

HELIOS EDUCATION FOUNDATION - MANAGEMENT BIOS

Paul J. Luna is president and chief executive officer of Helios Education Foundation. He brings more than 22 years public and private professional experience to his leadership role with the Foundation. As President/CEO, Mr. Luna is responsible for guiding the strategic direction of the growing organization, cultivating strong community relationships and initiating strategic partnerships in Arizona and Florida for the Foundation. Prior to his role at Helios, Mr. Luna served as president of Valley of the Sun United Way where he led an organizational transformation and community-wide fundraising effort approaching \$50 million. Under his presidency, Valley of the Sun United Way was consistently recognized as a leader across the United Way system with model early childhood education, youth workforce development and domestic violence intervention community initiatives. Mr. Luna has nearly 10 years corporate experience in sales and marketing with Pepsi Cola and IBM. He currently serves on the Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board, the Governor's P-20 Education Council, the Arizona STEM Advisory Council, and the Greater Phoenix Economic Council. A graduate of Stanford University, Mr. Luna holds a degree in Civil Engineering. He resides in Phoenix, Arizona with his wife Gema, and their two children, Paul Nicolas "Nico" and Ariana Maria.

Tammi Crum brings nearly 15 years of corporate and non-profit experience to her position as executive assistant with Helios Education Foundation. Ms. Crum provides daily support to the president and the Foundation's seven-member board of directors. Prior to joining the Helios team, Ms. Crum was executive assistant to the president at Valley of the Sun United Way where she managed and mentored a team of nine administrative staff. She was also executive assistant to the vice president/general manager for Enterprise Rent-a-Car. Ms. Crum has extensive background in marketing, special events planning and public relations with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Scottsdale, the Arthritis Foundation, Southern Arizona Chapter and Forest City Commercial Management in Tucson, Arizona. Ms. Crum earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Marketing from the University of Arizona.

Barbara Ryan is Helios Education Foundation's executive vice president and chief operating officer. As COO, she provides strategic direction to the Foundation, overseeing internal operations in addition to fostering external community and stakeholder relations. Prior to joining Helios, Ms. Ryan served six years with Southwest Student Services Corporation first as vice president and then as senior vice president and general counsel. Her responsibilities included managing all legal and compliance matters for Southwest and its Arizona and Florida affiliates as well as the legal development of the Helios Education Foundation following the sale of Southwest. Ms. Ryan was also previously an attorney in private practice at Snell & Wilmer, LLP, where she represented a number of corporate and public clients. Ms. Ryan received her J.D. degree from Syracuse University College of Law and a M.P.A. degree from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University.

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Michael Chesin is senior vice president and chief financial officer for Helios Education Foundation. Mr. Chesin provides financial management and oversight to the organization's endowment. As part of the senior management team, he helps guide organizational strategy and shares human resource management responsibilities. Prior to the Foundation, Mr. Chesin was controller and assistant treasurer for Southwest Student Services Corporation, a \$5.3 billion student loan and financial services company. His professional background also includes financial and accounting manager roles with The Circle K Corporation as well as with national Certified Accounting Firms. A Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Mr. Chesin has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Arizona.

Ian Smith is senior vice president and chief communications officer for Helios Education Foundation. Mr. Smith provides strategic brand, marketing and public relations leadership to the Foundation. As the most senior-level representative for Helios in Florida, he manages the Tampa office and is responsible for statewide community relations. Mr. Smith brings more than 13 years of professional television, print media, public relations and corporate communications experience to Helios. A former news producer, and an Accredited Public Relations Counselor (APR) and Certified Public Relations Counselor (CPRC), his professional experience includes serving as the communications director for the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, director of public affairs for the Florida Home Builders Association, and deputy director of communications for the Florida Department of Community Affairs. Mr. Smith earned his Master of Arts degree in English from Florida State University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Journalism from Florida A&M University.

Karen J. Ortiz brings more than 22 years academic and professional experience in early childhood education to her role as vice president and director of Arizona early childhood education. A former early childhood policy advisor to Arizona's Governor Janet Napolitano and director of the State Board of School Readiness, Ms. Ortiz has helped lead statewide initiatives impacting children, ages 0-5, and their families. She is a part-time adjunct instructor in early childhood professional development with Central Arizona College.

Additional professional experience includes being a senior program associate for Children's Action Alliance, an advocacy, research and education organization focused on early childhood and family issues. She is also one of the founders and the former executive vice president of DependentCare Network, Inc., a company offering child and elder care benefits, a network of child care providers, and a sick care program to employees of contracted corporations nationwide. A former elementary school nurse and substitute teacher, Ms. Ortiz has practical experience within school district and classroom settings. She holds a Masters degree in Education, with an Early Childhood focus, and Undergraduate degrees in business and nursing. Ms. Ortiz is currently completing her Doctoral degree in the area of Early Childhood Education and Policy at Arizona State University.

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Stacy Carlson comes to Helios Education Foundation with expertise and leadership in education policy and advocacy. She brings close to 10 years of experience in foundation development and capacity building to her role as vice president and director of transition years. As the former executive director of the statewide, member-based organization the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations, Stacy spearheaded the group's legislative and funding initiatives, advocated for education policy and helped member foundations build organizational capacity.

Stacy once served as a non-profit management and fundraising consultant and also as the Assistant Director of Development at Tufts University. She has also worked as Development Director of Communities in Schools at Hillsborough Education Foundation. Stacy is a doctoral candidate in Educational Leadership at the University of Florida and holds a master of education from Harvard University. She also holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of South Florida.

Linda A. Thompson comes to Helios Education Foundation with expertise and extensive experience in developing, implementing and administering grants programs. In addition, she brings over 20 years of experience in nonprofit management to her role as vice president and director of grants administration. Most recently with Valley of the Sun United Way, Linda led a team that redesigned that organization's investment policies and processes. As a member of the United Way of America's Strategies and Metrics Pilot Project, she also created standardized outcome measurement process aligned to broader national goals.

Ms. Thompson's career in the nonprofit arena began in the area of women and children's health. After working with the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, she transitioned to the Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics where she designed and implemented a statewide, school-linked, volunteer health care provider network for uninsured children. Linda has held executive director positions in the Phoenix area at organizations related to children and children's health. She holds a Bachelor of Science and a Masters of Health Service Administration, both from Arizona State University.

Jo Anne Vasquez's commitment to education and her expertise in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields has earned her nationwide recognition and the respect of her peers. Jo Anne now brings her expertise and vast experiences to Helios Education Foundation as vice president and director for Arizona transition years, Teacher and Curriculum Initiatives.

Jo Anne is a graduate of Northern Arizona University where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Biology, her Masters degree in Early Childhood Education and her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction. Her professional experience includes teaching at various grade levels, working as an adjunct professor of Science Education at Arizona State University and serving as director of professional development and outreach for the Center for Research on Education in Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Technology (CRESMET) at Arizona State University.

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Antonia O. Franco brings more than 12 years experience to her role with Helios Education Foundation as Vice President and Program Director of Arizona Transition Years – Students, Parents and Community Initiatives. Her experience includes work at Arizona State University (ASU) in K-12 outreach, recruitment, retention, and parent and community involvement.

Previously Antonia served as the director of the Access ASU Initiative in the Office of the Vice President for University Student Initiatives. Antonia also has served as executive coordinator of the Multicultural Student Center, overseeing student retention efforts and as the director of the Hispanic Mother-Daughter Program, a long-standing outreach program that prepares 7th – 12th grade students for college with the support of their mother and family.

Antonia is currently a Doctoral candidate in Educational Administration and Supervision with the Mary Lou Fulton College of Education at Arizona State University. She also holds a Masters Degree in Higher and Postsecondary Education as well as Bachelors degree in Business Administration from Northern Arizona University.