April 15, 2019

TO: CITY COUNCILMEMBERS

FROM: MAYOR JOHN GILES

SUBJECT: Mesa Achieves Higher Education Task Force

The following is an overview and my recommendations for appointments to the Mesa Achieves Higher Education Task Force.

Purpose

The Task Force will be responsible for developing the City of Mesa's Achieve60AZ action plan for the purpose of improving higher education outcomes. Through examination of nationwide programs and best practices, the Task Force will determine the strategies necessary to elevate Mesa's educational attainment. The Task Force will meet monthly throughout 2019 and bring any proposed recommendations to the City Council.

Background

Through Achieve60AZ, Arizona has set an ambitious goal for the State's future. By 2030, the goal is to ensure 60% of Arizona adults, aged 25-64 have at least two years post-high school attainment such as a certificate, license, or degree. This is critical for meeting future business workforce needs.

Task Force Members

The following individuals are being recommended to serve on the Task Force:

Councilmember Francisco Heredia, Co-Chair
Councilmember Jen Duff, Co-Chair
Dr. Richard Haney, Mesa Community College President
Jonathan Schmitt, ASU Assistant Vice President – Educational Outreach & Student Services
Dr. Ember Conley, Mesa Public Schools Superintendent
Elaine Miner, Mesa Public Schools Governing Board President
Dr. Shane McCord, Gilbert Public Schools Superintendent
Vince Yanez, Helios Education Foundation Senior Vice President of Community Engagement
Mike Hutchinson, East Valley Partnership Executive Vice President
Deanna Villanueva-Saucedo, Mesa Community College Community Engagement Director
Jaye O'Donnell, City of Mesa Assistant Economic Development Director

Fiscal Impact

Creation of this Task Force has no fiscal impact on the City of Mesa. Any fiscal recommendations proposed by the Task Force will be brought to the City Council for consideration.