

STRONGER TOGETHER: COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

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Ms. Kaaren-Lyn Graves is the Executive Director of the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's - Capital Readiness Program. In her role she oversees business development services for business owners located throughout the nation.

Ms. Graves has proudly served in the public and private sectors for more than thirty (30) years. She remains passionate about helping entrepreneurs and business owners alike grow their business through education, timely resources, and proven consulting services.

Ms. Graves is a natural and respected leader with a robust background working in political environments, including serving as the Project Manager and Data Content Manager on a high-profile program for a former Arizona Governor's initiative.



Kaaren-Lyn Graves

**Executive Director
AZHCC's Capital
Readiness Program**

Steven brings more than 20 years of experience in economic development, with a primary focus on small business growth and workforce development. He specializes in guiding businesses through the complexities of government contracting—helping them become procurement-ready and competitive.

Steven's expertise includes preparing firms to successfully pursue and participate in contracting opportunities with federal and local government agencies.

He currently serves as part of the Arizona APEX Accelerator Program hosted by the Maricopa County Community College District, where he supports businesses in navigating and succeeding in the public procurement marketplace.



Steven Cardenas
Government Contracting
Arizona APEX
Accelerator Program

Dr. Velma Trayham is a best-selling author, business consultant, keynote speaker, and economic empowerment specialist who believes that inclusive, equitable businesses and communities create opportunities and drive prosperity.

As the CEO of the Black Chamber of Arizona, Dr. Trayham has spearheaded numerous initiatives around the country aimed at strengthening Black businesses and fostering economic growth. Her leadership drives the Chamber's mission to close the racial wealth gap, mitigate poverty, and promote innovation, job creation, and wealth building within the Black community.

Her commitment to excellence and unwavering dedication to her community have earned her numerous accolades and recognition. Dr. Trayham continues to inspire and lead by example, fostering a culture of collaboration, resilience, and success.



Dr. Velma Trayham
President & CEO
Black Chamber of
Arizona

Ricardo is in his 21st year working for and on behalf of the Minority, Women, Small, Veteran and Disadvantaged Contractors and affiliate companies throughout the State of Arizona. Ricardo has been vocal and involved in legislative issues that impact the business climate here in Arizona and throughout the Nation.

In his career, Ricardo has ensured that diverse contractor inclusion was top-of-mind with owners and builders for major public works projects across the State. He has connected small businesses to resources, information and opportunities which assists these businesses to thrive and grow.

Ricardo is a great supporter of education and has implemented programs to assist Contractors and their staff to grow and be successful.



Ricardo Carlo
President
Associated Minority
Contractors of Arizona



Kaaren-Lyn Graves
Executive Director
AZHCC's Capital
Readiness Program



Steven Cardenas
Specialist
Arizona APEX
Accelerator Program



Dr. Velma Trayham
President & CEO
Black Chamber of
Arizona



Ricardo Carlo
President
Associated Minority
Contractors of Arizona



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