

April 18, 2023

Colleagues and Friends,

I am thrilled to announce that, following an international search, **Dr. Edward C. Martin has accepted the position of Associate Vice President and Director of the Arizona Cooperative Extension System (CES), effective April 17.**

Ed's expertise and existing statewide trust in water is consistent with what our existing stakeholders, and other sources of information, tell us is *the* most important issue in Arizona today and its most likely future.

Ed joined UA in 1992 as an assistant specialist and was honored by our Ag100 Council as *College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Faculty Member of the Year* (2004). Ed has served as associate director for CES Agriculture and Natural Resources programs and director of Maricopa County Cooperative Extension. He was inducted into the National Association of County Agricultural Agents' Hall of Fame in 2021. Ed will maintain offices in both Tucson and Phoenix.

In 2021, Ed became interim director for Arizona CES, and he has led through many pandemic-related and other major challenges; managed business and finance flawlessly, led economic and functional impact analyses of all CES programs; worked with UA Government and Community Relations to successfully secure \$22.05M in additional state support; supervised the TEconomy CES Economic Impact report showing that Arizona CES has one of the largest returns on state investment of any state measured; initiated, led and managed a statewide needs assessment that will inform a new strategic action plan; and began 30 ongoing CES faculty searches.

I have asked Ed to immediately work with me and UA central administrative leadership on direct delivery in collaboration with the UA health sciences and more partnerships with UA colleges, building on our existing partnerships with the colleges of Law, Medicine-Tucson, Medicine-Phoenix, Nursing, and Veterinary Medicine.

I am grateful to the many people who took part in an extensive and comprehensive search process. I especially would like to thank the search committee, led by Dr. George Frisvold, for their service.

Best regards,



Shane C. Burgess