KEY POINTS FROM FUTURE LEADERS TOWN HALL ON ARIZONA’S VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

IMPORTANCE OF CONSIDERATION OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

• Recognize that vulnerable populations are contributing members of our community.
• Members of vulnerable populations have great insight into ways to improve the community.
• The potential exists to end the cycle of vulnerability, solve problems, and improve the community overall.
• Reducing vulnerability improves the economy.

SUPPORTING VULNERABLE POPULATIONS TO IMPROVE RESILIENCY

• Address systemic barriers to access to financial resources and the constraints of financial institution lending practices.
• Educational opportunities are the key to reducing vulnerability and improving the quality of life.
• Improvements in support services such as public transportation, day care, health care, and job training will enable vulnerable populations to participate in the mainstream economy.
• Programs that strengthen individuals, families and neighborhoods will promote resiliency.

MESSAGES TO ARIZONA’S ELECTED LEADERS

• Provide greater support for public education and access to informational resources including job training, workshops and computer access.
• Improve public transportation to increase mobility of vulnerable populations.
• Offer incentives to businesses to train workers and employ new graduates.
• Embed themselves in the situation of vulnerable populations such as undocumented immigrants, debt-laden students and hungry children to understand and address their needs.

CALL TO ACTION

• Work together as communities to support vulnerable populations.
• Help someone with no savings or no insurance or no Internet to find the resources they need.
• Participate in programs that teach personal savings, job skills and accessing information/support services.
• Support fellow students who are often part of vulnerable populations.