



Lea Márquez Peterson, MBA, IOM

President/CEO of the Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and its affiliate chambers in Douglas, Nogales and Sierra Vista, Arizona.

Lea has been an entrepreneur in our community for many years and has served as the President/ CEO of the Tucson Hispanic Chamber since 2009. The Tucson Hispanic Chamber serves the business community in the bilingual, bi-cultural region of the Arizona-Sonora border and was recognized as the Hispanic Chamber of the Year in 2013 by the U.S Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. The chamber represents over 1800-member businesses and in partnership with the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry is one of the largest chambers in the State of Arizona.

She previously served as the Executive Director for Greater Tucson Leadership (GTL) from 2005 to 2009 and owned and operated a Business Brokerage Firm from 2005 to 2009 and a chain of six gasoline stations / convenience stores with fifty employees from 1998 to 2005 in the Tucson region.

Lea was appointed to the National Woman's Business Council (NWBC) in which she served for three years. The NWBC advises the President, Congress and the SBA on issues facing woman-owned businesses in the nation. She has been appointed by Governor Doug Ducey to co-chair the Arizona Zanjeros, a business leadership group formed to ensure the state continues to flourish economically by driving business growth and promoting Arizona's extraordinary assets. She was selected to serve on Governor Doug Ducey's Transition Team in 2014 and co-chaired the subcommittee on Economic Development, Entrepreneurship and Trade. She has also been appointed to serve on the Arizona Judicial Council and advises the Arizona Supreme Court. She serves on the Boards of the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Visit Tucson, the Tucson Business Alliance and the Pima County Workforce Investment Board. She also serves on the national board for the Latino Coalition, an affiliate of the U.S Chamber of Commerce.

She currently chairs the boards of St Mary's Hospital and the Pima Association of Governments Economic Vitality Committee. She formally served as the Chairwoman of the Southern Arizona Business Roundtable, the Past Chair of the Southern Arizona Chamber of Commerce Alliance, the Founder and Past Chair of the Pima County Small Business Commission, the Chairwoman of the University of Arizona Hispanic Advisory Council and is a Past President of the Tucson chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners. Lea was recognized by the National Football League with a 2015 Hispanic Heritage Award by the Arizona Cardinals, the University of Arizona Eller College with a 2014 Extraordinary Woman in Business award, the University of Arizona Alumni Association with the 2012 Distinguished Citizen Award, the 2011 State of Arizona Minority Business Advocate of the Year, the 2009 Rising Star by the Hispanic Professional Action Committee, the 2008 Business Advocate of the Year by MED Week, a 2007 Woman of Influence by Inside Tucson Business, was recognized as a 40 under 40 recipient and honored with a University of Arizona Entrepreneurial Fellow award. In addition, she is a Flinn Brown Fellow and an Honorary Rotarian. She received her undergraduate degrees in Marketing and Entrepreneurship from the University of Arizona, and her Masters in Business Administration from Pepperdine University. She is married with two children.

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