

Lea Márquez-Peterson

Lea Márquez-Peterson is the President/CEO of the Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and is an advocate for the Southern Arizona business community. The mission of the Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is to advocate and provide services that grow its member's businesses, and was awarded the 2013 Chamber of the Year Award by the United States Hispanic Chamber. During her tenure, the chamber has grown from 380 businesses to over 1050 today.

Lea Márquez Peterson was appointed in 2011 by the Obama Administration to the National Women's Business Council. The council is responsible for advising the President, Congress and the Small Business Administration on issues facing women business owners. She is the only Arizonan and the only Latina on the 14 member council. In addition, Lea sits on many boards in the community including the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry. She is the Founder and Past Chair of the Pima County Small Business Commission, the Past Chairman of the Southern Arizona Chamber Alliance, the Past Chairman of the University of Arizona Hispanic Advisory Council and is a Past President of the Tucson chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners. She also serves on the boards of Vantage West Credit Union, the Pima County Workforce Investment Board and is a member of the DM50 and Tucson Airport Authority. She is the immediate Past Chair of the Southern Arizona Business Roundtable and is a Flinn Brown Fellow.

Lea was also recognized as the 2012 University of Arizona's Alumni Association's Distinguished Citizen Award. She has been recognized as the 2011 Arizona Minority Business Advocate of the Year, the 2009 Rising Star from the Hispanic Professional Action Committee, the 2008 Business Advocate of the Year by MED Week, a 2007 Woman of Influence by Inside Tucson Business, a 40 under 40 award recipient and with a University of Arizona Entrepreneurial Fellow award.

Lea served as the Executive Director for Greater Tucson Leadership (GTL) from 2005 to 2009. Lea is also the owner and Designated Broker for Marquez Peterson Group, LLC, a business brokerage firm which assists buyers and sellers of businesses in the Tucson area. She received her undergraduate degrees in Marketing and Entrepreneurship from the University of Arizona, and her Masters in Business Administration from Pepperdine University. Lea resides in Tucson with her husband, Dan and their two children.