



AZALAS

ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF LATINO
ADMINISTRATORS & SUPERINTENDENTS

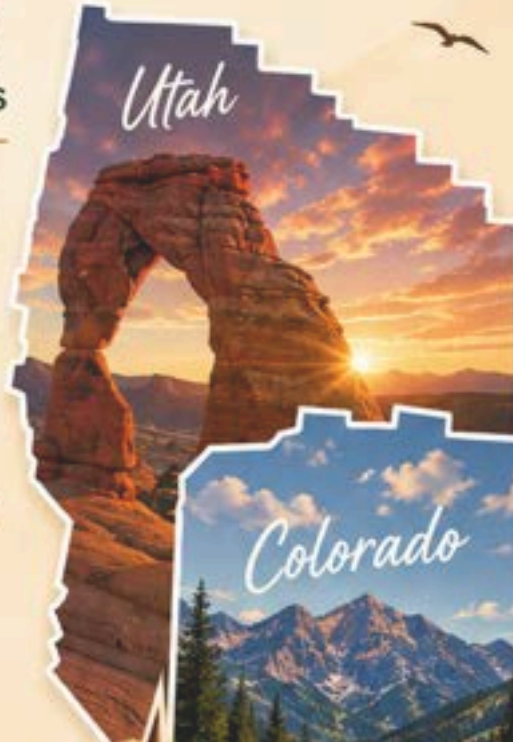
AUGUST

Newsletter

CELEBRATING LEADERSHIP.
HONORING IMPACT.

≡ *Honoring our* ≡
2026-2027
FOUR CORNERS
LATINX LEADERSHIP
ACADEMY COHORT

Representing AZALAS.
Leading with Purpose.



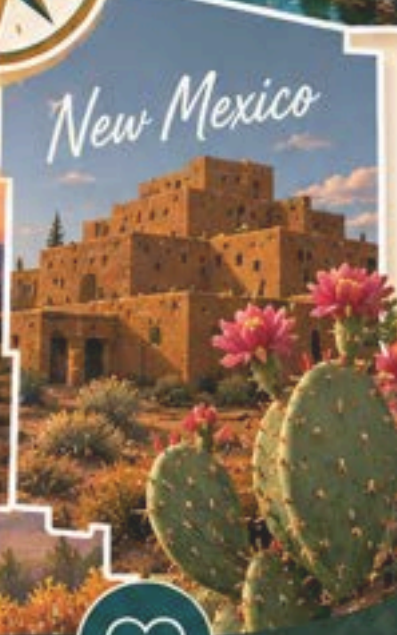
Utah



Colorado



Arizona



New Mexico



LEADERSHIP

Inspiring
Change



CULTURE

Our Heritage.
Our Strength.



COMMUNITY

Stronger
Together



IMPACT

Creating Lasting
Opportunities



COLLABORATION

Working Together
for Greater Impact

OUR *VOICE.* ✦ OUR *FUTURE.* ✦ OUR *POWER.*

Leading Together

ACROSS THE

FOUR CORNERS



The Arizona Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (AZALAS) is proud to highlight and celebrate the 2026–2027 cohort of the Four Corners Latinx Leadership Academy (4CLLA) in our August newsletter.

The Four Corners Latinx Leadership Academy is a collaborative initiative that brings together educational leaders from Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah with a shared commitment to reshaping the narrative surrounding Latinos in education. Through meaningful cross-state collaboration, 4CLLA develops and strengthens equity-focused leaders who are prepared to make a lasting impact at the school and district levels. 4CLLA creates a powerful network of Latino educational leaders who learn from one another, share experiences, and build lasting professional connections across the Four Corners states.

Throughout the academy, cohort members participate in comprehensive professional development, mentorship, and networking opportunities designed to strengthen their leadership skills and prepare them for expanded educational leadership roles. Participants gain practical tools and strategies to support equitable decision-making and create positive outcomes for students, staff, families, and the communities they serve.

AZALAS proudly congratulates our 2026–2027 4CLLA cohort members and celebrates their commitment to leadership, equity, and educational excellence. We invite you to read about these outstanding leaders and the meaningful impact they will continue to make in their schools, districts, and communities.

Dr. Marvene Lobato
Executive Director

About Lizette

My name is Lizette Renee Andrade, and I am a dedicated educator deeply rooted in the unique sister-city community of Nogales, Arizona. Though my academic journey originally began with a focus in Business and Accounting, opportunity and calling aligned to guide me into the field of education a transition that has defined my professional mission to inspire, empower, and ignite the minds of young learners every day.

Grounded in a student-first philosophy, my leadership extends far beyond the traditional classroom. I have had the privilege of serving my school community as Department Head, spearheading student tutoring initiatives, and coaching youth soccer and baseball teams. As a steadfast advocate for student engagement and the arts, I also actively assist our student musicians during parades, regional clinics, and statewide conferences.

I take immense pride in my hometown heritage and remain committed to fostering equity, community pride, and academic excellence for the next generation of Arizona students.



Lizette Renee Andrade
Teacher Honors English Language Arts
Nogales Unified School District #1

Maria Becerra

Instructional Coordinator
Tolleson Union High School District



About Maria

With 11 years of experience in special education, I am entering my fourth year as a Specialized Instructional Coordinator with Tolleson Union High School District, where I support educators in delivering high-quality, equitable instruction for all students.

I earned my bachelor's degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders from the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point, followed by a master's degree in Special Education.

I am currently completing my master's degree in Educational Leadership to further strengthen my ability to advocate for students and empower teachers.

I am deeply passionate about equity and ensuring that every learner has access to meaningful, effective instruction that supports their success.



Preparing for a Strong School Year



*Simple ways to begin the school year
with confidence, connection, and purpose.*

1 Start with Clear Goals



Choose two or three priorities for the year. Keep them specific, realistic, and connected to student success.

2 Build Relationships Early



Learn names, welcome families, connect with staff, and create an environment where everyone feels seen, valued, and supported.

3 Create Consistent Routines



Clear procedures help students feel secure and help teams work more effectively. Review routines for arrival, transitions, communication, safety, and dismissal.

4 Prepare for Flexibility



Even strong plans may need adjustments. Stay open, responsive, and ready to meet changing student and school needs.



Back-to-School Checklist



- ☐ Classroom or office materials ready
 - ☐ Family communication prepared
 - ☐ Important dates added to the calendar
 - ☐ Student support plans reviewed
 - ☐ Team expectations discussed
 - ☐ Personal goals written down
- 

*A strong school year begins with
preparation, connection, and purpose.*



About Brandi

I am excited to apply for the 4 Corners Latinx Leadership Academy Cohort . As a Latina educator and leader , I care deeply about continuing to grow while supporting the educators and students in my district . In my role as a Learning and Professional Development Coordinator , I work closely with new teachers through training, mentoring, and ongoing support in instructional practices and classroom management . Through this work, I see every day how strong leadership impacts teacher confidence, retention, and ultimately student success. Those experiences have pushed me to keep growing as a leader who can influence systems in meaningful ways.

My work is grounded in the belief that every child deserves an equitable education, regardless of where they come from. I also believe that both students and educators should be held to high expectations while being supported in reaching them. Representation matters in leadership, and I feel a strong responsibility to help create pathways for more Latino/a educators to step into these roles. I am committed to building systems where diverse voices are heard and valued, and where educators feel supported, challenged, and empowered in their work.

Over the next three to five years, my goal is to continue building up teachers by strengthening the systems that support them. I am especially committed to helping address teacher shortages by creating environments where educators feel prepared, supported, and valued so they choose to stay in the profession. This includes strengthening mentorship, designing meaningful professional learning, and building a culture that balances high expectations with strong support . I am also passionate about early childhood education and want to contribute to systems that strengthen those early learning experiences, knowing they set the foundation for everything that follows in a child's education.

Being part of the 4 Corners Latinx Leadership Academy would directly support my 3-5 year goals by equipping me with the leadership skills, systems thinking, and network needed to strengthen teacher development , improve retention, and expand early childhood impact in my district . I am eager to learn from and collaborate with leaders across the Four Corner states, deepen my understanding of system-level leadership, and better understand how to navigate and improve organizational structures. I know this experience will help me grow in ways that allow me to better support educators in my district and contribute to lasting, meaningful change for students.

Thank you for considering my application. I would be honored to be part of this cohort and to continue growing alongside other Latino leaders.



Brandi R. Clarke

Learning and Professional Development Coordinator
Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District

About Monica



*Monica
Delgado Cooper*

Assistant Principal

**Santa Cruz Valley
Unified School District**

I am honored to submit my application for the 4Corners Latinx Leadership Academy through AzALAS. As a proud Latina educator and current Assistant Principal at Calabasas School, I am deeply committed to growing as a transformational leader who advocates for equitable educational opportunities and empowers Latino students, families, and communities.

Over the past twelve years in education, I have had the privilege of serving students in a variety of roles, including Transition Specialist, Resource Teacher, TSW Coordinator, and now Assistant Principal. My experience in special education has profoundly shaped my leadership philosophy. Through developing IEPs, collaborating with multidisciplinary teams, and supporting students with diverse needs, I have learned the importance of advocacy, culturally responsive leadership, and creating systems that ensure every student has access to meaningful opportunities for success. I firmly believe that leadership is rooted in service, relationships, and the ability to inspire growth in others.

Completing the Aspiring Leaders program (2021-2023) further strengthened my commitment to educational leadership and affirmed my passion for serving historically underrepresented communities. That experience encouraged me to reflect on the type of leader I aspire to become. One who not only supports students academically, but also fosters inclusive school cultures where students feel valued, represented, and empowered to reach their full potential.

My involvement with AzALAS has also played a significant role in my professional and personal growth. As a current member, I have attended the annual conference for the past four years and have had the honor of serving on the conference planning committee for the past two years. Through these experiences, I have engaged in meaningful conversations surrounding educational equity, cultural identity, leadership development, and advocacy for Latino communities. Collaborating with educators and leaders from across Arizona has broadened my perspective and inspired me to continue pursuing leadership opportunities that create lasting impact for students and families.

Participation in the 4Corners Latinx Leadership Academy would directly support my professional growth over the next three to five years. In my current role as Assistant Principal, I am continuously seeking opportunities to strengthen my leadership capacity, deepen my understanding of systems level leadership, and expand my ability to support both staff and students effectively. This professional development opportunity would allow me to further develop skills in strategic leadership, community engagement, and advocacy while learning alongside experienced Latino leaders who share a commitment to equity and educational excellence.

Over the next several years, I aspire to continue advancing into district level leadership where I can contribute to initiatives that support student achievement, inclusive practices, and leadership development for future educators. I hope to play a greater role in shaping programs and policies that increase opportunities for underserved student populations, particularly within Latino and special education communities. The 4Corners Latinx Leadership Academy would provide invaluable mentorship, networking, and professional learning experiences that will help prepare me for these future leadership responsibilities.

As a Latina leader, I recognize the importance of representation and the responsibility that comes with serving as a role model for students and aspiring educators. I am committed to using my experiences, voice, and leadership to create positive change within schools and communities. I am confident that participation in this academy will further equip me with the knowledge, perspective, and leadership tools necessary to continue making a meaningful impact.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to apply for this esteemed program and look forward to the possibility of learning, growing, and contributing alongside fellow leaders through the 4Corners Latinx Leadership Academy.



Leadership *Myth or Fact?*



Test your leadership knowledge! Circle Myth or Fact for each statement.

- | | | | |
|----------|---|------|------|
| 1 | Great leaders always have all the answers. | Myth | Fact |
| 2 | Listening is one of the strongest leadership skills. | Myth | Fact |
| 3 | Leadership only comes with a job title. | Myth | Fact |
| 4 | Good leaders never make mistakes. | Myth | Fact |
| 5 | Encouraging others is a form of leadership. | Myth | Fact |
| 6 | Leaders should do everything on their own. | Myth | Fact |
| 7 | Learning from feedback helps people grow as leaders. | Myth | Fact |
| 8 | You can show leadership at school, at work, or in your community. | Myth | Fact |



Answer Key

1 Myth • 2 Fact • 3 Myth • 4 Myth • 5 Fact • 6 Myth • 7 Fact • 8 Fact



Erika Fragozo

Assistant Principal Nosotros Academy - Tucson



I am writing to express my interest in participating in the Four Corners Latinx Leadership Academy-Cohort #7. This professional development opportunity aligns with my long-term commitment to educational leadership and my aspiration to expand my impact in K–12 education. For the past fifteen years, I have dedicated my career to creating equitable learning environments where all students can thrive. Participation in this leadership academy would provide me with knowledge, mentorship, and a regional network that would strengthen my leadership capacity and prepare me for diverse site and district leadership positions.

My professional goal is to continue advancing as a servant leader who improves systems, develops people, and increases opportunities for all students and staff. I am particularly committed to ensuring that schools respond to the diverse communities that they serve. My commitment to serving underrepresented populations, especially the Latino community, is deeply personal, and I would be honored to contribute to and learn from the Four Corners Latinx Leadership Academy.

As someone who has experienced firsthand the challenges of navigating disparities in opportunity and access, I understand how difficult it can be to find mentors and leaders who truly recognize the systemic and cultural biases that often exist within institutions.

These experiences have shaped my leadership philosophy and strengthened my resolve to become the kind of leader who creates pathways for others, advocates for inclusive practices, and ensures that emerging leaders feel seen, supported, and empowered. In my current role, I have seen how representation in leadership matters not only for decision-making but also for inspiring students, supporting families, and building trust within communities. Through the Four Corners Latinx Leadership Academy, I hope to deepen my understanding of how to strategically remove barriers that limit access to leadership opportunities and how to intentionally cultivate inclusive systems.

I am also eager to learn strategies related to executive-level leadership, including systemwide structures, processes, and approaches necessary for leading with greater effectiveness. Additionally, the opportunity to collaborate with state leaders and aspiring administrators across Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah is another compelling reason I seek to participate. Regional collaboration provides a unique platform to share best practices, examine common challenges, and develop innovative solutions informed by diverse perspectives. I believe that meaningful leadership growth occurs through self reflection and collective learning. The mentoring and networking components of this academy would be invaluable as I continue to refine my leadership identity and build connections with others committed to educational excellence.

Ultimately, participation in the Four Corners Latinx Leadership Academy would support my professional growth, and I would be grateful for the opportunity to participate. Thank you for your consideration.

Dr. Melissa L. Gonzalez

Executive Director of Human Resources
Avondale Elementary School District



About Dr. Melissa

Please accept this letter of interest in the 4 Corners Latinx 2026-2027 Leadership Academy. As a first-generation Mexican American woman, I am seeking to be part of a community of leaders who share a common mindset of growth, purpose, and service. I am committed to bettering myself so that I can, in turn, grow, inspire, and build the capacity of others in meaningful and positive ways. Coming from a humble background, I was raised by parents whose strong work ethic and resilience shaped who I am today. I see myself in their perseverance and sacrifices, which inspire my commitment to creating equitable opportunities for others.

Throughout my early adulthood, I intentionally pursued opportunities to grow both personally and professionally, seeking spaces where I could expand my knowledge, challenge myself, and better understand the systems impacting the communities I serve. I was fortunate to have community leaders who believed in me, encouraged me, and reminded me that my goals and dreams were attainable.

In 2017, I reached a milestone that once felt almost unattainable. I earned my doctorate in educational psychology. This was an accomplishment I had once been told I would never achieve. What made this moment most meaningful was seeing the pride and joy in my parents and my in-laws. In my heart, this achievement was not mine alone. It belonged to them and to my children, as a reminder that setting and achieving dreams is possible for all of us. This has strengthened my commitment to creating inclusive structures that intentionally bridge that gap. I want to identify and implement opportunities that empower families through language access, culturally responsive communication, and meaningful engagement practices. By doing so, I can help ensure that families feel seen, heard, and equipped to actively participate in their child's educational journey. Closing this gap is not only about communication, it is about equity, trust, and creating systems that truly serve all members of our community.

Over the next three to five years, participation in the Latinx Leadership Academy's professional development will be instrumental in advancing my growth as an executive leader. In my current role as Executive Director of Human Resources, I operate within a traditional HR framework; however, my vision is to intentionally shift this work toward a Human Capital model and one that prioritizes the development, support, and long-term success of our staff. Through my volunteer work with the Arizona School Personnel Administrators Association (ASPA) Professional Development Committee, where we are developing a five-year plan to elevate professional learning across Arizona, I have begun to engage in broader systems thinking. The Academy will allow me to deepen this work by strengthening my ability to lead beyond compliance and into strategic talent development.

The Academy's focus on system-level leadership, organizational structures, and executive decision-making aligns directly with my goal of transforming HR into a function that drives academic success through people. I am particularly interested in building my knowledge of academic rigor and understanding how operational and human

capital strategies can directly impact student outcomes. By gaining insight into barriers within organizational culture and learning how to navigate and influence those systems, I will be better prepared to lead initiatives that build staff capacity, improve retention, and create more equitable opportunities for educators and leaders.

This professional development will expand my ability to lead with intention and position me for future executive roles in Operations and, ultimately, the superintendency. It will equip me with the tools to move from managing systems to transforming them, aligning human capital practices with district goals, strengthening leadership pipelines, and fostering a culture of growth and accountability. Ultimately, the knowledge and network gained through the Academy will empower me to not only evolve my own leadership, but to develop and elevate others in ways that create lasting, systemic impact. By gaining insight into barriers within organizational culture and learning how to navigate and influence those systems, I will be better prepared to lead initiatives that build staff capacity, improve retention, and create more equitable opportunities for educators and leaders. In my work, I also see a critical need to extend this equity beyond staff and into the families we serve. I regularly meet parents who are eager to be involved in their children's education, parents who want to learn, engage, and partner with schools, but who feel limited by language barriers and a lack of accessible systems. The Latinx Leadership Academy represents an opportunity for me to continue this journey alongside a network of like-minded leaders dedicated to disrupting inequities and advancing representation in executive leadership. I am eager to strengthen my leadership capacity by learning the skills and strategies integral to both site and district-level leadership, deepening my understanding of system-level structures and processes, and examining the barriers that impact organizational culture and practice.

This opportunity will empower me to lead with greater intention, advocate more effectively for underrepresented communities, and contribute to building systems that are more equitable, inclusive, and responsive. I am committed to using what I learn to uplift others, expand access to leadership pathways, and help cultivate the next generation of Latinx leaders.

What Kind of Leader Are You?

Choose the answer that sounds most like you.
Keep track of your letters, then see your result at the bottom!

- 1** When your team faces a challenge, you usually...
- ☐ A cheer everyone on and keep spirits high
 - ☐ B come up with a creative new idea
 - ☐ C make a plan and organize the next steps
 - ☐ D listen to everyone and help them work together

- 2** People often come to you because you...
- ☐ A make them feel supported
 - ☐ B inspire them to think bigger
 - ☐ C help them stay focused
 - ☐ D are calm and fair

- 3** In a group project, your favorite role is...
- ☐ A motivating the group
 - ☐ B brainstorming possibilities
 - ☐ C leading the checklist and timeline
 - ☐ D making sure every voice is heard

- 4** A strong leader should always...
- ☐ A encourage others
 - ☐ B dream big and stay positive
 - ☐ C be dependable and prepared
 - ☐ D build trust and connection

- 5** If something goes wrong, you tend to...
- ☐ A comfort and reassure others
 - ☐ B look for a new solution
 - ☐ C take action and fix the problem
 - ☐ D help people talk it through

- 6** Your leadership style is best described as...
- ☐ A supportive
 - ☐ B visionary
 - ☐ C organized
 - ☐ D collaborative

Your Result

- ★ **Mostly A - The Encourager:** You lift others up and lead with kindness.
- ★ **Mostly B - The Visionary:** You inspire fresh ideas and big-picture thinking.
- ★ **Mostly C - The Organizer:** You lead with structure, focus, and follow-through.
- ★ **Mostly D - The Community Builder:** You bring people together and help everyone feel included.

★ Leadership looks different on everyone — and every style matters! ★

About Delilah

I am writing to express my sincere interest in participating in the 4 Corners Latinx Leadership Academy. As an educational leader and aspiring superintendent, I view this opportunity as an important step in further developing my capacity to lead educational systems through advocacy, collaboration, and purposeful action that positively impacts students, families, and communities.

My leadership journey has provided me with experiences that have strengthened both my passion and commitment to educational equity. As a school principal and special education executive director, I have had the privilege of leading diverse student populations while creating environments where all students are valued, challenged, and supported. My work has continually centered around developing systems that prioritize the needs of every learner while fostering a culture of belonging and high expectations.

Additionally, my experiences leading and supporting initiatives in EL programming, gifted education, special education, and inclusive practices have allowed me to see firsthand the importance of building educational systems that recognize and honor the diverse strengths and needs of students. I have worked to ensure that students are not defined by labels or limitations but instead are provided meaningful opportunities that maximize their potential. Through these experiences, I have learned that effective leadership requires intentional advocacy, strong collaboration, and the courage to challenge systems that unintentionally create barriers for students and families.

As I continue pursuing my goal of becoming a superintendent, I recognize that executive leadership requires a broader systems perspective. It requires leaders who can strategically design structures and processes that create sustainable outcomes while maintaining a focus on people. I am particularly drawn to the Four Corners Latinx Leadership Academy because of its commitment to professional development that emphasizes advocacy, awareness, leadership growth, collaboration, and strategies for systemic leadership at the executive level. I believe the Academy would provide me with the knowledge, mentorship, and leadership experiences necessary to strengthen my understanding of executive-level leadership and expand my ability to lead transformational change.

This opportunity also carries a deeply personal significance for me. As a parent of Latino children, I understand the importance of representation, advocacy, and creating educational systems where students and families feel seen, heard, and empowered. I am passionate about deepening my understanding of the disparities that continue to impact Latinx communities and strengthening my ability to advocate for equitable opportunities and outcomes. Additionally, I have a strong commitment to disability awareness and understanding the intersectionality that often exists between culture, identity, and disability. I believe every student deserves a learning environment that recognizes their strengths and provides the support necessary for success.

As a future superintendent, my vision is to lead with purpose, empathy, and a steadfast commitment to equity and inclusion. I aspire to create systems where students of all backgrounds and abilities are given every opportunity to thrive and where families feel connected and valued as partners in education. I seek to become a leader who not only understands the complexities of educational systems but who actively works to remove barriers and create pathways for success.

I am excited about the opportunity to learn alongside and collaborate with a community of leaders who share a commitment to advocacy and educational excellence. Participation in the ALAS 4 Corners Leadership Academy would not only strengthen my leadership journey but would further equip me to serve as a future superintendent who leads with vision, courage, and purpose.

Thank you for your consideration. I appreciate the opportunity to be considered for this transformative leadership experience.

A circular portrait of Delilah (D.D.) Goslar-Carr, a woman with long, wavy brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark top. The background of the portrait shows a desert landscape with mountains and a clear sky.

**Delilah (D.D.)
Goslar-Carr**

**Executive Director of Talent & Recruitment
Osborn Elementary School District**

About Jesse

I am serving as the assistant principal at Desert View High School in Tucson, Arizona. From 2013 I moved out of the classroom as an 8th-grade English teacher and academic interventionist. This position was designed to handle discipline issues. I did this in middle school, and then in 2015, I moved to the high school level to continue this work. I found great purpose and success in this role. I worked closely with the most at risk students and their families. I helped to change our discipline matrix and partnered with outside agencies and the court systems to change our approach to drug offenses on campus. This led to a district wide change and an official partnership between the district and a non-profit organization called LPKNC.

In 2021, I saw an opportunity to make a greater change and applied for the assistant principal position. Once in this role, I continued with a focus on discipline; however, my principal had a vision for the school that I take a larger role as an instructional leader. I was highly uncomfortable with this push, but saw the impact I could have. I worked closely with two of our instructional coaches to grow in my understanding and application of this knowledge. I found it difficult as I thrived with students who struggled in school and worked in prevention. Now working with teachers to push their mindsets and teaching abilities, I had to immerse myself in the learning.

By the 2nd semester of my first year, we changed how we ran professional development, and the principal and assistant principals ran our own small groups every week. This has continued and has played a major role in shaping the leader I am becoming. This is where Four Corners Latinx Leadership Academy can be of great benefit to Desert View High School, by improving my leadership skills. I regularly collaborate with leadership on campus and within the district as well as teachers who want to push their own thinking. I am reaching out for this opportunity to find like-minded learners in leadership roles to continue to push my thinking and skills, and to engage in collaborative opportunities.

If I am accepted into this academy, I come with a strong love of learning and desire to push myself, my team, my school and district to heights we have longed for for years. My personal journey into education was one filled with struggle, failure, and losses. To become a teacher, my life was transformed, and moving from the discipline world into administration has surprisingly been even more transformative. Due to pushes from my team and my own intrinsic motivation to be better for our teachers and students, I am a better leader, father, husband and man. Last year, I made a goal to develop my love for teachers, which I naturally have for our students. This love requires me to grow to be of greater benefit to our educators. If I can love and develop a few teachers, I can benefit dozens, if not hundreds, of students. This venture is proving

highly beneficial. I hope to gain a greater understanding and ability to make greater change. While I wholeheartedly want to make a difference, I am aware I need to continue to be made different. This leadership academy is a great opportunity to accomplish this goal and continue growing as a leader and a servant in my community.

Thank you for this opportunity and your consideration.

Jesse Ortega

INTERVENTION/ ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
SUNNYSIDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT





Four Corners Fun Page



Celebrate Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico
with a few fun challenges!



1 Match the State

Draw a line to match each state with the correct clue.

Arizona

A Grand Canyon

Utah

B Arches and red rock scenery

Colorado

C Rocky Mountains

New Mexico

D Hot air balloons and green chile

3 Quick Challenge

Circle the best answer.

1 Which state is famous for the Grand Canyon?

A. Utah B. Arizona C. Colorado

2 Which state is known for arches and red rocks?

A. Utah B. New Mexico C. Arizona

3 Which state is called the Land of Enchantment?

A. Colorado B. Arizona C. New Mexico

2 Did You Know?

Arizona

Did you know?
Arizona is home to
the famous
Four Corners
Monument!



Utah

Did you know?
Utah is known for
its "Mighty 5"
national parks.



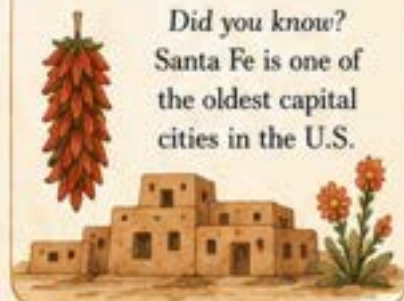
Colorado

Did you know?
Denver is called
the Mile
High City.



New Mexico

Did you know?
Santa Fe is one of
the oldest capital
cities in the U.S.



4 If You Could Visit...

Which Four Corners state would you explore first?

☐


Arizona

☐


Utah

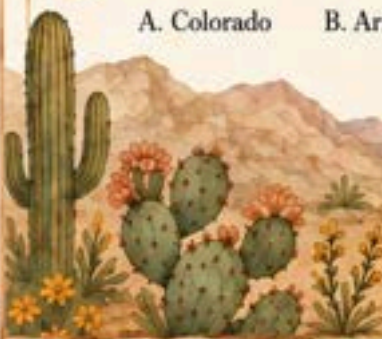
☐


Colorado

☐


New Mexico

Ready to check your work?
Turn the page for the answers!





Four Corners

Answer Page

Check your work and learn a little more
about the Four Corners states!



1 Match the State — Answers

Arizona



A.

Grand Canyon

Utah



B.

Arches and
red rock scenery

Colorado



C.

Rocky Mountains

New Mexico



D.

Hot air balloons
and green chile

2 Quick Challenge — Answers

1

Which state is famous for the Grand Canyon?

Answer: **B. Arizona**

2

Which state is known for arches and red rocks?

Answer: **A. Utah**

3

Which state is called the Land of Enchantment?

Answer: **C. New Mexico**

❖ How many did you get right? Awesome work! ❖

3 State Spotlights

❖ Arizona ❖



Grand Canyon State

❖ Utah ❖



Home of
famous arches

❖ Colorado ❖



Known for the
Rocky Mountains

❖ New Mexico ❖



Land of
Enchantment

4 Just for Fun

Which state would you still
choose to visit first?

☐

Arizona

☐

Utah

☐

Colorado

☐

New Mexico

There's no wrong answer!

❖ Great job exploring
the Four Corners! ❖

About Ernesto

I am writing to express my interest in participating in the 4 Corners Latinx Leadership Academy for the 2026–2027 cohort. In my current role as an Instructional Technology Integration Coach, I support educators across campuses through coaching, professional development, and the implementation of instructional technology systems. I am especially interested in this opportunity because it aligns with my goal of continuing to grow as a leader who can support both teachers and systems at a broader level.

In my current position, I work closely with teachers and administrators to strengthen instructional practices through technology integration and data-informed decision-making. I design and facilitate district-wide professional development on topics including Canvas, AI literacy, and instructional technology tools, while also supporting daily implementation through coaching and troubleshooting. I collaborate with teams to improve digital workflows, build teacher capacity, and support consistent use of instructional systems across campuses.

Over the past two years, I have also participated in the AZLAS Aspiring Leaders Program. This experience provided opportunities to collaborate with other emerging leaders across Arizona, learn from diverse perspectives, and reflect on different approaches to leadership. It pushed me to grow as a more well-rounded leader and strengthened my commitment to continuing my leadership development in a more intentional and structured way.

I am drawn to the 4 Corners Latinx Leadership Academy because of its focus on mentorship, collaboration, and preparing leaders for system-level impact. I am particularly interested in deepening my understanding of organizational leadership and learning how to navigate complex educational systems in ways that support both equity and long-term improvement.

Over the next one to two years, I plan to continue strengthening my impact by expanding professional learning systems, supporting consistent implementation across campuses, and developing scalable resources such as self-paced learning modules for staff. In the next three to five years, I hope to transition into a broader leadership role at the campus or district level, where I can help lead instructional initiatives and contribute to decision-making that directly impacts student outcomes.

Participating in the 4 Corners Latinx Leadership Academy would support my growth by providing mentorship, leadership development, and the opportunity to learn alongside other aspiring leaders. I am confident this experience will allow me to better support educators, strengthen instructional systems, and contribute to meaningful, system-wide improvements in my district.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be honored to be part of this cohort.



*Ernesto
Tostado*

**Instructional Technology
Integration Coach**
Tolleson Union High School District



Four Corners

Word Search



*Find the hidden words inspired by
Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico!*

*Words may be hidden across, down, diagonal,
forward, or backward.*

A	R	I	Z	O	N	A	C	H	I	L	E
X	U	T	A	H	R	D	E	S	E	R	T
M	O	U	N	T	A	I	N	B	G	F	D
C	O	L	O	R	A	D	O	E	Q	J	E
A	R	C	H	E	S	K	L	M	N	O	S
N	E	W	M	E	X	I	C	O	P	U	E
V	B	A	L	L	O	O	N	R	S	T	R
M	O	N	U	M	E	N	T	U	V	W	T
X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	Y
S	A	N	T	A	F	E	I	J	K	L	P
Q	W	E	R	T	Y	U	I	O	P	A	Z
B	N	M	L	K	J	H	G	F	D	S	X

Find These Words

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- * UTAH *
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- * CANYON *
- * ARCHES *
- * DESERT *
- * MOUNTAIN *
- * MONUMENT *
- * CHILE *
- * BALLOON *
- * SANTAFE *





1988

ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF LATINO
ADMINISTRATORS AND SUPERINTENDENTS

AZALAS Mixer

Friday, August 28, 2026
5:00-7:00 PM

Wild Horse Pass Casino
5040 Wild Horse Pass Blvd
Chandler, AZ 85226

Come mix, mingle & connect!

Reconnect with familiar faces, meet someone new, and enjoy a relaxed evening with educational leaders from across Arizona. Good conversation, great company, and meaningful connections are waiting we'd love to see you there!

Please RSVP to rsvp.azalas@gmail.com by August 25, 2026.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Signature Sponsor: Valley Schools Management Group

Encore Sponsors: Southwest Foodservice Excellence (SFE) • McGraw Hill

Emerald Sponsor: International Alliance Group (IAG)

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Ana Samaniego
President of AZALAS



Dr. Marvene Lobato
Executive Director



1988

ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF LATINO
ADMINISTRATORS AND SUPERINTENDENTS

AZALAS MIXER

Yuma, Arizona



Friday, September 4, 2026



5:00-7:00 PM



The Pint House
268 S. Main Street
Yuma, AZ 85364

Come mix, mingle & connect!

Reconnect with familiar faces, meet someone new, and enjoy a relaxed evening with educational leaders from across Arizona. Good conversation, great company, and meaningful connections are waiting.
We'd love to see you there!

Please RSVP to rsvp.azalas@gmail.com by September 1, 2026.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Signature Sponsor: Valley Schools Management Group

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Ana Samaniego
President of AZALAS



Dr. Marvene Lobato
Executive Director



AZALAS

Arizona Association of
Latino Administrators &
Superintendents

AZALAS STUDENT ART CONTEST 2026
CONCURSO DE ARTE ESTUDIANTIL 2026

UNSTOPPABLE: OUR VOICE, OUR FUTURE

IMPARABLES: NUESTRA VOZ, NUESTRO FUTURO



OPEN TO KINDERGARTEN-12TH GRADE

ABIERTO A ESTUDIANTES DEL KINDER AL 12 GRADO

WHY PARTICIPATE?

Let your creativity speak! Show what it means to be unstoppable, share your voice, celebrate your culture and community, and inspire educational leaders across Arizona. With parent/guardian permission, selected artwork and student photos may be featured in AZALAS publications, presentations, and social media.

¿POR QUÉ PARTICIPAR?

¡Deja que tu creatividad hable! Demuestra lo que significa ser impararable, comparte tu voz, celebra tu cultura y comunidad, e inspira a líderes educativos de todo Arizona. Con el permiso del padre, madre o tutor, las obras y fotografías seleccionadas podrán aparecer en publicaciones, presentaciones y redes sociales de AZALAS.

HOW TO ENTER / CÓMO PARTICIPAR

1. Create original artwork inspired by this year's theme.
Crea una obra original inspirada en el tema de este año.
2. Scan the QR code and complete the registration form with a parent or guardian.
Escanea el código QR y completa el formulario con un padre, madre o tutor.
3. Email one clear photo of the artwork by itself AND one photo of the student with the artwork to:
Studentartazalas@gmail.com
4. Use the subject line: 2026 Art Contest - Student Name - Grade.



DEADLINE / FECHA LÍMITE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026
VIERNES 25 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2026



QUESTIONS?

Studentartazalas@
gmail.com



CAN'T SCAN THE QR CODE? USE THE LINK BELOW:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdDyJqK6fj1fzHu831fwjr8UUhcysCpgXQrBvu0z0AM0pCuw/viewform?usp=dialog>

SCAN TO ENTER / ESCANEE PARA PARTICIPAR



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ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF
LATINO ADMINISTRATORS AND
SUPERINTENDENTS

SAVE the DATE!

AZALAS 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

UNSTOPPABLE: *Our Voice, Our Future*



Empowering Latino educators
and leaders to break barriers
and build lasting legacies for
the next generations.



**NOVEMBER
8-9, 2026**



**HARRAH'S AK-CHIN
RESORT AND CASINO**
MARICOPA, ARIZONA

*Be Part of
SOMETHING
BIGGER.*



CONNECT
Build powerful
relationships



EMPOWER
Inspire growth
and leadership



LEAD
Create a lasting
impact



ROOM RATE INFORMATION

The rates at **\$135.00** plus tax per night.
You will be able to book before 11:59 PM on
Wednesday October 7th to be guaranteed
availability and the group rate.



BOOK YOUR STAY

Book online using
our group link:

www.caesars.com/book/?propCode=AKC&action=FindRooms&groupcode=S11AZC6



OR CALL
1-800-CAESARS
and provide
group code
S11AZC6
to speak to a central
reservations agent.

OUR VOICE. OUR FUTURE. UNSTOPPABLE.

WWW.AZALAS.ORG



Leading Together. **MOVING FORWARD.**



AZALAS proudly congratulates the
**2026-2027 Four Corners Latinx
Leadership Academy (4CLLA) cohort.**

Your dedication to leadership, equity,
and educational excellence strengthens
our schools, our communities, and our
future. Together, we are building a lasting
legacy of impact across the Four Corners
and beyond.

Thank you for leading the way!



OUR VOICE.



OUR FUTURE.



OUR POWER.

Unstoppable: Our Voice, Our Future.

JOIN US

Charting the Course: A New Flight Plan for Arizona Readers

Connect with Arizona educators for a day of learning and inspiration featuring Jamie Meade, Natalie Wexler, and state literacy leaders. Explore practical literacy strategies, the benefits of an integrated curriculum, and key considerations for the adoption and implementation of high-quality instructional materials.

All attendees will receive a free copy of Natalie Wexler's newest book, *Beyond the Science of Reading*, and be entered into a raffle for an Amazon Kindle. *Must be present to win.*

We look forward to welcoming you!



Tuesday, August 25th, 2026



8:30 AM - 3:30 PM



Imagine Learning Headquarters
100 South Mill Avenue, 9th Floor
Tempe, AZ 85281



REGISTER HERE

