coconino Community College – Lone Tree Campus • Cochise College – Sierra Vista Campus

Pima Community College – Community Campus

Yavapai College – Clarkdale Campus & Prescott Campus

*"I will register to vote and make my voice heard!"*

– City of Phoenix Future Leaders Town Hall



*"I will advocate for the importance and best use of educational funding."*

– Payson Future Leaders Town Hall

# **SPONSORS OF THE 110<sup>th</sup> STATEWIDE TOWN HALL "FUNDING PREK-12 EDUCATION"**

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