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**ARIZONA GOVERNOR PROCLAIMS MAY 2017  
EXPERIENCE MATTERS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MONTH**

PHOENIX, AZ – May 1, 2017 – In a proclamation issued April 25, 2017, Arizona Governor Doug Ducey declared May 2017 to be Experience Matters Community Engagement Month. This honorary month recognizes the importance of community engagement of older adults not only for its proven benefits to healthy aging, but for the vast contributions retirees can bring to community initiatives and social purpose work. This month serves to celebrate the adults already engaged in the community and encourage all retirement-age adults to consider contributing their time, their skill, and their years of experience in a meaningful way.

One million adults in Maricopa County are entering their 50's and 60's, and national data indicate more than 70% are looking for fresh challenges that add purpose to their lives while making a difference for others.

Experience Matters is the conduit connecting these skilled adults age 50+ with nonprofit organizations who benefit from their decades of experience and expertise.

Recognized nationally as a groundbreaking initiative, Experience Matters has a unique and strategic approach to building a culture that embraces experienced adults while working toward positive social transformation. We believe in the power of these individuals to transform volunteerism and social engagement in the 21<sup>st</sup> century by using their accrued skills, knowledge, and talents to redefine retirement and collectively help solve the biggest challenges facing our communities. Learn more at [experiencemattersaz.org](http://experiencemattersaz.org).