

# Ethan Orr

*I have a proven and longstanding interest in improving lives and communities through education and applied research.*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Associate Director, Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Economic Development**

### **Associate Professor, Community Innovation and Economic Development**

### **Interim Director, Natural Users Law and Policy Center**

University of Arizona - Arizona Cooperative Extension - August 2020 – Present

- Primary Investigator on over \$84 million in grants
- Worked with key community and industry groups to secure an additional \$116 million in Extension and Agriculture funding from the Arizona State Legislature
- Partnering with 91 cities and 15 counties to understand and solve local community issues regarding economic development, agriculture, and natural resource use
- Providing leadership and oversight to all Extension Agriculture and National Resources programming and faculty
- Established Statewide Agriculture Apprenticeship Program in coordination with industry with over 100 apprentices, almost 90% of which are women or BIPOC
- Expanded resources for agriculture production, including Mesonet, Livestock, Viticulture and forest management
- Created \$63 million statewide irrigation efficiency program with a projected goal of conserving over 80,000 water acre feet (waf)
- Organized water and agricultural educational programming for over 100,000 students and over 5,000 adult learners across Arizona, including Master Gardeners, Project WET and Agriculture Literacy
- Increased state baseline funding for Cooperative Extension by 102%

### **Assistant Vice President for Government Affairs and Community Partnerships**

University of Arizona – February 2015 – August 2020

- Successfully lobbied to increase financial support for the University of Arizona from County Governments, including an increase in funding from 80% of the County Governments in Arizona
- Worked to secure eight million dollars in new state funding to create the UA College of Veterinary Medicine
- Built articulated pathways and technical training programs for K-12 schools with the business community
- Promoted University of Arizona Programs to city, tribal, state, and federal lawmakers
- Established strong relationships with elected, business and community leaders at the local, state, and federal level
- Worked with alumni, corporate leaders, and donors to build advocacy networks in support of Cooperative Extension
- Created strong partnerships between colleges and external partners
- Partnered with K-12 schools to establish effective recruitment programs in minority districts

### **Arizona State Representative – District 9 (Pima County)**

Arizona State House of Representatives - January 2013 – January 2015

- Served as the Vice-Chairman of the Higher Education Committee, and as a member of the Judiciary and Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committees
- Increased university and technical education program funding by over \$55 million annually, including funding the Phoenix Biomedical Campus and increasing baseline funding for Cooperative Extension by 32.7%, \$3.5 million annually
- Created new incentives and rewrote industrial liability laws to help establish the Commercial Space industry in Arizona
- Instrumental in passing numerous laws including \$1.5 Billion expansion of Medicare/Medicaid, addressing human trafficking, and creating the Mental Health First Aid Program

### **Chief Executive Officer, Simply Clean and Green - May 2014 – December 2017**

- Built a successful work-based reentry program supervising over 250 ex-offenders in finding educational training and employment
- Established a comprehensive recovery program focused on human wellness and mental health
- Created effective diversity and inclusion programs for ex-offenders, people of color, and people with disabilities

### **Executive Director, Linkages of Arizona - February 2004 - May 2014**

- Increased the number of people with disabilities finding employment by over 1200% to over 1200 people annually
- Started multiple new workforce development programs serving traditionally underserved populations, including building industry funded training centers and programs in every part of the state
- Created effective partnerships with over 300 businesses and over 30 non-profits to serve residents in over 70 communities
- Secured new funding sources and donors to fund project development and statewide expansion, increasing funding by over 500%
- Developed, in conjunction with stakeholders, a comprehensive statewide vision to establish equity and social impact
- Transformed organizational culture and process to dramatically improve employee morale and productivity
- Oversaw all administration, fiscal management, and organizational development

### **Director of Commercial Revitalization and Empowerment Zone Administrator,**

**City of Tucson – October 2000 – January 2004**

- Earned recognition as the best-run Empowerment Zone in the nation from the Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Coordinated with the Chambers of Commerce to create housing, training, and educational programs
- Developed county wide strategic initiatives combining workforce, economic and community development programs
- Created effective financing program by combining local business funds with SBA programs, helping to create hundreds of jobs
- Worked with community leaders to address issues ranging from addiction and poverty to neighborhood beatification

- Developed and implemented over \$500 million in tax, housing, and financial incentives which helped revitalize downtown Tucson

**City Council Aide, Ward 2, City of Tucson – December 1999 – September 2000**

- Worked closely with community leaders to set city wide budget and policy priorities
- Coordinated outreach efforts to community organizations and stakeholder groups
- Identified and addressed emerging demographic and community issues, including crime, water, housing, and wellness

**Director of Economic and Community Development, City of South Tucson**

*December 1996 – December 1999*

- Worked with the business and community leaders to combine state and federal funding to create a law enforcement programs and the development of a nationally recognized housing program which built over 100 homes in conjunction with USDA funding
- Coordinated all business and community outreach efforts for the city including administering the business loan fund
- Established successful public/private partnerships to provide community services
- Supervised grants, contracts, building inspection and city business loan fund
- Negotiated first de-annexation/annexation deal in state history
- Facilitated large scale commercial development and business recruitment
- Oversaw large public events including the annual Norteno Festival with over 100 volunteers and attended by over 10,000 people

## EDUCATION

▪ Doctorate in Behavioral Health	Arizona State University	2021
▪ Master of Public Administration	University of Arizona	2000
▪ Bachelor of Arts (History & Political Science)	University of Arizona	1997
▪ Executive Program for Non-Profit Leaders	Stanford Graduate School of Business	2008

## ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of Arizona, School of Government and Public Policy**

*January 2003 – Present*

- Taught over 100 classes for the University of Arizona School of Government

### **Interim Executive Director, Natural Users Law and Policy Center, University of Arizona**

*August 2023 - Present*

- Working jointly with the College of Law and the College of Agriculture to create natural resource policy recommendations and education

### **Interim County Director, Santa Cruz County Cooperative Extension, University of Arizona**

*May 2021 – August 2023*

- Created a comprehensive trans-border economic development strategy
- Worked with USDA and Santa Cruz County to secure over \$1.5 million in additional funding for Family Resources Centers and the Castro House education center

### **Interim County Director, Pima County Cooperative Extension, University of Arizona**

*December 2019 - August 2020*

- Strengthened the relationship with community leaders to increase county funding by over 100%
- Expanded the Master Gardener program in rural and retirement communities
- Created 4-H fabrication lab with STEM based curriculum

### **Freelance Journalist and Editorial Writer, Inside Tucson Business, BizTucson and the Arizona Daily Star - January 2002 – Present**

Written over 100 articles focused on economic development, entrepreneurship, and innovation

## CURRENT RESEARCH AND GRANTS

On-Farm Water Irrigation Efficiency	Arizona Governor's Office	\$ 30,000,000.00
On-Farm Water Irrigation Efficiency	Arizona Legislature	\$ 15,200,000.00
Food Systems Business Center	USDA	\$ 35,000,000.00
Supporting Arizona's Farmers	USDA Farm Service Administration	\$ 79,616.00
Using STEM based education to enhance groundwater conservation in Maricopa County Schools	AZ Department of Water Resources	\$ 195,855.00
Forest Health Education	AZ Dept of Forestry and Fire Management	\$ 12,000.00
Arizona Agriculture Apprenticeship Program	State of Arizona	\$ 2,000,000.00
Arizona Project WET, youth education program	AZ Department of Water Resources	\$ 144,100.00
Using STEM based education to enhance groundwater conservation in Pinal County Schools	AZ Department of Water Resources	\$ 43,681.00
Flagstaff Water Education Program	City of Flagstaff	\$ 75,000.00
Lake Havasu Water Festival	Lake Havasu City	\$ 14,000.00
Goodyear Water Festival	City of Goodyear	\$ 6,942.00
IGA between City of Tucson and AZ Project WET	City of Tucson	\$ 756,000.00
IGA between City of Phoenix and AZ Project WET	City of Phoenix	\$ 500,000.00
City of Avondale Educational Outreach Program	City of Avondale	\$ 200,000.00
City of Peoria Educational Outreach Program	City of Peoria	\$ 53,800.74

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- **Cooperative Extension Western Program and Organizational Leadership Committee**  
Arizona Extension Representative, August 2021 – Present
- **Agriculture Best Practices Committee, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality**  
University of Arizona Representative, August 2020 - Present
- **Arizona Integrated Pest Management Steering Committee**  
University of Arizona Representative, August 2020 – Present

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

- **Community Foundation of Southern Arizona**  
Board Member, Chair of the Community Investment Committee, May 2014 - Present
- **Tucson Unified School District, Budget Advisory Committee**  
Board Member, June 2021 - Present
- **Felishia's Farm**  
Tucson Based Non-Profit focused on food security issues  
Board Member, June 2019-Present
- **Asian Corporate and Entrepreneur Leaders**  
Campus and faculty mentor, August 2021 - Present
- **Pima County/Tucson Arts Foundation**  
Board Member, June 2019 – June 2021
- **Boy Scouts of America, Catalina Council**  
Board Member, 2010-2016
- **Arizona Commission on Housing and Homelessness**  
Southern Arizona Representative 2006-2012

## HONORS & AWARDS

Shirley O'Brien Diversity Award	University of Arizona	2023
National Finalist, Agriculture Education	National Assoc. of Agriculture Agents	2022
Community Leader of the Year	Pima County JTED	2014
National Legislator of the Year	Grey2KUSA	2014
Top Ten Tech Legislator	Arizona Technology Council	2014
Advocate of the Year	AZ Tech Education Districts	2014
Legislator of the Year	AZ Community Health Centers	2013
Harriot Tubman Award	AZ Black Healthcare Workers	2013
Legislator of the Year	AZ Music Educators	2013
Tucson Up and Comer	Inside Tucson Business	2006
40 under 40 Award	Tucson Newspapers	2006
Stellar Award for Innovation	City of Tucson	2002
Team Leader of the Year	City of Tucson	2002
Charles Essar Award	AZ City Managers Association	2000