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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

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Agriculture, Life &
Veterinary Sciences &
Cooperative Extension

Dear Colleagues,

Congratulations to everyone involved in delivering our academic mission on graduating the Class of 2023!

This spring we awarded the college's first Bachelor of Arts degree to **Fashion Industry's Science and Technology** majors in the Norton School.

Helping all our students reach this milestone involves a concerted and collaborative effort from people across our college – from recruiters, faculty, and advisors to building managers, business and administrative staff, and all those working to fund and award scholarships.

During the university's Commencement ceremony, President Robbins conferred an honorary Doctor of Science degree to a CALS Department of Environmental Science nominee, **Jon Jessen**, founder of the Gowan Group. Learn more about Dr. Jessen's accomplishments here: <https://invest.cals.arizona.edu/news/jessen-receive-honorary-degree>. This is also an honor for the Department of Environmental Science faculty – congratulations to you all.

Paul Brierley Nominated to Lead Arizona Department of Agriculture

More important news from Yuma: Please join me in congratulating **Paul Brierley**, Yuma Center of Excellence for Desert Agriculture executive director, on his nomination by Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs to serve in her cabinet as Director of the **Arizona Department of Agriculture**. Paul has accepted this nomination and is awaiting Arizona Senate confirmation.

Governor Hobbs said when announcing her nomination, "Mr. Brierley represents the best of our agriculture industry here in Arizona. With both personal and professional experience in the industry, I have no doubt that Mr. Brierley will successfully lead our Department of Agriculture with diligence, respect, and a deep understanding of the

work involved.”

Since its inception in 2014, and with its private sector partners and exceptional Advisory Council, Paul built and led YCEDA to international preeminence. Not only has YCEDA transformed how UA delivers for agriculture but during the pandemic, it became a national leader, recognized by the CDC, in wastewater-based community monitoring for SARS-COV2 in Yuma and Santa Cruz counties. It is expanding this capability to **multiple targets** for human health epidemiology.

I know Paul’s energy, intelligences and innovation will continue to serve our state exceptionally in his new post in Phoenix. He currently plans to return to lead YCEDA following his appointment. I am meeting with the YCEDA Advisory Council today in Yuma to discuss how it will function in Paul’s absence. I am extremely proud of the center’s impact and am confident in the YCEDA team’s ability to continue their excellence.

I look forward to continuing to work with Paul in his new state leadership role.

Regards,

Shane C. Burgess

Vice President, Division of Agriculture, Life and Veterinary Sciences, and Cooperative Extension

Charles-Sander Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
The University of Arizona

This email was sent to: ALVSCE Faculty, Staff, and Postdoctoral Research Associates.

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Land Acknowledgment

We respectfully acknowledge the University of Arizona is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O’odham and the Yaqui. Committed to diversity and inclusion, the University strives to build

University of Arizona Announcement

sustainable relationships with sovereign Native Nations and Indigenous communities through education offerings, partnerships, and community service.