

Agenda

Welcome

Penny Babb, Soroptimist
Governor, Golden West Region

Introductions

Tara Jackson, Soroptimist
President, Arizona Town Hall

Lunch

Panel Discussion & Break-Out Sessions

Tara Jackson, Soroptimist
President, Arizona Town Hall

Closing

Antoinette Farmer-Thompson
VP of Institutional Effectiveness,
Grand Canyon University

Networking Cocktail Party

4:30pm-6:00pm

Tickets still available at registration

Thank you to our sponsors:



Who we are...

We are part of a global organization ... **Soroptimist International (SI)**... with the mission to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment. We create opportunities for empowerment through access to education.

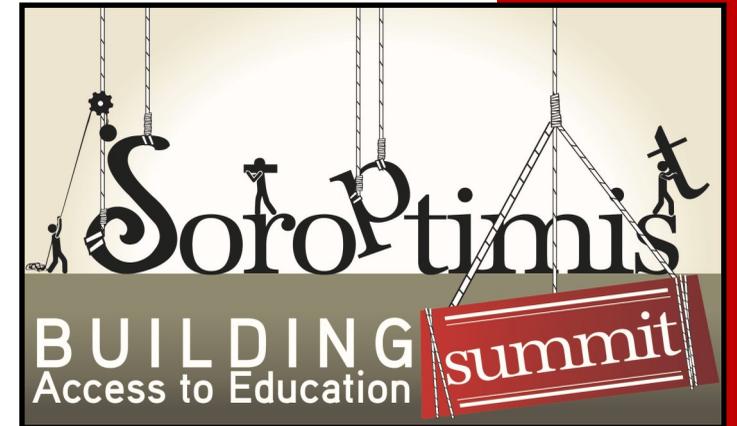
We represent many clubs from Arizona, California and New Mexico. We are volunteers who are dynamic, energetic professionals who give back to the community. We are passionate about leadership, education, human rights, wellness and more. Through hands-on community based projects, educational seminars, fundraising and action - we strive to make a difference while having fun!

Contact us...

We have many opportunities to become involved, but also understand the demands of being a manager, business owner, employee, parent, spouse, and all other titles we hold!

Find a Soroptimist club near you and learn more at the Soroptimist table or:
<http://www.goldenwestregion.org/>

Our clubs **invite you** to experience the energy and passion of our members by coming to a meeting or attending another Soroptimist-sponsored event. We hope to see you soon!



Summit



June 1, 2017

Facilitator & Speakers

Antoinette Farmer-Thompson *Vice President Grand Canyon University*

Antoinette Farmer-Thompson, DHEd, joined GCU in 2008 and currently oversees university assessment, academic reporting, academic support/tutoring, career services, dual enrollment, academic excellence, academic affairs project management and other ancillary areas.



Prior to her current roles, Dr. Farmer-Thompson served as Dean of Associates Studies and Assistant Dean for the College of Health Sciences. Dr. Farmer has helped transform organizations and people through

process improvement, human capital planning and large project leadership for more than 22 years. She earned a Doctor of Health Education (DHEd) from A.T. Still University, Master of Business Administration from GCU, Master of Arts in adult education from the University of Phoenix and a Bachelor of Science in justice studies from Arizona State University.

More important than anything to her is family – her wonderful husband, Dr. Ronald Thompson, owner of two dental practices (Mesa and Scottsdale) and their three sons – Kale, Colbe, and Brennan.

Dick Foreman *CEO, Arizona Business & Education Coalition*

Dick Foreman brings to ABEC unprecedented knowledge, expertise and credibility that he has built during his much accomplished 37-year career in public affairs and in developing public policy. He also brings to ABEC a wide array of experiences while serving on business, education, and community governing and advisory boards throughout his career. His passion, however, is and always has been public education.



No stranger to education, Dick served ten years as a governing board member for the Tempe Union High School District and also served on

the school boards of two charter schools – Tempe Preparatory Academy and Great Hearts Academies. He understands that Arizona public schools need resources, and as such, has chaired/co-chaired eleven public school finance campaign initiatives (i.e. school bonds, M&O overrides) over the span of 25 years.

He is an active leader in the business community, having served on the boards of the Arizona Tax Research Association and its Foundation, the Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry and its Foundation, and the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce. He is a proven leader, respected by the business and education communities alike.

Tara Jackson *President, Arizona Town Hall*

Tara Jackson has served as President of the Arizona Town Hall since July of 2006. This non-profit organization that has brought diverse Arizonans together for over 50 years to discuss critical and often divisive policy issues. The Town Hall process builds bridges across political, geographical and other barriers while also developing leaders and engaged citizens. Recommendations from the Town Halls have had a significant impact on almost every aspect of the state.



Prior to joining the staff of Arizona Town Hall, Ms. Jackson practiced law in the area of employment and commercial litigation for sixteen years with the Phoenix firm Bonnett, Fairbourn, Friedman and Balint. During that time she was head of the firm's employment law section and served on the firm's management committee.

Ms. Jackson taught as an Adjunct Professor for ASU's Law School and has served in numerous positions for both state and federal bar associations. Arizona's federal judges appointed her to serve as a Lawyer Representative for the Ninth Circuit and selected her to co-chair Arizona's delegation. Ms. Jackson also has served on the Merit Selection Panels for the appointment and reappointment of United States Magistrate Judges, and as Chair of Project Civil Discourse. She currently serves on an advisory board for Arizona State University and was selected in 2015 as a Piper Fellow. Her fellowship activities during 2016 have focused on how to use the internet and social media to create social and political change.

Rich Nickel *President & CEO, College Success Arizona*

Rich Nickel is the President and CEO of College Success Arizona, where he leads the organization toward its goal of assisting all Arizonans in gaining access to and successfully attaining a postsecondary credential. He is a community leader and advocate for increasing public awareness around the tremendous economic and social benefits of creating more degree earners in Arizona, especially for high-need, first generation, and minority students.



Rich brings 23 years of government, corporate and nonprofit experience, much of that in senior leadership roles across the country. He has invested the majority of his career leading organizations and service-related businesses in the financial services and education finance arenas.

Nickel has been a member of numerous collaborations and associations for higher education professionals, and currently serves as a Board Member on the Arizona Town Hall. In partnership with a broad statewide alliance of organizations, Rich also helps lead the recently launched, community-owned state attainment initiative known as Achieve60AZ. Rich takes a special interest in the strategic workgroup that helped set the 60% goal, and will recommend policy and programs that align the state's economic development and labor needs, with increased attainment.

Angela Rabago-Mussi *Senior Director, First Things First*

Angela Rabago-Mussi, Vice President of Communications and Engagement at First Things First, leads the organization's statewide communications and community outreach efforts.



The public awareness efforts of First Things First seek to increase awareness that early childhood health and development is fundamental to the future of our state. Because 90% of brain growth happens by age 5, it's imperative that infants, toddlers and preschoolers have positive experiences in their first five years in order to be ready for kindergarten and successful in school.

Angela is a fourth-generation Arizonan with nearly 20 years of experience as a reporter focusing on the state's Latino community and Pre K-12 education.

Kathleen Wiebke *Executive Director, Arizona K-12 Center*

Kathleen Wiebke was the Deputy Associate Superintendent at the Arizona Department of Education, a principal, and classroom teacher, prior to joining the Arizona K12 Center. The Center is dedicated to providing quality professional learning opportunities for Arizona's teachers. It is home to Arizona's Master Teacher Program, a program dedicated to identifying Master Teachers to mentor the newest members of the teaching profession.



Kathy Wiebke earned her BA from Arizona State University and MA from Northern Arizona University. She earned her PhD in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from Arizona State University. Kathy is a 2014 graduate of Learning Forward's Academy.

Kathy was Arizona's first National Board Certified Teacher with a Middle Childhood Generalist Certificate. She served on the Board of Directors for the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards as well as NEA's Commission on Effective Teachers and Teaching. She is a member of Arizona Business and Education Coalition's Board of Directors, the UofA's Professional Preparation Board and Expect More Arizona's Statewide Advisory Council.

Kathy received the Elementary Disney American Teacher Award and was also recognized as an Ambassador for Excellence in Arizona's Teacher of the Year Program. Her classroom practices were featured in a learning series produced by Disney. She was a recipient of the Christa McAuliffe Fellowship that focused on project-based learning and resulted in the creation of a native habitat at her elementary school campus. In 2015 Wiebke received ISTE's *Making IT Happen* award.