



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Valley Education Professional Tapped to Head Statewide Education Initiative**

*Rachel Yanof to Serve as First Executive Director of Achieve60AZ*

**Phoenix, AZ** – The Board of Directors of Achieve60AZ is pleased to announce the selection of Rachel Yanof as the initiative’s first Executive Director. Achieve60AZ is a community-based initiative whose mission is to advance the post high school attainment of Arizonans by acting as a statewide catalyst for collaboration, public awareness, public policy, and data-informed planning and measurement.

“We had many strong, impressive candidates for this exciting role,” **said Achieve60AZ board member and College Success Arizona CEO, Rich Nickel.** “Out of this great group, Rachel stood out as the individual we need to move the Achieve60AZ initiative forward.”

“I’m excited about this great opportunity to serve our entire state by leading the charge in an organization dedicated to improving Arizona’s attainment rate,” **said Rachel Yanof.**

“Achieve60AZ is about the future of our state, and how we can make Arizona more competitive and continue to improve our economy. By meeting the Achieve60AZ goal of increasing statewide education attainment rates to 60 percent, we can better align that highly educated workforce with the great jobs that are coming to Arizona.”

Yanof brings a wide variety of experiences in education from serving as a Teach For America corps member, to teaching eighth grade history, and founding then leading the Phoenix Collegiate Academy in South Phoenix for several years. She earned her master’s degree in education from Arizona State University and her bachelor’s degree from Georgetown University. She joins Achieve60AZ after serving as Senior Director of Educational Initiatives for the Pike and Susan Sullivan Foundation.

"I'm thrilled to welcome Rachel Yanof as Executive Director of Achieve60AZ. As a strong education advocate and practitioner in Arizona, her track record is well suited to raising attainment and enabling the forward progress of Achieve60AZ," **said Eileen Klein, Arizona Board of Regents President and an Achieve60AZ fiduciary director.** "Considering Rachel is the founder of a South Phoenix school that serves a majority Title 1 population, yet saw an impressive 80 percent of students go on to college, it is clear that Rachel is passionate about education at all levels and helping all students succeed. This is especially important for Arizona's future workforce when two-thirds of jobs will require education past high school."

An active community member, Yanof has been involved in the Phoenix area as a Building Excellent Schools Fellow. She has been active in efforts including, the Parent's Commission for Drug Prevention; Arizona Charter Schools Association Advisory Board; First Things First Phoenix South Board of Directors; and Support My Club Advisory Board; and was appointed as the Public Member of the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools.

Yanof has been recognized as one of the *Phoenix Business Journal's* "40 Under 40" young leaders in Arizona, a Spirit of South Mountain Educational Award recipient, an Athena Young Professional, a Phoenix Chamber of Commerce Impact Award winner, and a member of the Organization for Non-Profit Professionals. She is also a graduate of the Valley Leadership Institute, Class 38.

Yanof and her husband, Joe, are enthusiastically raising three amazing and energetic young children.

Achieve60AZ, which was launched in late 2016, is a community-based initiative made up of an alliance of nearly 100 localities, business, philanthropic, education, and community organizations across the state. This independent alliance is fueled by a grassroots effort to make Arizona economically competitive through the power of education. The goal of Achieve60AZ is for 60 percent of Arizona adults age 25 to 64 to earn a professional certificate or college degree by 2030.

The Achieve60AZ initiative recently formed a collaborative partnership with [College Success Arizona](#), a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization working to significantly increase the postsecondary attainment rate of students in Arizona. College Success Arizona will provide management oversight and other services designed to move the initiative forward.

For additional information on Achieve60AZ, follow them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/Achieve60AZ](http://www.facebook.com/Achieve60AZ) and on Twitter at [@Achieve60AZ](#).

For information about College Success Arizona, contact Greg Hyland, CPM, Director of Communications and Engagement, at (602) 636-1850, or [ghyland@collegesuccessarizona.org](mailto:ghyland@collegesuccessarizona.org).

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