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Science Foundation Arizona Names Ken Quartermain
Director of Arizona STEM Network

PHOENIX (Feb. 18, 2015) – Science Foundation Arizona (SFAz) has hired longtime Arizona businessman and public policy expert Ken Quartermain to serve as director of the Arizona STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) Network, a collaboration among businesses, educators, government and philanthropy, led by SFAz, with a common agenda to prepare Arizona students for the global economy through STEM education.

For the past six years, Quartermain was government affairs lobbyist for Public Policy Partners, which represents the Arizona Technology Council and its member companies. Quartermain has represented clients before all levels of government and is recognized as an authoritative source for analysis on complex legislative and regulatory issues for industry CEO’s and business leaders. Quartermain has also represented a number of Arizona school districts, which spurred his passion to put technology and STEM curriculum into every K-12 classroom in Arizona.

“Nothing is more important to Arizona’s future than preparing a workforce, through our schools, which will allow our state to be competitive in a global economy that focuses on technology-related industries,” said Quartermain. “The STEM Network, working together with educators, researchers and the business community, has the goal of building an educated employment base that spurs companies to locate or relocate to Arizona. Getting kids excited about STEM begins at an early age and I am thrilled to be joining a group of people at SFAz that has already achieved an incredible level of success,” said Quartermain.

As STEM Network director, Quartermain will be leading the collaborative efforts among businesses, educators, government and philanthropy, and their common agenda to graduate more Arizona students prepared for the global STEM economy.

“Ken’s breadth of understanding of public policy, education and business will strengthen his ability to guide the STEM Network in a manner that allows Arizona to better prepare our youth to be competitive members of a 21st century workforce,” said SFAz President and CEO William C. Harris. “Ken will forge connections among business, industry and schools, so Arizona students are prepared to fill jobs in leading Arizona companies, and provide a strong STEM workforce for local businesses and industries statewide.”
In his work with the Arizona Technology Council, Quartermain was responsible for the creation and expansion of tax policy, capital formation and economic development initiatives, in addition to his work with school districts. He also has an extensive background in real estate, having managed in excess of $1 billion in assets. Quartermain has served as an industry lobbyist and spokesman for the Home Builders Association of Central Arizona; and was president and CEO of the Arizona Rock Products Association representing the state’s aggregate mining, concrete and asphalt producers and heavy highway contractors.

During his tenure with the Arizona Rock Products Association, Quartermain was named “2000 State Executive of the Year.” He was honored by Luke Air Force Base as an Honorary Commander and has continued his involvement with Luke AFB as an executive board member of Fighter Country Partnership. Quartermain was board chairman of Downtown Urban Community Kids (DUCK), an organization that teams up with teachers to tutor and mentor at-risk kids living in urban neighborhoods. He has also served as a commission member of the City of Phoenix Housing Commission and is a member of the Arizona Chamber of Commerce Public Affairs Committee.

Quartermain received his Bachelor of Science degree in economics from Arizona State University. He is married to Laurie and they have three children: Katherine, Christian and Michael.

For more information about the Arizona STEM Network, visit www.sfaz.org/stem or call (602) 682-2800.

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 and like us on Facebook.

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