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Description automatically generated **ARIZONA ENERGY VIRTUAL FORUM**

**Purpose**:

Hispanics are 31.7% of the 7,278,717 Arizonans or 2,380,140 people. Arizona has several energy providers including APS, Salt River Project, Tucson Electric Power and Co-ops. Included in Today’s program will be a powerful discussion on why Hispanic youth needs to be guided into energy STEM education and training, what can be done via partnerships between energy companies and Arizona Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI). Arizona is the first state in the country to initiate this idea as other states watch and consider initiating similar approaches.

**PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

3:00 PM **Welcome** - **José L. Pérez,** President & CEO, Hispanics in Energy

Vision and Mission of the organization – Hispanic American Energy STEM Institute

3:10 PM **Commissioner Lea Márquez Peterson,** Arizona Corporation Commission

**The State of Energy and the Latino community- Why is STEM important?**

**Ann Augustyn**, Deputy Director, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, DOE

A national perspective on why this work has a national security imperative and plans to deal with this challenge.

**Commissioner Sadzi Oliva**, Illinois Commerce Commission and Chair of the NARUC Subcommittee on Supplier and Workforce Diversity

A NARUC perspective as to why a Resolution was adopted to encourage utility commissions to engage in creating a diverse pool of energy STEM graduates in partnership between the energy companies and Hispanic and other minority-serving institutions.

3:25 PM       **The Arizona Hispanic Education Pathway from K-12 to University**

**Education Panel: Energy STEM**

* Data on Hispanics in K-12, community colleges and university levels
* Challenges to increase the number of Hispanic students going into energy STEM
* Panel
* **David Adame, Chicanos Por La Causa**
* **Chancellor Steven R. Gonzales. Ed.D., Maricopa Community Colleges**
* **Dean David Hahn, College of Engineering, University of Arizona**

4:25 PM       **Industry Panel: Workforce and STEM (Electric utilities)**

Outline workforce opportunities with a STEM emphasis

Panel

* [**Cathy Ries**,](https://www.linkedin.com/in/cathy-ries-a6617746/) Vice President, Customer and Human Resources, Tucson Electric Power - UNS
* **Essen Otu**, Manager, Diversity & Inclusion, Salt River Project (SRP
* **Ann Becker**, Vice President, Environmental & Chief Sustainability Officer, Arizona Public Service (APS)

4:55 PM       **Closing Remarks**

**Commissioner Lea Márquez Peterson**, Arizona Corporation Commission

**José L. Pérez**, President & CEO, Hispanics In Energy

5:00 PM         **END**