

**Northern Arizona University, Economic Policy Institute
45th Economic Outlook Conference, November 12th 2020**

Economic Recovery Panel Biographies



Kimber Lanning

Kimber Lanning is an entrepreneur, business leader and community development specialist who works to cultivate strong, self-reliant communities and inspire a higher quality of life for people across Arizona.

Lanning is the founder and executive director of Local First Arizona Foundation, a statewide organization focused on creating a diverse and inclusive Arizona economy. LFAF is leading the nation in implementing systems and policies to ensure a level playing field for entrepreneurial endeavors and communities of all sizes.

LFAF programs include increasing healthy local food production and access, growing entrepreneurial development in underserved communities, and expanding rural community development – each of which plays a part in building sustainable and resilient local economies.

Lanning is also the founder of Local First Arizona, the largest advocacy organization for independently owned businesses in North America.

Lanning has received national numerous awards for her diverse work and extensive leadership and speaks regularly around the country. Her work in promoting adaptive reuse in Phoenix’s urban core was recognized by the American Planning Association, who presented Lanning with the Distinguished Citizen Planner Award in 2013. She has also been named one of the “50 Most Influential Women in Arizona” (Arizona Business Magazine, 2011), was the recipient of the Athena Award by the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce in 2013, and was named Citizen Leader of the Year from the International Economic Development Council.



Lea Márquez Peterson, MBA, IOM

Arizona Corporation Commissioner and President of Marquez Peterson Group

Lea was appointed to the Arizona Corporation Commission by Governor Doug Ducey in May of 2019. The Corporation Commission’s primary duty is to regulate the state’s utility services to ensure that we have safe, reliable and affordable energy. She is the first Hispanic woman to serve in a statewide seat in the history of Arizona.

Lea has been an entrepreneur in our community for many years and served as the President/ CEO of the Tucson Hispanic Chamber from 2009 until November of 2018. The Tucson Hispanic Chamber serves the business community in the bilingual, bi-cultural region of the Arizona-Sonora border and was recognized as the Hispanic Chamber of the Year in 2013 by the

U.S Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. The chamber represents over 1800-member businesses and in partnership with the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry is one of the largest chambers in the State of Arizona.

She ran for Congress in Arizona Congressional District 2 in 2018 and won a competitive primary race though lost the general election. She was proud to be endorsed by Governor Ducey and Senator Kyl during her race. She previously served as the Executive Director for Greater Tucson Leadership (GTL) from 2005 to 2009 and owned and operated a Business Brokerage Firm from 2005 to 2009 and a chain of six gasoline stations / convenience stores with fifty employees from 1998 to 2005 in the Tucson region.

She has been appointed to serve on the Arizona Judicial Council which advises the Arizona Supreme Court, and the Arizona Finance Authority, the state's bonding authority. She chairs the Board of Directors of Carondelet's St Mary's and St Joseph's Hospitals in Tucson and is the former Chair of the Pima Association of Governments Economic Vitality Committee. She serves on the Boards of the University of Arizona Foundation and the Pima County Workforce Investment Board and is the President of the National Association of Women Business Owners in Tucson. She also formally served on the national board for the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the National Women's Business Council. She has recently been appointed to the National Small Business Development Centers by the U.S Small Business Administration.

She received her undergraduate degrees in Marketing and Entrepreneurship from the University of Arizona, and her Masters in Business Administration from Pepperdine University. She is married with two children.

Twitter: @LeaPeterson

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Julie M. Pastrick

Julie M. Pastrick is the President and CEO of the Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce, the largest rural Chamber in Arizona representing more than 1000 member businesses and organizations. The Chamber focuses on small business success through work in business retention and expansion, economic development, education, transportation, healthcare, international trade, and business advocacy on important issues. Its mission is to create a strong business climate and vibrant community through the above avenues.

Pastrick is a long time Flagstaff resident and is involved in numerous civic endeavors. She serves on many boards statewide, including Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Achieve60 AZ ,Arizona CTE Quality Skills Standards Commission, Arizona Perkins V Grant Commission, Center for the Future of Arizona, Flinn Foundation Arizona Bioscience Steering Committee. Governor Doug Ducey appointed Pastrick to the 2020 Statewide Census Committee and to the Board of Directors, Arizona Mexico Commission both current roles.

In 2018, Pastrick formed the Northern Arizona Chamber of Commerce Association (NACCA), a 501(c)6 organization comprised of 18 chambers in 7 counties to enhance the economic vibrancy in rural Arizona.

Pastrick was appointed by former Arizona Governor Jan Brewer to chair the Rural Business Development Advisory Council from 2012-2015 and also sat on the board of Arizona Commerce Authority in that capacity. She is past Chairman of the Arizona Chamber Executives Board (ACE); former Board Member American Chamber of Commerce Executives and Governing Board Coconino Associations for Vocations Industry and Technology; former Secretary of the Coconino County Workforce Investment Board, now the Workforce Investment Opportunity Act Council. Locally, she volunteers her leadership and insights with the Economic Collaborative of Northern Arizona (ECONA) Executive Committee, Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG) Economic Development Council. Pastrick also serves as President of the Williams Business Alliance, formed in 2017 and the Northern Arizona Military Affairs Council (NAMAC).

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker appointed Pastrick in December 2013 to serve a four-year term on the Arizona District Export Council. The District Export Council recognizes that there is significant growth potential in Arizona for small and medium size business growth through expanded markets globally.

She is a past Ford Foundation Regional Sustainable Development Fellow and participated in its exclusive year-long program which provided training, peer knowledge exchange and examination of working models to accelerate understanding of regional growth and sustainability.

Prior to taking the helm of the Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce. Pastrick served as the Chief Development Officer for KNAU Arizona Public Radio. She graduated from Indiana University, the Flagstaff Leadership Program and the United States Chamber of Commerce Institute for Organizational Management.



Sandra Watson

Sandra Watson is an economic development professional with 28 years of leadership experience in business attraction and expansion, innovation, entrepreneurship, economic policy and workforce development. She and her teams have worked with more than 1,000 companies that have committed to creating more than 160,000 quality jobs and investing more than \$15 billion in capital in the state.

Currently, Ms. Watson serves as the President & CEO of the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA), a public-private partnership that leads statewide economic development. The unique structure of the ACA brings together leaders from private industry, academia and all three branches of state government.

In addition to leading the ACA and serving on its Board of Directors, Ms. Watson also serves on Arizona Governor Doug Ducey's leadership team as his Senior Economic Policy Advisor. She was instrumental in advancing Governor Ducey's vision for the Institute for Automated Mobility (IAM) in Arizona and is a Founding Partner on the IAM Board of Directors. She is also a current member of the National State Science and Technology Institute Board of Trustees. Ms. Watson also served as Executive Director of Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano's Council on Innovation & Technology which advanced Arizona's first innovation and technology roadmap.