



The 2020 Arizona Early Childhood Public Policy Forum

Saturday, March 7, 2020 | 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Mesa Community College - Library LB145 1833 W Southern Ave, Mesa, AZ 85202	Child & Family Resources Office - Tucson 2800 E Broadway Blvd, Tucson, AZ 85716
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- 8:30 Registration, Networking, Pre Survey. *Coffee and light breakfast will be available.*
- 9:00-9:15 **Welcome & Introductions** between Phoenix-Tucson Groups, facilitated by Dr. Eric Bucher, Executive Director, AzAEYC
Twitter: [@EZBucher](#) | Facebook: [@EZBucher](#) | [azaeyc.org](#)
- 9:15-9:45 **Arizona Department of Education (ADE) Early Childhood Policy & Legislative Priorities**, Callie Kozlak, Associate Superintendent for Policy & Government Relations, ADE. *In this session, you will learn about ADE's values and priority issue areas, key education legislation from the 2020 session, and ADE's work to develop state policy to expand access and strengthen the quality of early childhood educational opportunities.*
Twitter: [@CallieKozlak](#) | [azed.gov](#)
- 9:45-10:15 **Your Voice Matters! How to Develop Your Story as an Early Childhood Champion**
We all have stories that foster connections between us. We will help you to identify important parts of your story, refine your messaging, and develop your skills to share your story with families, lawmakers, and community members.
- 10:15-11:30 **No Small Matter: The Business Case for Early Childhood**
High quality education for all isn't just powerful – it's possible. We will review a clip from the documentary No Small Matter, hear from experts on the business case for quality early childhood, and connect the research with your story. See the film description on page 2. Lunch will be served around 11:15.
- 11:30-12:30 **[Strong Families, Thriving Children](#)**: Arizona Town Hall Discussion & Action-Planning, Arizona Town Hall Facilitators
In this active session, we will discuss and share ideas on the 2019 Strong Families Thriving Children Town Hall session recommendations for supporting families and children and how to apply them in our own communities. See "About the Presenters" on pages 3, 4, and 5.
Twitter: [@AzTownHall](#) | Facebook: [@ArizonaTownHall](#) | [aztownhall.org](#)
- 12:30-1 **Next Steps**, Post Survey



Collaboration: This event is a collaboration between AzAEYC, Arizona Early Childhood Education Association, Child & Family Resources, and SAZAEYC and is sponsored by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in partnership with Child Care Aware of America and NAEYC.

Social Media & Photos: We encourage you to take photos of your experience and post on Facebook, Twitter, and/or Instagram! Tag our organizations. Use the hashtags: #AzPPF, #ECEwins, #EquityinECE, #ECEadvocacy.

Handouts, Articles & Resources: Handouts and resources will be available electronically at azaeyc.org/advocacy-policy.

Here are some additional resources, articles, and support documents:

- **Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children** (azaeyc.org)
 - Arizona Advocacy and Public Policy (azaeyc.org/advocacy-policy)
- **Arizona Early Childhood Alliance** (azeca.org)
- **Arizona Early Childhood Education Association** (azece.org)
- **Arizona Town Hall** (aztownhall.org)
 - “Strong Families Thriving Children” (aztownhall.org/112_Town_Hall)
- **Child & Family Resources** (childfamilyresources.org)
 - Childcare Resource & Referral - Arizona (azccrr.com)
- **Expect More Arizona** (expectmorearizona.org)
 - The 2020 Action Center (expectmorearizona.org/takeaction)
 - Request to Speak: Easy Ways to Weigh in on Education Bills (expectmorearizona.org/blog/2019/02/12/requesttospeak)
 - Register to Vote (expectmorearizona.org/show/register-vote)
- **First Things First** (firstthingsfirst.org)
 - Take Action (firstthingsfirst.org/take-action)
- **National Association for the Education of Young Children** (naeyc.org)
 - America for Early Ed (americaforearlyed.org): *With a commitment to expanding opportunity, supporting excellence and equity, and valuing early childhood educators, America for Early Ed serves as a mobilizing hub to ensure that candidates and policymakers from both sides of the aisle embrace early learning as essential.*
 - Power to the Profession (naeyc.org/our-work/initiatives/profession): *NAEYC’s Power to the Profession initiative aims to establish a shared framework of career pathways, knowledge and competencies, qualifications, standards, and compensation that unifies the entire profession. This will lead to a comprehensive policy and financing strategy for their systemic adoption and implementation.*
- **Southern Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children** (sazaeyc.org)



About No Small Matter

OUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON OUR YOUNGEST CITIZENS. ON HOW MANY WORDS THEY HEAR IN THEIR FIRST MONTHS OF LIFE. ON HOW OFTEN THEY ARE HELD. ON THE KINDS OF EXPERIENCES THEY HAVE.

No Small Matter is a feature-length documentary film and national engagement campaign that brings public attention to this vital question by sharing powerful stories and stunning truths about the human capacity for early intelligence and the potential for quality early care and education to benefit America's social and economic future. This multifaceted project reveals how our country is raising its youngest citizens, why making the most of this time in their lives is so crucial, and most importantly, what we can do to change the perception of when learning begins. The first major theatrical documentary to tackle this topic, **No Small Matter** is designed to kick-start the public conversation about early care and education. The ultimate goal: to produce an entertaining, accessible, and inspiring film that redefines the audience's understanding of the issue and helps drive it to the top of the political agenda (nosmallmatter.com/about-the-film).

About the Presenters

Callie Kozlak is Associate Superintendent for Policy & Government Relations at the Arizona Department of Education. As part of the agency's leadership team, she oversees the agency's policy development and government relations work. Prior to joining ADE, Kozlak was the Field Campaign Manager for Education Policy at UnidosUS, where she oversaw a multi-state campaign advocating for civil rights policies to support the academic success of Latinos and other historically underserved groups of students. She also served at the US Department of Education, under the Obama Administration, where her work focused on federal regulations under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) as well as leading educator engagement initiatives. She received her B.A. from Boston College and her M.Ed. in Early Childhood Curriculum and Instruction from George Mason University, while teaching Pre-K and first grade in Washington, DC as a classroom teacher.

Arizona Town Hall – MESA Facilitators

Tara Jackson has served as President of the Arizona Town Hall since July of 2006. In that capacity, she works with diverse Arizonans from around the state to create informed community and statewide sessions where participants discuss challenging political and social topics in a manner that builds consensus and creates blueprints for positive change. She also frequently acts as a facilitator and consultant for government and private organizations. Prior to joining the staff of Arizona Town Hall, Tara practiced law in the area of employment and commercial litigation for sixteen years. In addition to her law practice, Tara taught as an Adjunct Professor for ASU's Law School and has served in numerous positions for both state and federal bar associations. She has also served in various leadership or advisory positions for other non-profit and educational organizations.



Janene Miller, a Global Leadership Certificate Program graduate of the American Graduate School of International Management (Thunderbird), has a Mechanical Engineering Bachelor of Science degree from Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government from Pomona College. Retired from Salt River Project (SRP) after 28 years, management positions included: Director of Talent Management, Manager of Forecasting, Research and Economic Development, and others. Prior to SRP, Miller worked for San Diego Gas and Electric. Jan currently volunteers with Arizona Town Hall, SEED SPOT, and supports several other organizations. Past activities include board offices on the ASU Preparatory Academy Board, PBS Channel Eight Community Advisory Board, and Phoenix Collegiate Academy (PCA) Boards. Jan received the 65 Roses Outstanding Volunteer Award from the Arizona chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, as well as the twice recipient of the SRP Karl Able Volunteer Award.

Mary Mangotich Grier is a retired attorney and community volunteer. She is married to Michael Grier, and they have two adult children. Mary worked as an assistant city attorney for the City of Phoenix from 2007 to 2014, and as an assistant attorney general for the State of Arizona, from 1994 to 2007. Before entering public service, Mary worked for Bilby & Shoenhair in Tucson, and with Horan, Lloyd, Karachale, Dyer, Horan & Schwartz in Monterey, California. Mary has also served the state bar, the courts and the community in a variety of leadership and service positions. Mary has been an Arizona Town Hall volunteer since the early 1980s and currently serves on the Training and Development Committees. She is vice president and a member of the board of Musician Enrichment Foundation, an active member of Soroptimist International of Phoenix and the trustee of the Agnese Nelms Haury Trust.

Evelyn Casuga serves part time as Senior Advisor Community Relations for the President at Central Arizona College and Director, Community and Economic Prosperity for Center for the Future of Arizona. Born and raised in central California, Evelyn received her Masters of City and Regional Planning from the University of California, Berkeley and her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Evelyn retired in 2014 from APS after 25 years. In addition to volunteering with Arizona Town Hall, her civic activities include board memberships with Business Development Finance Corporation, Friends of Public Radio Arizona, Growth Partners Arizona, and Pinal Alliance for Economic Growth. Evelyn and her husband, Jerry Stabley, reside in Casa Grande, Arizona.



Arizona Town Hall – TUCSON Facilitators

Heath Vescovi-Chiordi is an Economic Development Specialist and Assistant to the Town Manager for the Town of Marana. An Arizona native, Heath was born and lived in Scottsdale until after high school when he moved to Tucson. Heath graduated from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Spanish as well as a Master's degree in Public Administration with an emphasis on local government. His area of expertise at the Town of Marana is economic development, is also an elected Precinct Committeeman for the City of Tucson, as well as a certified Arizona Economic Development Professional through the Arizona Association for Economic Development. He received the Member of the Year Award from the Arizona Association for Economic Development in 2019 and is heavily involved in citizen and youth engagement at the Town of Marana, managing two programs: the Marana Citizens' Forum and Marana 2.0.

Cindy Shimokusu is the Chief of Civil Law for the 355 Fighter Wing at Davis Monthan Air Force Base. Cindy served previously as counsel for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, was an associate with Quarles & Brady, LLP in Tucson and was the area director for the Arizona Department of Water Resources, Tucson Active Management Area. She received both her JD and BA from the University of Arizona.

Kathleen Ann (Kathy) Kitagawa recently retired as a Certified Compensation Professional and Owner of K.A.K. Compensation Services, LLC. Kathy is an active community and Arizona Town Hall volunteer, serving in the roles of chair of the Tucson Steering Committee, consultant, facilitator, speaker, writer, operations/administrative support, development committee member, and photographer. Kathy is Ministry Coordinator for Acolytes and Lay Readers at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Tucson, Board Secretary and member of the Rotary Club of Tucson Foundation, and Habitat for Humanity Tucson Volunteer. She is past president of the Episcopal Community Services Board and former member of the Society of Human Resource Management (National and Greater Tucson), World at Work, as well as a founding member of the Tucson Consultant's Association.

Sasha Brown is currently owner of Sasha's Enterprises LLC and student at Pima Community College. She has received an Associates in Applied Science in Paralegal Services and General Studies, and is currently studying for an Associates in Sociology. Sasha is a Pearson Student Insiders VIP, has sponsored a child from India and donates her time and products to various organizations. Sasha has also been a past member of Pima Student Senate and Honors Club and was Treasurer for Future Homemakers of America.