

FCM Matters, Dec. 2023 — Happy Holidays!

Kristen Rundell, MD <fcm-matters@email.arizona.edu>

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To:Wagner, Pamela D - (pamelaw) <pamelaw@arizona.edu>

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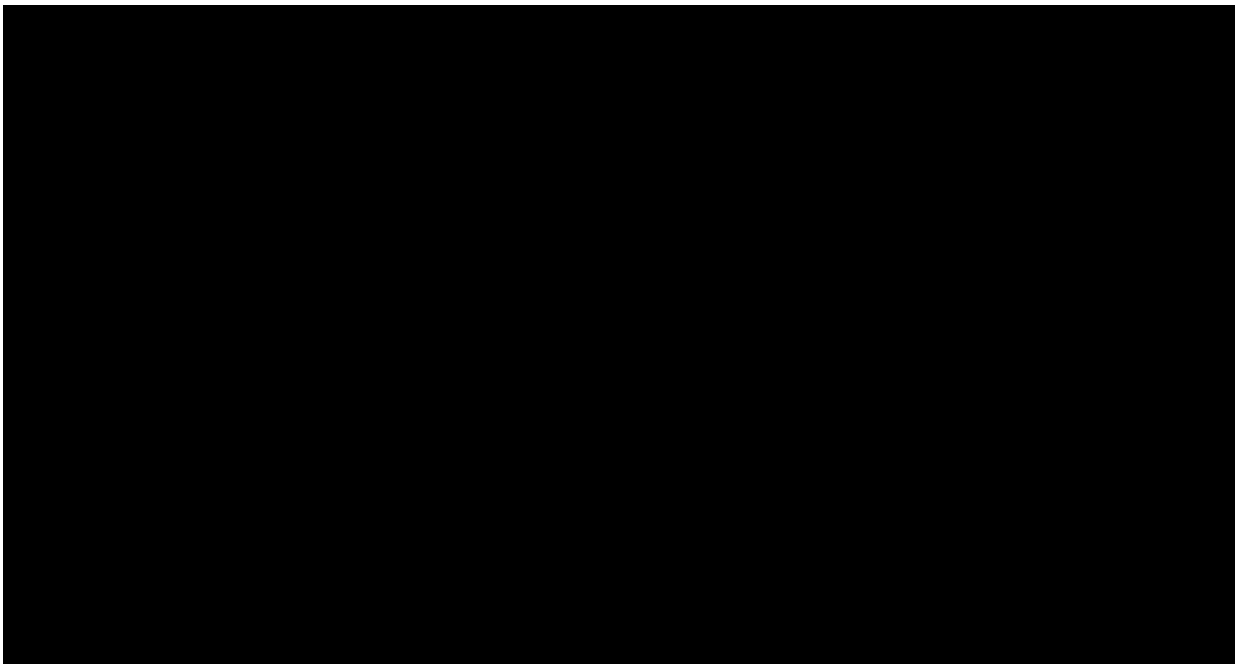
ACCOLADES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS & IMPACT



## **UArizona RISE Staff Recognized with 'Hope to Outcomes' Award**

The [Peer and Family Career Academy \(PFCA\)](#) recently recognized the **UArizona RISE staff** with their **Hope to Outcomes** award at the [2023 Embracing Hope: Rising Together Conference](#). This award recognizes providers who employ lived-experience professionals of Peer Support Specialists and Family/Parent Support Specialists to improve outcomes such as reduced hospitalizations and overall health. RISE was selected, in part, due to their innovative ideas and practices, and commitment to professional development for the workforce. By utilizing a lived-experience workforce, they have been able to create a more effective and empathetic approach to supporting individuals in their recovery journey. This award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the RISE staff in improving the lives of those they serve. Congratulations! [Read article >>](#)

*Pictured left to right: Veronica Lopez, Rita Romero, Ana Chincea, Sonia Tinoco, Kat Villaverde, Andrew Bernstein, Michael Harvey, Pamela Wagner, Carter Todd, Cheryl Glass, Victoria Molina, and Kevin Phillips*



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An excerpt from the nomination explains, “Under the inspiring leadership of Cheryl Glass, MBA-HCM, MCHES, CPRP, and Dr. Randa Kutob, MD, MPH, RISE has managed not only to support and maintain its incredibly talented and dedicated peer staff with less turnover than any other agency in Tucson, but it created two of the most innovative, impactful, and successful programs the State has ever seen: [Camp Wellness](#) and [Workforce Development](#).”

PFCA is a state-wide organization which advocates and celebrates achievements in workforce development, personal growth, professional development, and recovery. The two programs under RISE have each impacted the peer workforce in different ways. The nomination explains, “Staff at Camp Wellness are Certified Recovery Support Specialists with specialized health and wellness training. They serve as role models and beacons of hope to numerous [low-income adults with mental health challenges] who realize that they themselves can be [even] more if they take better care of themselves and successfully manage their symptoms. Graduates often move on to assume more productive roles in their families, volunteer in the community, and take the formal RSS training to become staff themselves at other behavioral health agencies.”

“But it is the programs of Workforce Development which likely have had a greater and more direct impact on our Arizona workforce with lived experience,” according to the nomination, “Coming from what is generally regarded as the gold standard of peer training, a steadily increasing cadre of graduates from the Recovery Support Specialist Institutes (RSSI), Project FUTRE, and PeerWORKS go on to work at agencies which provide both behavioral and physical health services to individuals and families, bringing their knowledge, skills and ethics to these various settings, changing how their colleagues think about peers and how their service recipients think about their own lives.”

In addition to RISE being recognized for the Hope To Outcomes award, Center Director Cheryl Glass was invited to present on “Inspiring Excellence: Leadership Strategies That Bring Out The Best In Your Team” and Workforce Development Trainer Kevin Phillips, CRSS, CPFSS, educated attendees on “Developing An Atmosphere Of Resiliency With Family Support”.