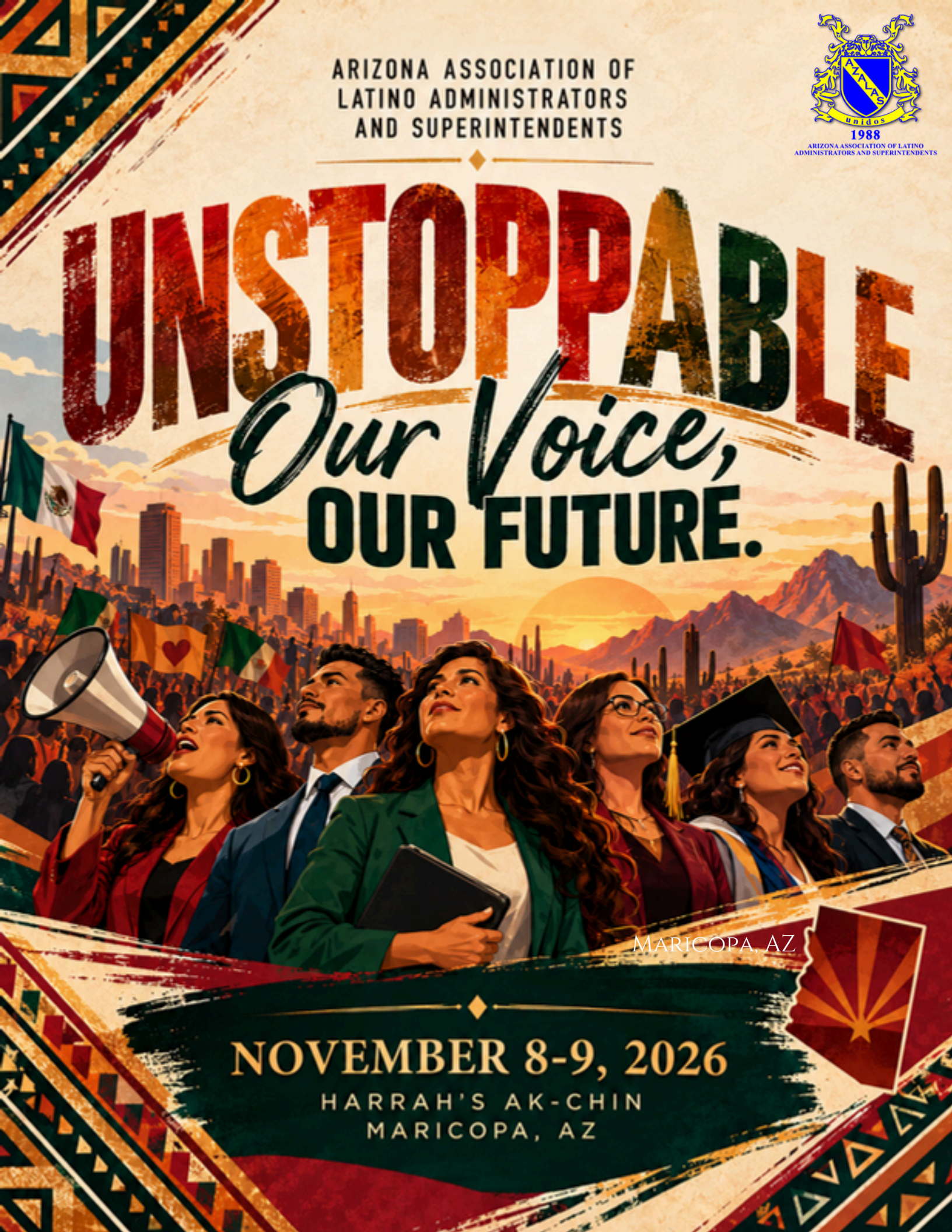
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UNSTOPPABLE

Our Voice, OUR FUTURE.



MARICOPA, AZ

NOVEMBER 8-9, 2026

HARRAH'S AK-CHIN
MARICOPA, AZ

November 8, 2026

Sunday

11:00 AM Registration Opens / Light Snacks

12:00 – 12:30 PM

Ak-Chin Blessing – Dr. Rodriguez

12:30– 1:20 PM Student Performances :

Red Mountain High School JROTC, Mesa Public Schools – Presentation of Colors and National Anthem

Committee Member – Jonathan Chavez

Keller Elementary Folklorico, Mesa Public Schools

Committee Member – Monica Delgado

Huber Middle School's Folklorico group, Douglas Unified School District

Committee Members – Superintendent Samaniego; Ms. Alonso.

1:20 – 1:45 PM Welcome by AZALAS Board President Ana Samaniego

Acknowledgement of Student Artwork Winners

Grades 3rd – 5th Artwork Winner
Alani Rodriguez
5th Grade
Calabasas – Santa Cruz Valley USD
Art Teacher – Luz Andrade

Grades 6th – 8th Artwork Winner
Oliver Hamric
8th Grade
Calabasas – Santa Cruz Valley USD
Art Teacher – Elisabeth Hughes

Grades 9th – 12th Artwork Winner and Overall Winner
Emely Ramirez
11th Grade
Rio Rico High School – Santa Cruz Valley USD
Art Teacher – Miguel Grijalva

Scholarship Recipient Videos:
Christian Martinez, Xavier Burruel-Magallanez

November 8, 2026

Sunday

1:45 – 1:55 PM – AZALAS Partner Recognition

AZALAS Signature Sponsor Address

Mr. Bill Maas, Valley Schools Management Group

1:55 – 2:45 PM – Keynote Speaker Introduction and Address

Keynote Speaker: Congresswoman Adelita Grijalva

2:45 – 3:00 PM – Break *(15 minutes)*

Visit Partner Booths



November 8, 2026

Sunday

Breakout Session 1

3:00 - 3:50

B3 – Beyond Discipline: Building Trusting School Communities Where Every Student Can R.I.S.E. to Excellence ***(HERRERA)***

B4 – Breaking Barriers: Dual Language, English Learners, and Cultural Literacy Through Strategic Curriculum ***(BENAVIDES)***

B5 – From First Contact to Lasting Trust: Building Stronger School Partnerships with Latino Families ***(FREEMAN)***

B6 – From Classroom to Cabinet ***(LOBATO)***

M1 – Leadership Without the Title ***(DE LA REE)***

M2 – The Rural Superintendency – A Leadership Journey ***(BACHICHA)***

M3 – Using Virtual Reality to Build Science Engagement, Inquiry, and Future-Ready Skills ***(PEARSON)***

November 8, 2026

Sunday

Breakout Session 2

4:00 - 4:50

B3 – From Potential to Leadership: How Do We Build Up Emerging Leaders? *(LAGUNAS-KUAUHTLI)*

B4 – Did or Would? **The Question that Changes the Conversation** *(RODRIGUEZ)*

B5 – My Student is Struggling: What Every Educator Should Know About Special Education. *(CHAPMAN)*

B6 – Mentorship: Sin Miedo. Leading our future Latinx Leaders to Excellence! *(MARTINEZ)*

M1 – Pacing AI in Education: Protecting Students' Creativity and Preventing AI Abuse *(KUMAR)*

M2 – Blueprints for Success: Designing Your Career Path *(DOMINGUEZ-MUSIL)*

M3 – From Connections to Collective Impact: Building a Regional Collaborative for English Learner Leaders *(LARSON)*

Sunday
November 8, 2026

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4:50 – 6:00 PM Reception

Hors D'Oeuvres
Street corn, coconut shrimp, tomato bruschetta on baguette and smoked salmon rosette

Visit Partner Booths
"Time Available for Hotel Check-In"

6:00 – 6:15 PM Convene for Dinner

6:15 – 6:45 PM Dinner, Scholarship Videos, and Awards

Scholarship Recipient Videos
Liliana Miranda Gonzalez, Riley Amarillas

Awards:

Aspiring Leaders of Tomorrow Award
Cassandra Lockard - Littleton ESD

Outstanding Governing Board Member
Edgar Bustamante - Sunnyside USD

2026 Scholarship Winners

Ben Barcon Scholarship
Jimmy Navarro - Santa Cruz Valley USD

Valley Schools Management Group
Gabriel Gamino Guerrero - Glendale Union HSD

Dr. Alejandro Perez Scholarship
Jose Esteban Ruiz - Mesa Public Schools

AZALAS Partner/Sponsor Recognition 1

6:45 - 7:35 PM Keynote Speaker Introduction and Address
Keynote Speaker - Ernie G

7:35 – 7:45 PM
Wheel of Names

7:45 - 9:30
Networking Event – Lobby Area

Musical Entertainment: Big Apple Events (DJ)

Monday

November 9, 2026

7:00 AM

Registration

7:30 – 8:30

Breakfast

7:50 – 8:10 AM Student Performance:

- Mariachi Aztlan de Pueblo High School, Tucson Unified School District

  Committee Member Principal Karla Martinez

- Mariachi Los Tigres de Tolleson

  Committee Member: Ms. Christina Boston and Principal Martin Perez

8:10 – 8:25 AM Welcome

Scholarship Recipient Videos

Diego Baca, Mariangel Armenta

Special Recognition Award

Monday

November 9, 2026

8:25 – 9:00 AM Awards and Recognition

- AZALAS Partner Recognition 2
- Administrator of the Year Award

  Dr. Melisa Lunderville – Santa Cruz Valley USD
- De Todo Corazón Awards

  Megan Duplain – Tolleson Elementary SD

  Miranda Salazar – Sunnyside USD

  Dr. Angela Palacios – Phoenix UHSD

9:00 – 9:50 AM Keynote Speaker Introduction and Address

Keynote Speaker: Anthony Robles

9:50 – 10:00 AM Break

Visit Partner Booths

November 9, 2026

Monday

Breakout Session 3

10:00 -10:50

B3 – Leading Through Uncertainty: How Arizona's Top Voices Navigate Prop 320, Vouchers, and Accountability ***(GARCIA)***

B4 – The Bell Hasn't Rung. Why Wait to Coach? ***(CORDOVA)***

B5 – Leading and Rising Together – Find Your Voice, Ensure Their Future, Become Unstoppable! ***(MANN)***

B6 – De Allá Vengo y Para Allá Voy: Building Leadership Efficacy Through Your Story ***(LOPEZ)***

M1 – Beyond the Cafeteria: How Foodservice Can Help Build Healthier Students and Thriving School Communities ***(NUZZI)***

M2 – Navigating Budget Reductions Through Community Learning Exchanges ***(DE ALBA)***

M3 – Beyond the Tool: Building Math, Language, and Biliteracy Through Intentional Scaffolds ***(GONZALEZ)***

November 9, 2026

Monday

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Breakout Session 4

11:00 - 11:50

B3 – You Already Have the Time: Unlocking Latino Brilliance Beyond the Classroom **(SEALE)**

B4 – The State of English Learners in Arizona: What the Data Makes Visible for Leaders **(TEYECHEA)**

B5 – **Student Voice is Not Enough:** Cultivating Learner Agency **(PERU)**

B6 – Equity, Inclusion, and School Climate: Supporting LGBTQ+ Students and Disrupting Microaggressions in Schools **(CONTRERAS)**

M1 – Promising Practices: A Four-Year Journey from Student Need to Sustainable Instructional Practice **(ROJAS)**

M2 – A Leader's Playbook: The Leadership Behaviors That Change Everything **(CAMPBELL)**

Monday

November 9, 2026

12:00 – 12:30 PM
Lunch

Miami USD CTE Scholarship Recipients

12:30 - 12:45 PM
Videos of Scholarship winners
Alia Hernandez, Valeria Guerrero Torres, Anelisa Madero, Alma Avila Rodriguez, Hilaria Burruel

12:45 - 1:25 PM Superintendent Panel

Thea Andrade - Phoenix Union High School District
Tim Brienza - Yuma Union High School District
Jay Mann - Creighton Elementary School District
Cindy Segotta Jones – Glendale Elementary School District

1:25 - 2:00 PM

Scholarship Recipient Videos
Camila Bassoco, Swan Galvez

AZALAS Partner Recognition 3

Awards

Superintendent of the Year
Mark Yslas - Agua Fria UHSD

Lifetime Achievement Award
Dr. David A. Santellanes

2:00 - 2:30 PM

Address by Mr. Ulysses Navarrete, ALAS Executive Director

Scholarship Recipient Videos
Ivana Miranda, Giosue Hickman

Closing Remarks by AZALAS Board President Ana Samaniego

Closing Remarks by Co-chairs

Prizes

Adjourn

Thank You

2026 Conference Planning Committee

CO-CHAIRS:

Dr. Rosalinda Rodriguez - Cartwright School District

Mario Castro - Sunnyside Unified School District

Adriana Alvarado – Parsons, Glendale ESD
Albert Magallanes – Sunnyside USD
Alfred Battu – Nogales USD
Ana Samaniego – Douglas USD
Aneela Pradhan – Nogales USD
Anthony Fimbres – Douglas USD
Carlos Castro – Glendale ESD
Christina Boston – Tolleson UHSD
Clara Goulette – Saddle Mountain USD
Dagoberto Lopez – Santa Cruz Valley USD
Dan Budzban – Littleton ESD
Daniella Granillo Gonzalez – Alhambra ESD
Deanna Cuevas – Continental ESD
Deedrick Martinez – Mesa Public SD
Desiree Freeman - Roosevelt ESD
Dr. Delphina Joyce Avila – JOY
Efrain Orona Filerio – Tolleson UHSD
Erika Fragozo – Nosotros Academy
Ernesto Tostado – Tolleson UHSD
Felipe Carranza – Osborn SD
Gabriel Gamino - Glendale Union HSD
Gisselle Herrera – Tolleson ESD
Gloria Sanchez McDowell, MPA – Buckeye ESD
Hector Estrada – Mesa Public SD
Jason Archuleta – Imagine Desert West
Javier Baca - Pima County
Jesus Perez – Nosotros Academy
Jigar Mehta – Nogales USD
Jimmy Navarro – Santa Cruz Valley USD
Joanne Fimbres - Tolleson ESD
Jonathan Chavez – Santa Cruz Valley USD
Jorge Moreno - Tolleson Union HSD
Joseph Ortiz – Tolleson USD
Julio Rubio - Phoenix Union HSD
Karla Escamilla – Tucson USD
Karla Martinez – Tucson USD
Larry Martinez - Retired Administrator
Lorenzo Cabrera - Phoenix Union HSD
Luz Andrade – Santa Cruz Valley USD
Mackenzie Mattoon – Imagine Learning
Marco Ruiz – Cartwright SD
Maria Federico Brummer – Tucson USD
Marisa Salcido – Tucson USD
Marisela Felix – Sunnyside USD
Martha Alonso – Douglas USD
Martin Perez – Tolleson UHSD
Michelle Cota – Santa Cruz Valley USD
Mimi Renteria – Santa Cruz Valley USD
Monica Delgado – Santa Cruz Valley USD
Monica Martinez – Chasse
Nisha Wallace – AZALAS & CECC
Ondrea Estrada – Douglas USD
Ramiro Alvarez - Pendergast ESD
Robert Zamora - Agua Fria Union HSD
Robyann Musil – Littleton ESD
Roxana Rico - Continental SD
Santosh Kumar – Nogales USD
Sheila Berger – IXL
Tania Barojas – Santa Cruz Valley USD
Vanessa Alegria-Rivas – Santa Cruz Valley USD
Victor Hugo Rodriguez – Cartwright ESD

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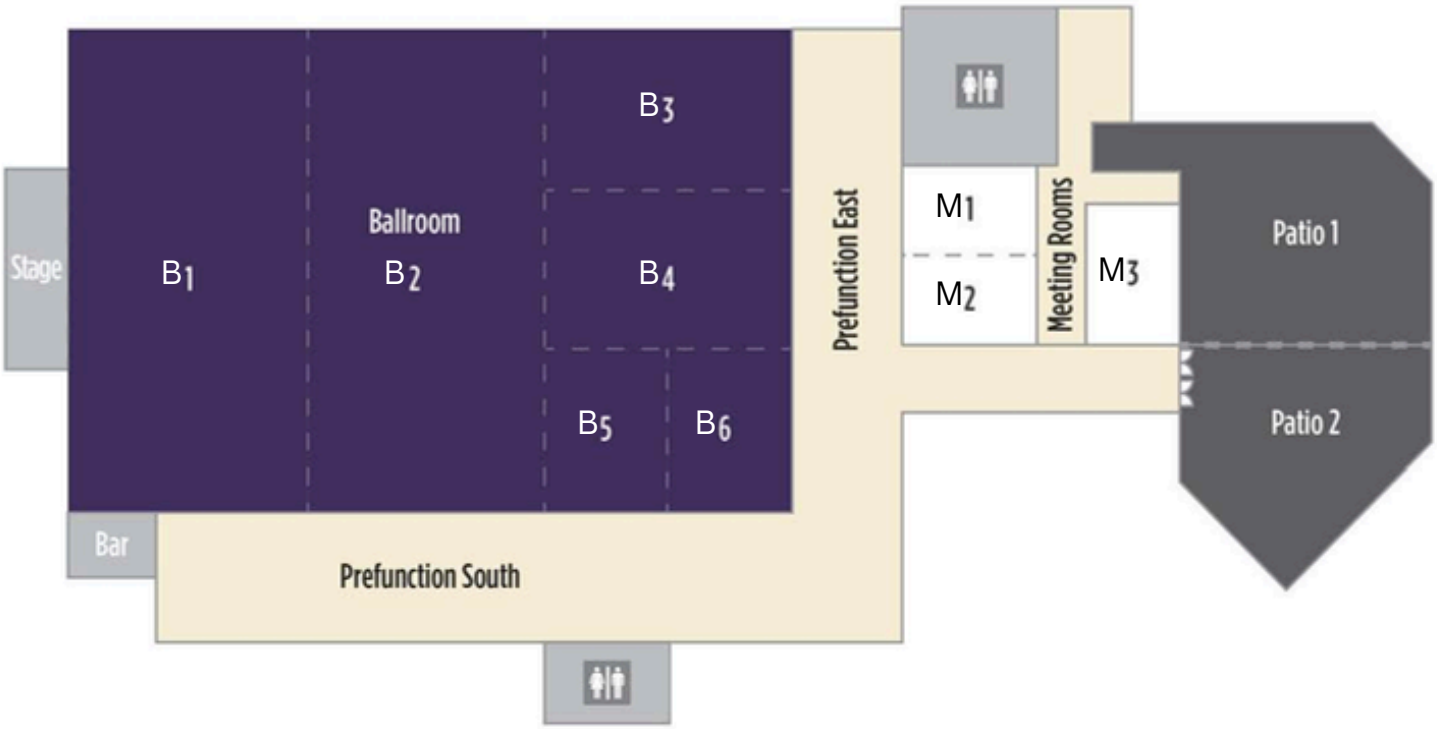
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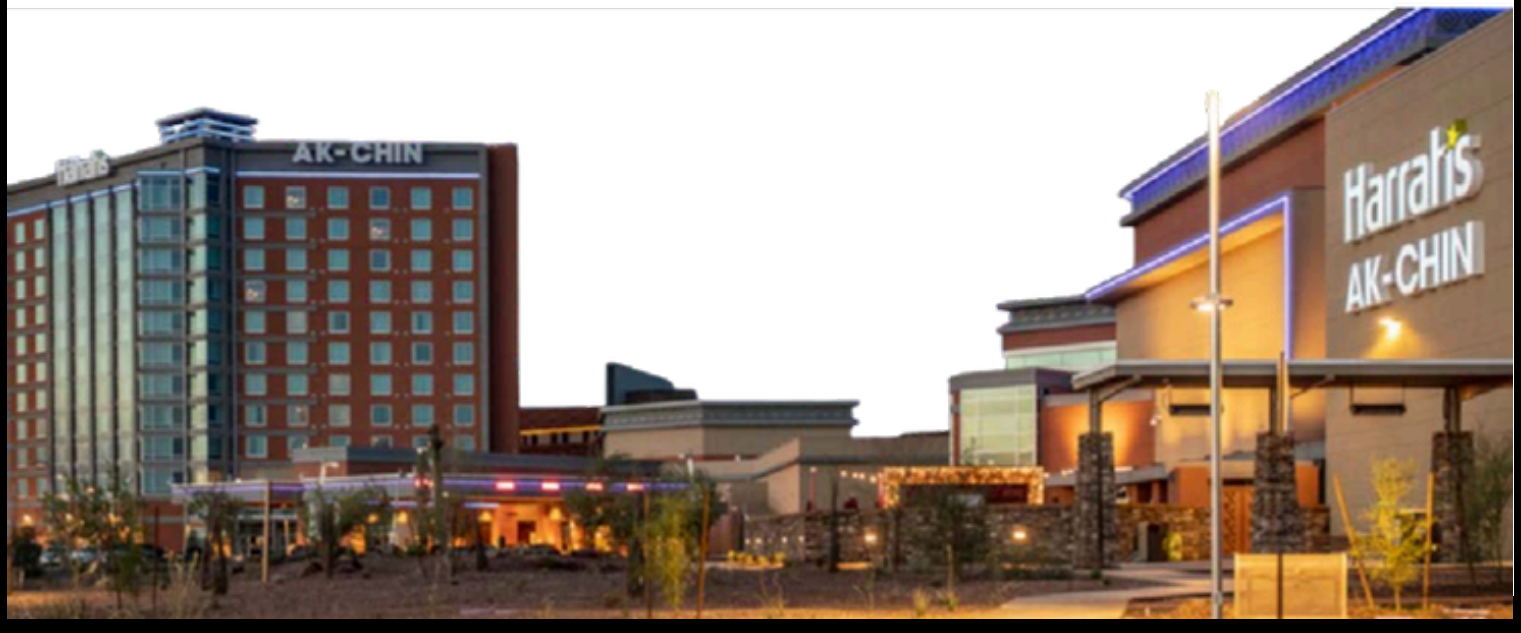
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Thank You

Together, We Are Unstoppable

To our attendees, speakers, partners, and sponsors:
Thank you for being part of the AZALAS Annual Conference. Your voices, ideas, and generosity made this gathering a meaningful opportunity to connect, learn, and celebrate our shared commitment to students and communities.
As we leave, may we carry forward the connections we've made and the inspiration we've found supporting one another, elevating our voices, and turning ideas into action.

Our Voice. Our Future. Unstoppable.

See You Next Year!