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Garry Walters Named Chair of State of Black Arizona Advisory Board

PHOENIX—The State of Black Arizona (SBAZ) is pleased to announce that Garry Walters has been named chair of its Advisory Board. In this new role, Walters will leverage his diverse experience to develop funds and new policies and procedures in support of the annual State of Black Arizona publication. He will also direct the annual Community Luminaries awards program recognizing deserving individuals who are unsung s/heroes and an asset to the community, affecting change and contributing to the quality of life in Arizona.

Walters has spent more than three decades with Southwest Gas Corporation, currently serving as Community Liaison for the Central Arizona Division. In this position, he is responsible for cultivating relationships and partnerships within the community, and managing the company's volunteer committee, Blue (Building Lives Up Everywhere), providing volunteer service opportunities to Southwest Gas employees. Walters has been awarded both the Community Spirit and Volunteer of the Year awards during his career. He earned a Business Management degree from the University of Phoenix.

Walters serves on the board of the George Gervin Prep Academy, Arizona Opportunities Industrialization Centers, the Arizona Dream Builder Foundation, Career Concepts for Youth, Arizona Corporate Volunteer Council and Phoenix Rotary 100.

The SBAZ is funded by and has partnerships with the following; Arizona State University, Arizona Community Foundation, Arizona Indicators, Arizona Public Service (APS), Maricopa Community Colleges, Microsoft, Southwest Gas and State Farm Insurance.

About State of Black Arizona (SBAZ)

Founded in 2008, SBAZ has maintained a community commitment to facilitate a greater understanding among community stakeholders of the issues, concerns, and status of Blacks in Arizona in order to improve decision-making as it affects the lives of all Arizonans. Modeled after the National Urban League's "State of Black America," the SBAZ publications reveal whom Arizona's African-Americans are, where they live and how they live relative to the general population in Arizona and other African Americans in several major quality of life categories.

For more information about SBAZ please visit our website at <http://stateofblackarizona.org/>.

