

Ralph J. Serpico Appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of Untapped Arizona

Untapped Arizona is pleased to announce that Ralph J. Serpico has been appointed as the organization's President and Chief Executive Officer. Untapped Arizona is a revolutionary model for workforce planning and development, strategically bringing together key leaders from business and government to create a single go-to resource to help businesses connect with qualified job candidates with disabilities.

Mr. Serpico will oversee the development and management of Untapped Arizona in collaboration with its Board of Directors, business leaders committed to diversifying their companies' workforce, and key strategic partners and government stakeholders. **Over the course of the next few months, he will be engaging in strategic planning and partnership discussions with business leaders and other stakeholders.**

Mr. Serpico has over 20 years' experience in senior management positions with a variety of nonprofit organizations that address economic, employment, and other barriers faced by disadvantaged populations. He has an extensive background of successfully engaging businesses, community leaders, local government, and nonprofit agencies in a network of collaborative training and employment programs, as well as in developing and overseeing programs to help clients find and maintain employment. He is also highly skilled in securing financial resources for such programs through corporate sponsorships, grants, and special events.

Serpico comes to Untapped Arizona from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona, where he successfully took the agency to a revenue surplus through successful fundraising efforts. Prior to that, he was with the American Cancer Society's Tucson District, earning praise for his ability to create new relationships with corporate clients through a variety of value-added programs. He also served as the Executive Director of the Arizona Lost Boys Center, a nonprofit agency providing programs and resources to genocide survivors commonly called the "Lost Boys of Sudan." Under his direction, the agency's strategic direction moved to a focus on the core client needs of employment, education, scholarships, mentors, substance abuse, and mental health. He continues to serve on the Board of Directors for Empowering Life with Hope, an international organization providing medical and educational services in South Sudan.

Mr. Serpico holds an MBA from the University of Southern California and a bachelor's degree in commerce from DePaul University in Chicago. His first career was in banking, where he helped create and manage programs at four of the nation's top ten banks. However, his passion for helping improve the quality of life in our community, particularly with regard to youth, led him on a different path. Prior to relocating to Arizona, he was the Los Angeles Regional Director of a nationally acclaimed and award-winning program called "Volunteers in Parole" (VIP), which provided mentors, job-finding services, and other positive resources to help paroled juvenile offenders become successful in society.

"I am honored to be joining the Untapped Arizona team, and am looking forward to collaborating with business, community, and government leaders in developing employment and career opportunities for an important, qualified and untapped segment of our population, individuals with disabilities," said Mr. Serpico.

Untapped Arizona

Untapped Arizona is a revolutionary model for workforce planning and development, strategically bringing together key leaders from business and government to create a single go-to resource to help businesses connect with qualified job candidates with disabilities. In addition to introducing businesses to a talent pool of qualified candidates with disabilities, Untapped Arizona provides businesses with direct services and technical assistance pertaining to recruiting, hiring, retaining, and promoting workers with disabilities. Additional information is available on the Untapped Arizona website www.untappedarizona.com or by contacting Ralph Serpico, President & CEO, 602-771-0448 or ralph@untappedarizona.com.