



Jobs for Arizona's Graduates

Thursday, December 7 | 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. | Zoom Meeting

Serving youth across Arizona for more than 40 years, the mission of Jobs for Arizona's Graduates (JAG) is to help young people stay in school and acquire the academic, personal, leadership, and vocational skills needed to be successful upon graduation. JAG currently serves more than 1,100 young people in 30 programs at schools throughout Arizona, as well as community-based programs in the Avondale, Peoria, and Tolleson areas. All programs are founded upon the evidenced-based national model developed by Jobs for America's Graduates. JAG Arizona consistently exceeds the JAG National Standards, and continues to be recognized for outstanding performance in the network. During this session, JAG leaders will review the history of the organization, discuss programs and operations, and share impact stories.

Presenters



Marjorie DeRubeis
President and CEO



Dianna Harrier
Chief Financial Officer

Marjorie's journey from immigrant roots to President and CEO of Jobs for Arizona's Graduates is a testament to her resilience and dedication. Early struggles with language and the challenges of being a first-generation student fueled her desire to break down barriers for others facing similar hardships. At the Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education, Marjorie played a pivotal role in creating a state grant program, which expanded educational opportunities for underserved communities. Her ability to forge strong relationships with funders and industry leaders has been instrumental in realizing the dreams of countless students who may not have believed in their own potential. Marjorie's expertise in utilizing data-driven insights to identify and rectify systemic issues has been a driving force behind efforts to improve outcomes for underserved students. She believes that measurable, incremental changes can lead to significant and lasting improvements in educational systems.

In response to the challenges posed by the global pandemic, Marjorie strategically increased engagement and participation in the *Be A Leader* Foundation's flagship events. Her leadership saw a remarkable increase in student and parent attendance and the expansion of *Be A Leader* Clubs in key high school districts. Marjorie worked for College Success Arizona (now Education Forward) for 11 years providing scholarships to underserved students as well as guidance, resources, and support through students' postsecondary journeys. As President and CEO of Jobs for Arizona's Graduates, Marjorie is poised to make an even more profound impact on the lives of Arizona's youth. Her vision for the organization includes widening its reach and impacting the lives of more students throughout the state.

Marjorie attributes much of her success to the exceptional teams with whom she's had the privilege to work. They are not merely co-workers but a trusted and supportive work family, a vital element for success. Beyond her professional accomplishments, Marjorie finds strength and joy in her personal life. She currently resides in Phoenix with her husband, Bob, and their two children, Ethan and Isabella. In all aspects of her life, Marjorie DeRubeis continues to be a tireless advocate for educational access, equity, and opportunity.

Dianna Harrier is responsible for the financial and related business functions of the organization. Mrs. Harrier also oversees the organizations fundraising efforts including public and private grant compliance. She has been with JAG for 16 years, previously serving as Director of Operations and as a Program Manager, supporting JAG program coordinators and students. Before joining JAG, Mrs. Harrier held supervisory positions at the Arizona Department of Health Services and Valley of the Sun United Way. Throughout her career, she has stayed true to her passion and dedicated herself to improving the lives of young people in Arizona. She graduated from Arizona State University with a bachelor of interdisciplinary studies in business and nonprofit management and earned a master's degree in business administration from the University of Phoenix.