‍Wanda A. Wright, Col (Ret), MBA, MPA, MEd

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303 W Myrna Lane, Tempe, Arizona 85284 | phone: 480-250-8305 email: wwright3@cox.net

Education

2013-2016 Arizona State University Tempe, AZ Masters, Educational Leadership

1994-1998 University of Arizona Tucson, AZ Masters, Public Administration

1989 Pima Community College Tucson, AZ Community College Teaching Certificate

1986-1988 Webster University Myrtle Beach, SC Masters, Business Administration

1981-1985 Air Force Academy Colorado Springs, CO Bachelor of Science, Financial Mgt

Teaching Experience

**Montessori Academy, Paradise Valley, AZ Vice Principal/Math Instructor** 2011-2015

Taught math to gifted elementary student -6th grade through 8th grade

Pre-Algebra

Algebra I

Algebra II

Geometry

**Pima Community College, Tucson, AZ** **Adjunct Faculty**  1987-1989

Taught rudimentary math and algebra to service members

Basic Math

Pre-Algebra

Algebra

Other professional experience

**Director** | Arizona Department of Veterans' Services | March 2015 – February 2023

* Advocate for the most vulnerable veterans in the state through suicide prevention, homelessness prevention and employment initiatives; research, studies and legislation written on veteran issue
* Provides leadership and direction for assisting veterans, and their dependents in developing and filing claims for federal entitlements; providing long term care services to veterans and their spouses; providing burials for veterans and their eligible dependents
* Lead 800 employees through the Arizona Management System creating significant efficiencies through the department

**Vice Principal** | Montessori Academy | July 2011 – March 2015

* Managed Finances for a student population of 240
* Improved business operations with 100% compliance by state Audit agency
* Managed Human Resource for 45 employees
* Managed Facility Operations and Maintenance to include communications infrastructure
* Coordinated with Arizona Department of Education for state funding for students and grants for educational programs; Developed and executed five year strategic plan
* In 2013, when Common Core was mandated, worked with Education Director and Principal to re-work Montessori Curriculum to include all standards
* Taught elementary school math - Pre-Algebra, Algebra, Geometry

**Director of Staff** | Arizona National Guard | January 2005 – July 2011

* Served as the principal full-time spokesman of the Air National Guard senior leadership
* Developed long range strategic plans, programs and policies and executed short term objectives
* Developed/instituted force management plans and programs to meet readiness/mission needs
* Coordinated activities of two Air Wings located in Tucson and Phoenix
* Managed all Arizona Air National Guard military personnel issues (2500 personnel)
* Managed State Recruiting function (12 Recruiters)
* Functioned as the Resource Manager
* Initiated contact and maintained liaison with public officials and civic groups
* First African American Female to make Colonel in the history of the Arizona National Guard

**Executive Officer** |Arizona Air National Guard| August 2000 – December 2004

* Project management for Wing Commander
* Cost savings of over $500,000 in civilian pay; reduced overtime by 20%
* Developed and coordinated policies, instructions and procedures
* Led staff to support Commander’s dignitaries, travel, higher headquarter inquiries
* Supported 162nd Minuteman organization

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

Governor's Commendation

Legion of Merit

40 influential Women of 2020

Copper Shield Award

Arizona Hall of Fame Inductee of 2023

**PRESENTATIONS**

* “Discipline and Decisions”, City of Chandler DEI series, 19 September 2024
* “Understanding Veterans, Past and Present”, AVNET, 7 November 2023
* "Tools for Success: Starting a New Life in a New City", National Student Veterans of America Conference, January, 2023
* "Mental Health Disparities in the Veteran Community", Arizona's Annual Health Literacy Conference, September, 2022
* "Veterans in Arizona" Plenary Speaker, Statewide Symposium in Support of Service Members, Veterans and their Families, April 2022
* "Transportation Study" Grant makers in Aging Conference, 2022
* Technical Assistance to the Veteran Affairs/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services "Transportation Study" Maricopa Association of Government, July, 2022
* Administration (SAMSHA) Governor’s Challenge program, 2018-2022
* "Secure Your Weapon", CPG LMS Webinar, December 2021
* "Formalizing Partnerships: Strengthening Your Agreements" Virtual Implementation Academy SAMSHA, April, 2021
* "Be Connected" National Association of State Directors of Veteran Affairs, February, 2021
* "Service and Benefits", Native American Women Veteran Roundtable January, 2021
* "Collective Impact" Results Washington State Lean Conference, 2020
* Workforce Presentation", Salute to Service ASU workgroup, 2019
* "Utilizing State Veterans Departments to Support the VA", VA Healthcare Conference, 2019

**PUBLICATIONS**

* Serving Those Who Serve: Upstream Intervention and the Uphill Battle of Veteran Suicide Prevention in the U.S. Health Affairs, Forefront, healthaffairs.org/do/10.1377/forefront.20190709.197658 July 11, 2019

Megan Phillips, MS, Matthew Speer, MS, Thomas Winkel, MA, Wanda Wright, MBA,

MPA, MEd, Maureen McCarthy, MD, Nicola Winkel, MPA, Swapna Reddy, JD, MPH

* Participated in and supported the Arizona State University first certification for Veteran and Military Studies with Nancy Dallett and Mark Von Hagen. Supported Huts for Vets program participation by ASU which led to the Trek for Vets program

**GRANT FUNDING**

* Peter and Michelle Wilver Gift for OVMAE Directorate

$2.5 million

* "SSgt Fox Grant" Arizona Department of Veterans' Services/Arizona Coalition for Military Families

$750,000 per year with two option years

* "Cross Cutting Prevention Through an Upstream Focus on Social Determinants of Health with in Military Settings" ASU/Arizona Department of Veterans' Services/ Arizona Coalition for Military Families

$2,392,977

* "Tribal Connectivity" Arizona Department of Health/Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

$100,000

* "State Opioid Response" Arizona Department of Veterans' Services'/Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

$953,488

* "Roadmap to Veteran Employment" Arizona Department of Veterans' Services/Arizona Coalition for Military Families

$300,000

**RESEARCH**

* Larson RM, Saxon M, Phillips MA, Broussard ML, Straus AR, Wright WA. The Social Determinants of Suicide among Female Service Members and Veterans : Running Title: Social Determinants of Suicide. J Community Health. 2024 Oct;49(5):935-941. doi: 10.1007/s10900-024-01359-0. Epub 2024 Apr 21. PMID: 38643428."Arizona Veteran Transportation Matters" IRB approved, completed in 2021
* "Cross Cutting Prevention Through an Upstream Focus on 'Social Determinants of Health within Military Settings" IRB approved, grant funded in progress
* "Understanding Statewide Suicide Prevention Programs" IRB approved, in progress
* "2017-2021 Arizona Veteran Surveys. Completed in 2018, 2020 and 2022

**ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP**

Arizona Veteran Hall of Fame

Veteran Affairs Advisory Committee for Women Veterans

Phoenix Lincoln Ragsdale Chapter of Tuskegee Airman

Military Officer Association

National Association of State Directors of Veteran Affairs

United States Air Force Association

Montessori Academy Corporate Board