

## **CE2 Conference**

24th of April, 2021

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### **SESSION 1 9:40-10:20**

**Title:**



**Session Description:** (100 words or less):

Vibrant civic life is paramount to moving forward on solving problems and building a bright future for Arizona. The Center for the Future of Arizona is working with the Arizona Center for Civic Leadership to measure progress, frame conversations, and prompt action by bringing organizations together statewide to strengthen civic life in our state. This session will explore findings from the Arizona Civic Health Progress Meters and newly released data from the CFA

Gallup Arizona 2020 survey. It will feature discussion on how the data can catalyze action to improve Arizona’s civic life, with K-12 civic education as a key strategy.

<b>1 Speaker Name:</b>	Kristi Tate
<b>1 Speaker Title:</b>	Director of Civic Health Initiatives for the Center for the Future of Arizona
<b>1 Speaker Organization:</b>	Center for the Future of Arizona
<b>1 Speaker Bio:</b> (100 words or less)	Kristi Tate serves as the Director of Civic Health Initiatives for CFA, where she leads a portfolio of work that drives data, dialogue & action statewide to improve civic health in Arizona. She has served in leadership roles spanning organizations focused on education, service, and civic engagement. Most recently, Kristi served with the National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC), a congressionally chartered organization dedicated to strengthening civic life in America. Her focus at NCoC was on developing and leading partnerships for the Civic Health Index, which creates reports and initiatives designed to strengthen civic life in communities across the country. Before joining NCoC, she served at Georgetown University’s Center for Social Justice as Director of the DC Schools Project. She has also directed programs for HandsOn Greater Phoenix and the Boys and Girls Club of Boston Charlestown Clubhouse. She has a B.A. from the University of Notre Dame and Master of Arts in Liberal Studies degree from Georgetown University, with a focus on social and public policy.

**1 Speaker Image:**



(Kristi Tate)

<b>2 Speaker Name:</b>	Madison Rock
<b>2 Speaker Title:</b>	Senior Civic Health Program Coordinator at the Center for the Future of Arizona
<b>2 Speaker Organization:</b>	Center for the Future of Arizona
<b>2 Speaker Bio:</b> (100 words or less)	Madison Rock is a native Arizonan and self-described cheerleader for democracy. She is passionate about guiding young people through the process of self-empowerment, innovative problem solving, and developing strong, resilient communities. As the Senior Civic Health Program Coordinator at the Center for the Future of Arizona, she supports strategies and initiatives to improve Arizona’s civic health, including the school participatory budgeting program where students “learn democracy by doing” by making decisions over a portion of the district’s budget. Madison has been deeply engaged with the Phoenix Union SPB model since its early adoption and has supported its scale to district-wide expansion. Madison has helped seed and support SPB processes in Chandler Unified, Sunnyside Unified, Queen Creek Unified, and Carson Jr. High. She also serves as a global mentor on School PB in the Rising Stars PB Mentorship Program. Madison graduated from Arizona State University with a bachelor’s degree in Public Service and Public Policy. Her area of study focuses on sustainability, creative city development, and participatory budgeting.



(Madison Rock)

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**SESSION 2 10:25-11:05**

**Session Title: Contemporary Civics**

Clean Elections Logo:



**Session Description:** (100 words or less)

*We discuss Contemporary Civics through the lens of Student Engagement, Political Activism, and Voter Education. Each panelist will offer valuable insight into participating in elections and how that can have an impact on a community.*

<b>1 Speaker Name:</b>	Avery D. Xola
<b>1 Speaker Title:</b>	Voter Education Specialist
<b>1 Speaker Organization:</b>	Arizona Citizens Clean Election Commission
<b>1 Speaker Bio:</b> (100 words or less)	Avery is an Air Force Veteran and a former intern at the Secretary of States' Office under Secretary Michele Reagan. He is currently responsible for educating Arizona citizens on the electoral process and creating educational materials for the public. Avery holds a Political Science degree from Arizona State University and is a certified election officer.

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**Speaker Image:**Avery Xola



<b>2 Speaker Name:</b>	
<b>2 Speaker Title:</b>	
<b>2 Speaker Organization:</b>	
<b>2 Speaker Bio:</b> (100 words or less)	

<b>3 Speaker Name:</b>	Joseph Pitts
<b>3 Speaker Title:</b>	President
<b>3 Speaker Organization:</b>	Arizona State University College Republicans
<b>3 Speaker Bio:</b> (100 words or less)	Joe is an undergraduate at Arizona State University studying Business (Global Politics) and Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership. He serves as President of the College Republicans at Arizona State University, program director for the Arizona Chamber Foundation's Junior Fellows program, Arizona Statewide Coordinator for the American Conservation Coalition, and Executive Councilmember for the American Enterprise Institute Executive Council at Arizona State University. He is dedicated to expanding the promise of civic engagement to all Arizonans and believes that every Arizonan deserves a thorough and applied civic education.

**Speaker Image:**



<b>4 Speaker Name:</b>	Sahara Sajjadi
<b>4 Speaker Title:</b>	Vice President of Membership
<b>4 Speaker Organization:</b>	Arizona State University Young Democrats Club
<b>4 Speaker Bio:</b> (100 words or less)	Sahara Sajjadi is a second-year Global Studies major with minors in Political Science and Women’s Studies. Sahara found her passion for politics within her high school classroom and has since worked for a multitude of different organizations to turn Arizona blue, increase voter turnout, and fight for causes she believes in. She believes that change starts with each and every one of us and puts emphasis on students getting involved in the political arena to bring lost lasting and substantial change. When she isn’t engulfed in politics, she enjoys reading, writing, and cooking.

**Speaker Image:**



<b>5 Speaker Name:</b>	Rivko Knox
<b>5 Speaker Title:</b>	Long-time Arizona Resident, Voter and Political Activist
<b>5 Speaker Organization:</b>	League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Phoenix
<b>5 Speaker Bio:</b> (100 words or less)	(100 words or less)

**Speaker Image:** (simple jpeg - portrait-oriented at least 240x320)



<b>5 Speaker Name:</b>	Gina Roberts
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<b>5 Speaker Title:</b>	Director of Voter Education
<b>5 Speaker Organization:</b>	Arizona Citizens Clean Election Commission
<b>5 Speaker Bio:</b> (100 words or less)	Gina manages a robust public education program that encourages Arizona voters to participate in the political process. She previously administered elections for the City of Peoria and served as Elections Manager for the Secretary of State. Gina earned her Political Science degree from Arizona State University and is a certified election officer. She received the Arizona Capitol Times “Breakouts 2018” award and is a 2019 Fellow, Flinn-Brown Civic Leadership Academy.

**Speaker Image:**




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**SESSION 3 11:10-11:55**

**Session Title: ?**

**Session Description:** (100 words or less):

Hear from Arizona K-12 educators as civic actors in their own communities and how they embed civic learning within their classrooms and schools.

<b>1 Speaker Name:</b>	Amanda Straus
<b>1 Speaker Title:</b>	Junior High Special Education Teacher
<b>1 Speaker Organization:</b>	Carson Junior High, Mesa Public Schools
<b>1 Speaker Bio:</b> (100 words or less)	Amanda Straus is a 4 <sup>th</sup> year teacher at Carson Junior High School. She teaches a self-contained class for students with intellectual disabilities and Autism. She earned her bachelors degree from Arizona State University in Special and Elementary Education and has a M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University. Amanda has successfully implemented civics learning projects in her classroom and throughout her schools campus. This year, she incorporated a participatory budgeting committee with her students for both remote and in-person learners. She received Mesa Public School's Rookie of the Year award in 2018 for her service to students with disabilities.

**Speaker Image:**



<b>2 Speaker Name:</b>	Eric Burrows
<b>2 Speaker Title:</b>	AZ Government Honors World History Teacher

<b>2 Speaker Organization:</b>	Mountain Pointe High School, Tempe Union High School District
<b>2 Speaker Bio:</b> (100 words or less)	Eric Burrows has taught United States/Arizona Government and Honors World History at Mountain Pointe High School in Phoenix, Arizona for six years. Previously he taught a variety of social studies courses for 21 years at San Marcos High School in Santa Barbara, California. At San Marcos, he also coached a Mock Trial team, with many state and county championships. Eric's academic achievements are a Bachelor's Degree with Distinction in History from Stanford University, a Master's Degree in Public Policy Analysis from Claremont Graduate School and a Juris Doctor from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law.



(Eric Burrows)

<b>3 Speaker Name:</b>	César Mitchell
<b>3 Speaker Title:</b>	Middle School Social Studies Teacher
<b>3 Speaker Organization:</b>	Madison No. 1 Middle School
<b>3 Speaker Bio:</b> (100 words or less)	My name is César Mitchell, I am a 23-year-old second year Social Studies teacher at Madison No. 1 Middle School. I was born/raised in Virginia and have had the opportunity to live in different areas around the world. Through these experiences I was able to witness firsthand many cultures, customs, and lifestyles. My desire to become a teacher began while attending high school. This desire for teaching was

	encouraged and cultivated by my fabulous teachers. I use all of my experiences gained from attending various schooling systems as well as current world events to teach both the assigned and null curriculum.
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(César Mitchell)

<b>4 Speaker Name:</b>	Wes Oswald
<b>4 Speaker Title:</b>	3rd grade teacher
<b>4 Speaker Organization:</b>	Escuela Manzo
<b>4 Speaker Bio:</b> (100 words or less)	Wes Oswald has been teaching in Arizona schools for nearly two decades. He currently teaches third grade in Tucson Unified School District. Since the #REDforED movement began in 2018, he has been advocating for public schools through groups such as Arizona Educators United and Save Our Schools Arizona. Wes also enjoys growing and cooking food, riding bikes, sustainability, listening to music, and most outdoor activities.



(Wes Oswald)



(Bonnie Hickman)

<b>2 Speaker Name:</b>	Bonnie Hickman
<b>2 Speaker Title:</b>	6th Grade Teacher

<b>2 Speaker Organization:</b>	Patterson Elementary, Gilbert Public School District
<b>2 Speaker Bio:</b> (100 words or less)	<p>Bonnie Hickman is a 31 year 6th grade teacher in the Gilbert District. She attended “We the People” training, and with the knowledge she gained there, has changed her teaching focus. She has her students busy on Civic activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Competed in the <a href="#">State Showcase</a> and US Invitationals for “We the People.”</li><li>- Interviewed Veterans for the <a href="#">Library of Congress; Veterans History Project</a>.</li><li>- Recognized for “<a href="#">Excellence in Civic Engagement</a>” by the Arizona Department of Education for the 2018-19 school year.</li><li>- Published several comic books sponsored by the Governor’s Board of Highway Safety for “<a href="#">Red Means Stop.</a>” (<a href="#">Vol 1</a> and <a href="#">Vol 2.</a>)</li></ul>