2012 Fourth Annual Ethics Conference: Ethics and Democracy. Keynote: Alberto Olivas M.Ed.

Alberto Olivas M.Ed is the Director of Voter Outreach Programs at Maricopa Community Colleges – Center for Civic Participation. He directs efforts to increase civic participation and public deliberation of policy issues on behalf of the Maricopa Community College system. These efforts include programs to educate voters about policy development processes, and to infuse citizen input and involvement into policy development at the local, state and national levels.

Among these efforts, Alberto has represented Maricopa Community Colleges in numerous statewide policy deliberation projects, including a contract to gain public input on the state’s aging population (Governor’s Aging 2020 plan), research on the state’s tourism industry workforce development needs, and a grant funded project to plan, design and implement Next Chapter programs to address the career re-entry, educational and social needs of Baby Boomers entering into retirement.

He currently serves on the steering committee for the Democracy Commitment, a national coalition of community colleges dedicated to civic education, and on the steering committee for the American Commonwealth Project, a partnership between higher education institutions and the White House Office of Public Engagement focused on improving post-secondary civic education. He is the Chair-elect for the board of directors for Kids Voting Arizona, and also serves on the board of directors for Valley Leadership, for Arizona Town Hall, and for the Mesa Association of Hispanic Citizens.

Alberto has also participated in policy development and civic engagement processes as an appointed member of the Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs, as the former Director of the Governor’s Office of Equal Opportunity, as the State Voter Outreach Director for the Arizona Secretary of State’s Office, and as Vice President of the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. He recently graduated from the inaugural class of the Arizona Civic Leadership Institute’s “Flinn-Brown Civic Leadership Academy”, and is also a graduate of the Valley Leadership, Tempe Leadership and Mesa Leadership institutes.

Alberto Olivas is originally from Sierra Vista, Arizona, and has a Bachelor’s Degree in Socio-Cultural Anthropology from Arizona State University and a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University.

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