



Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Arizona appoints Kennedy as executive director



The Board of Directors for Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Arizona (BGCCAZ) this past week unanimously appointed Nicole Kennedy as executive director. (Blushing/Courtesy)

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The Board of Directors for Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Arizona (BGCCAZ) this past week unanimously appointed Nicole Kennedy as executive director, effective immediately.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Arizona offers affordable after-school and summer programs for youth ages 6 to 18 in Prescott and Prescott Valley.

The Clubs also service an older demographic with the Chino Valley Teen Center. Its award-winning programs are designed to change the lives of young people across four key areas: fun with a purpose; academic success; good character and citizenship; and healthy choices.

Immersed in that mission, Kennedy has served as vice president of development since 2015 and has been actively engaged with the 16-member board, which in 2018 was honored for superlative leadership by Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

That recognition came in the form of a 2018 League of Eagles Silver Award, earned by fewer than 15% of the 1,100 branches of the non-profit organization established 160 years ago.

During her tenure with BGCCAZ, Kennedy has spearheaded the organization's capital campaign. She has also been a driving force behind the highly successful Dancing for the Stars (DFTS) fundraiser since introducing the concept to Central Arizona three years ago.

The event has grown to become a significant contributor to the Club's youth programs. Under Kennedy's leadership as the interim executive director, she emphasized completing existing projects, including the new Fain Family Gym in Prescott Valley, other funding initiatives through the capital campaign, as well as preparations for the 2019-20 Dancing for the Stars event, and enhanced programs supporting area youth.

"I feel blessed to work for a mission that is all about the future of our community," Kennedy said. "It's a joy to work with a dedicated and talented team of people who are equally as passionate about serving our local youth and families. With the commitment of our board and staff, I look forward to developing deeper program opportunities and partnering with champions in our community to make the Boys & Girls Clubs the best it can be."

The board “is an amazing group of dedicated professionals whose primary goal is to provide a program-rich environment for the kids in our community,” said board president and City of Prescott Recreation Services Director Joe Baynes. “With Nicole at the helm, we should accomplish our future goals with ease.”

In addition to Baynes, the board consists of:

Linda Thein, community leader; Donna Werking, owner of Northern AZ Social, LLC; Michael Kouvelas, owner of the Hassayampa Inn; Alex Vakula, Attorney at Vakula Law Firm; Elena Sanwick, Realtor with Luxury Prescott Real Estate; Drew Diener, Associate at Musgrove, Drutz, Kack & Flack PC; Steve Schott, financial advisor at Tomlinson Wealth Management; Travis Stedman, owner of Arizona Seamless Gutters; Tom Toth, community leader; Matt Holdsworth, chief financial officer of Crossfit, Inc.; John Dunkel, vice president and financial consultant with Charles Schwab; Leza Lachapelle Dandos, radio personality at Great Circle Media; Cheryl Rolland, Country Bank; Judd Simmons, Yavapai County Assessor; and Mackenzie Rodgers, APS.

Information provided by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Arizona.

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