

AZ Business

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FAB FIVE

As the Most Admired Companies program celebrates its 10th anniversary, only a handful of organizations have been honored all 10 years



\$4.95



HISPANIC
IMPACT

28

MOST
ADMIRED
COMPANIES

52

MEETING
PROFESSIONALS
INTERNATIONAL

89

AZ BIOINDUSTRY
ASSOCIATION

113

TRENDSSETTERS

CLASS ACTS

Arizona businesses go back to school to impact our communities

By ALISON BAILIN BATZ

While September means back-to-school time for many, school is always in session for these local organizations, each of which work to make an impact in our community by providing services to local schools.

Pioneer Title Agency:

The family owned title agency, which has more than 75 locations across Arizona and touches all 15 counties, recently completed its "Old School" initiative. Through the program, Pioneer leadership empowered each of its team members in Arizona to donate time and raise funds for schools in their own communities. To assist in the effort, **Pioneer provided eight hours of paid time off as well as \$100 to help each employee engage.**

USDA-ARS, Arid-Land Agricultural Research Center and University of Arizona Maricopa Agricultural Center:

CENTRAL ARIZONA COLLEGE'S PROJECT PUENTE is an internship program offered to high school students and entry-level college students providing them with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in such fields of study as agricultural and natural resources and food safety and security. Internships are offered at USDA-ARS, Arid-Land Agricultural Research Center and the University of Arizona Maricopa Agricultural Center in Maricopa. The goal is to inspire students in rural communities to pursue bioscience careers through science immersion activities.

Southwest Behavioral & Health Services:

The innovative leader in behavioral health is offering **Mental Health First Aid training**, a course that teaches individuals how to help someone who may be experiencing a mental health crisis, for teachers and school district staff. Mental Health First Aid training provides the necessary tools so teachers, administrators and parents know how to listen, evaluate and act on any potential mental health crisis.

Quarles & Brady:

For nearly 30 years, Quarles & Brady has enjoyed a strong partnership with **CAPITOL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** in Phoenix. Through its Quarles Cares volunteer program, partners and team members work with students throughout the year as reading tutors and as homeroom parents to host classroom celebrations three times a year. In addition, the firm fundraises to support the **COUGAR COMMONS**, a new Capital School initiative to recognize, reinforce and reward positive behaviors.

Washington Federal:

The bank not only offers regular programs teaching financial literacy to children in elementary, middle and high schools at no cost to the schools, parents or taxpayers, they have Shark Tank. Each year, the bank's executives partner with **METRO TECH HIGH SCHOOL** in Phoenix and visit the school as "sharks." The students' mission: present compelling business cases and secure "funding" for said "start-up," which they've spent the semester researching and developing.

