

## Greater Phoenix Educational Management Council/AZ Educational Management Council

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Greater Phoenix Educational  
Management Council (GPEMC)

AZ Educational  
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**After 2 years of preparation and planning, beginning July 1, 2022 GPEMC/AZEMC will begin the next stage of our leadership phased-in transition plan. Our current Executive Director, Dianne Smith, who has guided our Organization for 27 years, will focus specifically on the role of Advocacy Coordinator and Dr. Howard Carlson will become our next Executive Director.**

GPEMC was established in **1974** and **48 years** later we are still focused on *enhancing the educational opportunities for ALL students.*

*In 1974 a small group of superintendents representing school districts in Phoenix came together for a common purpose: To share their knowledge and expertise and develop a plan of action to ensure the implementation of a new state mandate for the academic testing of Arizona's students.*

*In 1972 the new State mandate....by June 30, 1975, in cooperation with all local school districts, develop, establish and direct the implementation of a Continuous Uniform Evaluation System (CUES) of pupil achievements in relation to measurable performance objectives in basic subjects. The Board (State Board of Education) shall assist in the development of alternative learning procedures to help pupils attain their individual learning expectancy levels based on intelligence factors, achievement factors, and teacher evaluation. Basic subjects shall be defined for these purposes as reading, writing, and computation skills. (As amended, Laws 1972, Ch. 111 and Ch. 168)*

*As these superintendents began to deal collectively with this issue, they came to realize how much they had in common. By working together, they could communicate, coordinate and collaborate on education policy/budget issues and implement cost effective programs, which would make a difference for the students they served. And so, the Greater Phoenix Educational Management Council was created.*

While the goal remains the same, the challenges facing the Council today are clearly more complex. These challenges in education mirror those of a changing world. Today, school districts must not only address the educational needs of students but must also respond to the multitude of challenges facing our students, parents, families, and community needs.

This group of superintendents, along with Ed services leaders and business officials, still come together for a common purpose – to enhance the educational opportunities for ALL students. Today and every day GPEMC/AZEMC through its Educational Programs; Community Service; Staff Development; School-Business Partnerships; Legislative Interactions; and a Renewed Commitment to the goals and direction set forth many years ago is making a difference.

### **Leadership Transition Goals:**

- Create a seamless leadership transition so that Dianne can now concentrate on advocacy, while Howard ensures organizational operation continues without disruption to member districts.
- As our Advocacy Coordinator, Dianne will focus on completing legislative updates, interacting with key stakeholders, coordinate on the annual GPEMC/AZEMC Advocacy Consensus Documents and guiding member districts regarding advocacy priorities – on behalf of student success for ALL.
- Dr. Carlson will lead our Organization in the overall Mission and Goals of communication, collaboration and coordination. Dr. Carlson is the former Superintendent of the Wickenburg Unified School District, was the 2019 AZ Superintendent of the Year, is the author of two books on the superintendency, and his *blog* has a national following.

### **GPEMC/AZEMC OPERATIONAL MISSION:**

Three key areas promote the Organization's mission to communicate, collaborate and coordinate activities focused on student success through our 3 Divisions: Superintendent Council, Educational Services Council, and the Business Officials Council.

**COLLABORATIVE DIALOGUE:** An opportunity for all Members to engage in a valuable exchange of ideas, thoughts, questions, agree/disagree on solutions yet sharing individual expertise and experiences on behalf of our students to ensure the best possible learning environment necessary to produce excelling schools and students ready for their future! Building on a common belief system, appreciating commonalities and differences, and creating both a strategic and tactically attainable plan of action.

**LONG-STANDING RELATIONSHIPS** and **DEVELOPING NEW CONNECTIONS:** Maintaining, enhancing, and expanding relationships with policymakers both at the political level and with the AZ Department of Education, the AZ State Board of Education, and other entities, including the business community, at the local, state and federal levels that provide support and influence on education policy and budget reforms.

**REALISTIC** and **PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION:** Policy and political leaders change, education reform efforts evolve, but the HOW is critical for school leaders. Utilizing timely, accurate, in-depth communication, working collaboratively on the academic needs and challenges our students and families encounter, engaging with policy leaders to coordinate and advocate when questions arise, or clarifications are required enables GPEMC/AZEMC members to implement policies in a realistic and practical manner.