Science Foundation Arizona Names Director of Education Programs

PHOENIX (Oct. 17, 2013) – Science Foundation Arizona (SFAz) announced that John Kriekard, Ed.D has been named as the organization’s director of education programs. Kriekard has served as the interim director since May of this year.

Kriekard brings 37 years of related experience to the team at SFAz. As the director of education programs, he is responsible for the Helios STEM School Pilot program, STEM Clubs and various K-12 education programs throughout the state.

“We are proud to have John leading SFAz’s education initiatives,” said William Harris, CEO and president of SFAz. “His past experiences and valuable skill set will enhance our education programs for all of the schools we work with across Arizona.

Prior to joining SFAz, Kriekard worked for the Scottsdale Unified School District as the principal of Chaparral High School and Mountainside Middle School. He also served as assistant superintendent overseeing secondary education for the district. In 2003, he was named superintendent of the Paradise Valley Unified School District (PVUSD) where he initiated a long-range planning process to chart the district’s direction for the following five years. Under his leadership, PVUSD increased teachers’ salaries and positions, dramatically improved school labels of student achievement, and advanced technological innovation in both curriculum and instruction. As a school principal and superintendent, Kriekard was known for transforming the schools he represented into student-centered, rigorous institutions.
In 2007, Kriekard was recognized as Arizona’s Superintendent of the Year of Large Districts and received the Bob Grossman Leadership in School Communications Award from the National School Public Relations Association.

Kriekard attended Kalamazoo College in Mich. where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in history and his Masters of Arts degree in history from Western Michigan University. He later received his doctorate in educational administration and supervision from Arizona State University.

About Science Foundation Arizona
Science Foundation Arizona (SFAz) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization initiated in 2006 by the Greater Phoenix Leadership Inc., Southern Arizona Leadership Council and the Flagstaff Forty in conjunction with the executive and legislative branches of state government. SFAz serves as a catalyst for high-wage, knowledge-based jobs and economic diversity through administration and strict oversight of research, development and education grants to public education and other non-profit research performing institutions. For more information, visit www.sfaz.org.