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**CAREER & WORKPLACE**

# Phoenix Business Journal 40 Under 40 2022: Brad Kendrex



Bradley Kendrex - Maricopa Community Colleges

JIM POULIN | PHOENIX BUSINESS JOURNAL

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## **Brad Kendrex**

**Age:** 39

**Job title:** Executive vice president,  
finance and operations

**Where you work and what it does:** Chandler-Gilbert Community College and Mesa Community College. The community colleges are central to Arizona's goal of 60% of the workforce having a post-high school credential, providing workforce certifications, associates (and soon bachelors) degrees, and other lifelong learning opportunities.

**Education:** Bachelor's degree, accountancy, Arizona State University; master's in public administration, ASU; doctoral candidate, adult and higher education, Oregon State University

**The top item on your bucket list:** I'll be focusing on completing the final pieces of my doctoral dissertation.

**Where in the Valley do you take out-of-town guests?** Usually out to eat – downtown Gilbert, Joe's Farm Grill, and the Queen Creek Olive Mill are frequently on the short list.

**How do you give back to the local community?** I have the privilege of working in an organization that is focused on supporting the local community, both through its educational mission as well as by embracing the colleges' role as a connector for key services in the local community. Beyond the day job, I've stayed engaged as an instructor, mentor, and volunteer to engage with students in some of the ways that others impacted my time as a student.

I currently volunteer with the Red Cross, training to support major emergencies and responding to provide relief during

local crises, like house fires, that occur.

In 2016, I had a design idea for a streamlined rosary (religious item) that could be carried in a wallet. On the journey to have it manufactured for myself, it quickly grew into a small business, the proceeds of which are donated to local charitable organizations.

**What's your ultimate career goal?** My career goal has always been to look for spaces where I can add value in organizations that are in service to improving others' quality of life. I am committed to the importance of learning to each person's ability to navigate life's choices, so look forward to continuing to help our educational institutions to be positioned where our current and future students need them to be.

**How do you combat self-doubt?** I have to differentiate humility from self-doubt. I try to put value on the experiences in life – good and bad – that brought me here and lean on those lessons. That said, recognizing that there are limits to my own perspective and seeking insights and inspiration to fill those gaps has proven to be a smart way to do better and to fend off the doubts that creep in.

**How do you prevent burnout?** I'm not very good at balance, but I thrive on variety. I have a career that gives me a wide range of things to be involved in and I tend to fill my free time with a rotating slate of projects and interests. It's important to recognize the need for down time, but I find that I stay fresh when I can flex a variety of different mental muscles.

**Best advice you have ever received?** That the biggest opportunities present themselves when circumstances are less settled, so embrace change.

**TikTok or Instagram? Twitter.** I promise that I'm still under 40. At least I didn't say Myspace.

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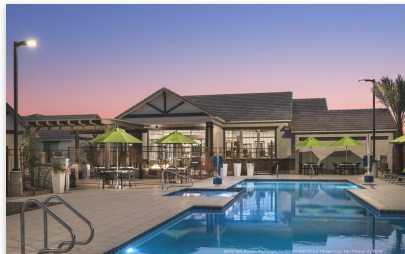
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