

Bio (Short Version)

Andre T. Whittington, award-winning executive, and CEO of Growth Partners Arizona (GPAz) has led the organization to become a cornerstone of Arizona's economic enhancement, channeling over \$15 million to minority-owned small businesses and advocating for financial inclusivity. A U.S. Army Veteran, his leadership extends beyond GPAz through his role on multiple boards, fostering local entrepreneurship and community development. His innovative alternative lending and microfinancing efforts focus on lowering capital access barriers for marginalized communities. Recently appointed to the Arizona Finance Authority by Governor Katie Hobbs, Andre's dedication to Arizona's prosperity and progress is evident. His journey epitomizes impactful leadership, emphasizing service, collaboration, and the power of strategic partnerships to drive economic development and inspire a brighter, more inclusive future for Arizona. Andre's journey is more than a narrative of professional success; it's a beacon of impactful leadership fueled by service, collaboration, and a profound belief in the transformative power of unity and strategic partnerships. He believes that the future of Arizona's economy is not just bright; it's inclusive, innovative, and infinitely inspiring.

Bio (Long Version)

Andre T. Whittington, an award-winning executive, U.S. Army Veteran, and CEO of Growth Partners Arizona (GPAz), stands at the forefront of Arizona's economic transformation, propelling the organization from its regional roots to a powerhouse of statewide influence. Over the last six years, his strategic and organizational acumen has directed over \$15 million in resources toward minority-owned small businesses, championing a future where financial inclusivity is not just an ideal but a reality. Andre's leadership philosophy is characterized by a relentless pursuit of innovation and support for Arizona's small businesses and nonprofits, driving remarkable progress across the state.

As a community leader, he serves on several boards supporting key nonprofit organizations in Arizona, underscoring his commitment to nurturing local enterprises and spurring economic vibrancy. Under his guidance, GPAz has pioneered expansive alternative lending and microfinancing initiatives, breaking down barriers to capital for Arizona's most marginalized communities. His recent appointment to the Arizona Finance Authority by Governor Katie Hobbs marks a pivotal moment, recognizing his vital contributions to the state's economic growth and his unwavering dedication to fostering prosperity and progress.

Andre's journey is more than a narrative of professional success; it's a beacon of impactful leadership fueled by service, collaboration, and a profound belief in the transformative power of unity and strategic partnerships. His efforts illuminate the path for those aspiring to make a difference, showcasing how visionary leadership can uplift communities and catalyze comprehensive economic development. Through Andre's eyes, the future of Arizona's economy is not just bright; it's inclusive, innovative, and infinitely inspiring.