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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

April 4, 2024, 9:17 a.m.



Dear Colleagues,

I am very pleased to announce that I have appointed **Dr. Tanya Hodges** to be Executive Director for the [Yuma Center of Excellence in Desert Agriculture](#), effective May 27.

Tanya is a [College of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences](#) alumnus (B.S. Agricultural Education; Master of Agricultural Education) and earned her Ed.D. Innovation and Leadership from Arizona State University. Prior to joining the University of Arizona staff in 2007, Tanya worked in the agriculture industry for 16 years. Today, she serves as Regional Academic Programs Manager and Executive Director, Business Initiatives, Economic and Grant Development at [University of Arizona Yuma](#). She is also a Lecturer in our [Department of Agricultural Education, Technology and Innovation](#).

Her skills will be a great help to all of us in leading YCEDA's vital work. I hope you will join me in wishing Tanya the best and welcoming her to the team.

Please join me also in thanking **Dr. Stephanie Slinski**, who has served as interim executive director since June 2023 and will continue in this role through May 26. Stephanie is a valued colleague. I know she will support us all during this transition, and I look forward to hearing about her continued leadership of the center's applied research and development.

Regards,

Shane

Shane C. Burgess

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

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

This email was sent to: ALVSCE faculty, staff, and postdoctoral research associates.

Privacy Statement

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