

PHOENIX MAGAZINE

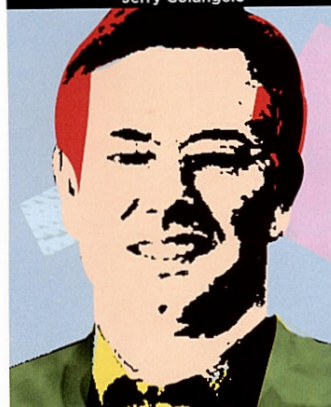
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Jerry Colangelo



Kyrsten Sinema



Bill Montgomery



Ann Siner



Jan Brewer



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Caution: Change Ahead

Now that the election dust has settled, we've asked some of the most influential people in the Valley to give us their New Year's resolutions for Arizona.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY
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HOPE. CHANGE. They've been the biggest buzzwords of the past couple years, and yet, the only change most of us have seen has been a negative hit to our bank accounts. A sinking housing market, lack of new jobs, a broken education system and illegal immigration woes have plagued Arizona specifically, so when the November elections ramped up, it was no surprise to see candidates run on platforms that vowed to fix these problems and bring us back to prosperity.

Buzzwords aside, what do our leaders have in mind for a better tomorrow?

We decided to find out by asking some of the most influential people in Arizona for their New Year's resolutions for the Valley.

We tapped into different fields, including politics, business, philanthropy and law enforcement, and attempted to draw from a variety of political views, from left to right.

We started by speaking with someone who dabbles in multiple arenas - Jerry Colangelo - but the rest of our participants presented their resolutions in their own words, which were edited only for grammar, style and length.

Jerry Colangelo

Best known as the former owner of the Phoenix Suns, Colangelo was selected by Jan Brewer to serve as chairman of the Arizona Commerce Authority.

Jerry Colangelo wears a lot of hats. Former Phoenix Suns owner. Arizona Diamondbacks founder. Valley philanthropist. Heavy hitter for the Phoenix Community Alliance. The list goes on. But lately, it's his position as Republican Governor Jan Brewer's handpicked chair-

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man of the newly minted Arizona Commerce Authority that's getting all the attention.

Colangelo's group is tasked with getting Arizona's economy back on track. At press time, Brewer named Don Cardon, a local real estate developer and former head of the Arizona Department of Commerce, as president and CEO of the new authority, ending a national search. Colangelo says the position will pay about \$300,000 per year based on merit, and that the new hire will help **sell the state to major employers**. "It's gotta be more than just sunshine," Colangelo says.

Colangelo says his New Year's resolution for Phoenix is teamwork. "More than anything, I think the Valley needs a pep talk – one of encouragement, one of looking to the future with hope and the belief that it will take a group effort to change our condition. We are in rehab right now.

"That's really my desire in a goal or message for our community. It takes a team to win, and a team is only as good as the sum of its parts. **We need the private, public, philanthropic, the church communities – we need everyone involved on this team.**"

As for residents, Colangelo's resolution is for them to be more optimistic in 2011. "Don't lose faith," he says. "Don't lose your hope for a bright future. This, too, shall pass."

Jan Brewer

Arizona Governor Brewer was elected in November 2010, defeating her Democratic opponent, Terry Goddard.

I see 2011 as a rising curtain. The stage is set for the Arizona comeback to continue building momentum through economic and personal income growth, an improved educational system, and a more secure border.

But first and foremost, if our state budget is to be balanced, action by Congress and the Obama administration is required.

Arizona's AHCCS [Arizona Health Care Cost and Containment System] program cannot be allowed to grow at the pace the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act now requires – impacting our state budget by \$1 billion in 2012, and \$1.3 billion in 2013. **If federal health care reform remains unchanged, all other programs in state government will be threatened.** So, let's put aside any lingering bitterness, resentment and ill will, and act like Arizonans.

My administration will work in partnership with anyone willing to do the hard and honest work in supporting our efforts to restructure federal health care reform. Meanwhile, we'll push forward with our education reform plan that helps our public education system improve the prospects, not just of

our students but of Arizona's economy.

The New Year will also see Arizona continue its **fight for Senate Bill 1070 and our right to a secure border**, free from the scourge of cartels, violent human smugglers, and common criminals. It will also see a continued respect for the rule of law and a rejection of racial profiling, or any racial discrimination.

So, the New Year is the beginning of a production filled with great promise – with a cast of highly skilled players all across the Arizona spectrum of private citizens, business, education and government. I am honored and privileged to be a part of it. I intend to continue doing the people's business, with honesty and candor, and never breaking faith with the Arizona I love.

Bill Montgomery

Montgomery, a Republican, was former Deputy Maricopa County Attorney before being elected Maricopa County Attorney in November.

My New Year's resolution for 2011 is to serve the citizens and government officials of Maricopa County with the very best legal representation and the highest degree of professionalism and integrity.

My top priorities are **to ensure that justice is served in each and every case**, and to honor the rights of victims of crime. That means holding criminals accountable and keeping violent, repeat offenders off our streets and out of our neighborhoods.

It means **working cooperatively with law enforcement and government agencies** to combat illegal immigration, gang violence, child predators, identity theft and elder abuse. And it means advocating for legislation to protect the families, children and citizens of this great community.

By respecting the rights of all of us to live in safety and security, I hope to **strengthen public confidence in our system** of justice and establish the Maricopa County Attorney's Office as the model for the rest of the nation.

Kyrsten Sinema

Sinema is assistant House Democratic leader and Senator-elect. An Arizona Democrat, she was recently named to Time's "40 under 40" list of rising stars in American politics.

New Year's resolutions aren't easy; in fact, nearly 80 percent of people fail to stick to them. And if that's not enough, Arizona's got to deal with another wrench thrown into the mix – Republicans have complete control of state government. It's like quitting smoking but being unable to break free from the clutches of nicotine.

But Arizona has to start somewhere or these bad habits will continue to get worse.

Hold those in charge accountable. Republicans won the election and now they are in charge of all of state government, no doubt about it. Now, more than ever, Republicans need to be held accountable. And not just by Democrats. This super majority of Republican state lawmakers must be held accountable by all of us – business leaders, voters, the media – because its actions will affect all of us.

Create more jobs. The absolute No. 1 goal for Arizona has to be jobs and the economy. Arizona has been hovering at a nearly 10 percent unemployment rate, and Republicans have laid off thousands of Arizonans. It's time to create more jobs and make sure businesses are able to do that.

Get the economy back on track. Arizona's economy is in the toilet, and the state is \$1.4 billion in debt. Just a few years ago, our economy was booming and Arizona was a good place to live. Now, our state is in more debt than ever and the problem hasn't been solved. Arizona and Phoenix businesses have been closing at an alarming rate. We need to support our small businesses and get the economic engine of Arizona moving again.

Better schools. It's simple: The better our state's education the more it will attract businesses, jobs and revenue. That's something we need in these tough times, and it will serve as an anchor to quickly get us out of this recession, fast and strong.

Get rid of government waste. It's time to close unfair tax loopholes and make sure big corporations and the rich pay their fair share. While the rich enjoy tax breaks on country club memberships and facelifts, middle-class families have to pay taxes on school supplies and clothes.

Secure our borders. SB 1070 highlighted Arizonans' frustrations with the federal government's failure to address the immigration crisis, but it wasn't enough. It doesn't directly go after drug traffickers and human smugglers that hole up in empty houses in our Phoenix neighborhoods. The federal government has to get the job done on securing our border.

Reform private prisons. When three convicted murderers escape from a medium-security private prison and [allegedly] kill a couple in New Mexico, you know there's a security issue. You also know there's a problem when Governor Jan Brewer does nothing about the problem and her closest advisers are private-prison lobbyists. Arizona needs private-prison reform so our streets are safe and we aren't overpaying private prisons that don't do the job.

It's long past time that Arizona makes

good on its New Year's resolutions. Republicans may own the state Capitol, but they don't own the state of Arizona. It belongs to all of us, and we need to get it back on the right track.

Tracey Westerhausen

Westerhausen is Board Chair of Arizona State Parks, which manages and conserves Arizona's state parks and natural attractions.

As the Chair of the Arizona State Parks Board, my first resolution is to **encourage as many people as possible to visit just one state park this year**. Residents and visitors alike in the Phoenix area often don't realize that the enjoyment of a state park is two hours or less away. A morning trip to Tonto Natural Bridge near Payson, for example, offers hiking along a river, wildlife watching, and time for a great lunch in the Rim country.

My second resolution is to **complete my tour of each state park and to bring someone new to the park with me on every visit**. Despite the gloomy financial news, each park still serves as an ambassador for the entire otherwise vibrant system, so that new visitors and returning ones are inspired to donate and volunteer.

Find us by Twitter, Facebook or at AZ-StateParks.com. Let us know what you think and sign up for our newsletter to learn about new programs. I look forward to seeing you at an Arizona state park!

Duane Woods

Woods is the Chairman of the Fiesta Bowl and Senior Vice President for Western US Operations for Waste Management, title sponsor of the Waste Management Phoenix Open, which takes place January 31-February 6.

Let's face it: 2010 was a challenging year for Arizona and the country, and while it will be a long road to full recovery, I see positive signs in our state and feel optimistic about our future as we begin 2011.

Why? Because our state's biggest economic engine, our tourism industry, is about to get a much-needed jump start.

In December, the national spotlight focuses on the Valley of the Sun for the Festival of College Football. It kicks off with the Insight Bowl on December 28, 2010, with the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl on New Year's Night and the Tostitos BCS National Championship Game on January 10, as well as the Fiesta Bowl Parade, Block Party, Band Championship, Aerospace Challenge and other related events throughout the holidays. This is the Fiesta Bowl's 40th anniversary, and the celebration couldn't come at a better time for the state's economy.

Fans and media always focus on the glitz and glitter of sporting events, but the bowl

games also produce some very tangible benefits for Arizonans. The last time the Fiesta Bowl "triple-hosted" three bowl games, in 2006-07, it created \$401.7 million in economic impact, according to an ASU study. When you consider that the Fiesta Bowl is a not-for-profit organization that relies heavily on its 2,500-plus volunteers to bring it all together – well, that's a pretty good bang for the buck.

Throw in another \$200 million from the Waste Management Phoenix Open in early February and we're talking in excess of \$600 million in economic impact in the span of five weeks. Equally important to note, in addition to the boost for tourism, these events generate much-needed money for critical charities throughout the state.

So it is important that **everyone in the state help us leverage these great events**. And while the economic benefits are a great incentive, it is also a great opportunity to help improve the image and perception of Arizona beyond our borders. We expect between 140,000 to 150,000 out-of-state visitors for our three bowl games. It's our job to let them know that it's safe and fun for everyone – and I mean everyone – to come to Arizona.

Gary Dirks

Dirks is Director of LightWorks, an Arizona State University initiative that capitalizes on ASU's strengths in solar energy and other light-inspired research. Dirks is also a professor of practice in the School of Sustainability, and a member of the Global Institute of Sustainability board of trustees.

Here's a New Year's resolution we can keep: **We resolve that Phoenix, Arizona State University and our public and private partners will be among the leaders – not just locally but internationally – in biofuels innovation and production.**

Energy and economic development are two of the biggest challenges we face right now. Some people drive past gas stations and hope for a "return to normal" or "the way things used to be." But the answers to today's problems won't be found in nostalgia-tinged yesterdays. Arizona's future will be built on a foundation of her existing strengths and the innovations they foster.

We need a future built on sustainable economic development, jobs and industries that are inextricably linked to an essential Arizona resource. If we want jobs, we can't rely only on luring businesses from out of state, businesses that chase the best deals, businesses that will pack up and leave at the first sign of a better incentive package elsewhere.

We have a virtually inexhaustible supply of solar energy spread across more than 330

sunny days every year. Arizona's economy was built on the five Cs: copper, cattle, cotton, citrus and climate. While the first four are increasingly becoming less important, Arizona's climate remains an asset few others can match.

Combine that with 30-plus years of ASU research into algae and algal biofuels, the recent \$4 million investment in the Arizona Center for Algae Technology and Innovation, the Department of Energy's investment in ASU cyanobacteria research, and cutting-edge work on fuels from sunlight, and there are few places in the world as well prepared as Arizona to lead our nation toward energy security and create a powerful, home-grown engine for economic development in our state.

Ann Siner

Siner is the CEO and founder of My Sister's Closet, My Sister's Attic and Well Suited. She is also a board member of the Arizona Humane Society.

Phoenix could become the country's first "no-kill" city. This means dogs and cats are adopted rather than euthanized. Consider that 50,000 sets of eyes locked behind bars died in 2010. Phoenix has seen the rate of animals euthanized decrease over the last two decades. Dr. Rodrigo Silva's innovative program for free spay/neuters has reduced the number of unwanted animals in Maricopa County. We have a long way to go, but every animal sterilized means fewer are needlessly killed.

[Phoenix-based] PetSmart Charities plans to launch a program in conjunction with local rescue groups to get the word out to every Phoenician about spay/neuter [practices]. People who allow their pets to breed for the novelty of it should be ashamed. Their litter of puppies or kittens means a death sentence for animals at local shelters needing homes. There are simply too many pets and too few families. This is my dream for a better Phoenix in 2011.

Tom Mann

Mann is the Board Chair of Equality Arizona, a civil rights organization working to secure equal rights for Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender people. Mann also serves on the boards of the Arizona Health Care Association, Aunt Rita's Foundation and on the Arizona Opera Board of Trustees.

My wishes for Phoenix in 2011:

- That all children will be safe in our schools and safe from all forms of bullying.
- **For all first-responders and providers of care to our frail and vulnerable brothers and sisters to know how thankful we are.** I

am always in awe of the dedication of our rescue teams and EMS providers as they save our lives and the gentle loving hands of each CNA who care for us and our family members.

- **An ongoing monthly schedule of free opera, symphony and pops concerts in Indian School Steele Park!** There is nothing better than a picnic under the stars and with the arts!

- **May the world see how we in the Valley of the Sun embrace and celebrate all forms of diversity** in our age, race, nation of origin, gender, gender identity, sexual preference, culture and religion.

- That we **continue to celebrate our Mexican culture and heritage!**

- That we may **find Lisa G and her meatballs!**

Susan Frank

Frank is the CEO of Desert Schools Federal Credit Union, the largest credit union in Arizona. The credit union was initially chartered in 1939 to offer financial services to Arizona teachers.

With a new year upon us, my wish is to continue the path of slow but steady financial growth that we've set upon, both as a community as well as individually. Let's commit to do the things in our lives that will maintain the progress we've made. Here are a few things we can do starting today:

Be fiscally responsible. Spend within your financial means and don't overextend yourself. Your long-term financial wellness depends on what you do now.

Instill sound financial behavior in our children. It's never too early to get into the right financial habits, so let your children know the importance of saving up for desired items, spending wisely and living within your means.

Save for unexpected events. When we least expect it, life throws us curve balls. Make sure you set aside money for things that come up unexpectedly. It's better to have a reserve of cash on hand and not need it than the other way around.

Help those less fortunate. To continue to see our community flourish and grow, we must all lend a hand to those in need. This may mean making financial donations, but if that's not possible, you can volunteer at a community center, bring food to a shelter or food bank, or go through your closets and donate your old clothes or blankets.

I wish each and every one of you a wonderful New Year, particularly for a year filled with many financial successes!

— Reach us at
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