

Those who know me are aware of my passion for developing leadership in our students, regardless of age or personality type. I had an opportunity to be in a specific part of Arizona for over a month and saw a different kind of inspiring leadership. Lifelong learning is such a joy, a voyage into meaningfulness.

Most people hope to make a difference. We hope to leave some sort of positive impact on the world. Enjoying our own talents is enhanced when we can leave our world a better place than when we found it.

continuing to grow and learn

Oro Valley, Arizona is between Phoenix and Tucson. There are many communities within the valley, kind of like large subdivisions, each with its own clubhouse and various amenities. About 50,000 people in the valley, I had the opportunity to stay in Sun City's Oro Valley. Each of these mini communities is basically an active retirement district. Talk about vivacious! The people I meet here are in the next step of their own journey to make a difference. They volunteer, work, create, innovate and are entrepreneurs during this twilight chapter of their lives. It's impressive.

The golf course for Sun City is abuzz with all kinds of athleticism, some beginners, and many quite accomplished. The clubhouse restaurant serves a variety of healthy options on their menu in addition to the burger and a beer. Their arts and craft facilities allow anyone to continue pottery, painting, jewelry, sewing - or begin a craft they have always wanted to start. The pool and weight room is a combination of offshoots of Adonis as well as those committed to rehabilitative exercise. Then there is a gift shop: **not** souvenirs, but the result of the talent of the residents that live there: amazing crafts. Every piece that you purchase comes with the name and history of the artist or crafter of the piece. What rare and beautiful presentation, marketing, and organization of leadership!

preserving culture with the development of leadership

Excellence By Design: A Visual History of Public Art in Oro Valley, Arizona is a publication of the Southern Arizona Arts and Cultural Alliance. As you drive the roadways of the area, the fences, parks, islands between the roadway, and public buildings are filled with functional art. Sculptures that also serve as an animal sanctuary or art that also serves as a direction or information about the area. Take the learning tree at the public library. This is a beautiful outdoor bronze tree shading a book with inspirational quote by Dr. Seuss. In 1997 the town of Oro Valley established a mandate requiring developers of commercial projects to set aside one percent of a project's total construction budget for the creation of public art. With all of the research on how art, music, drama and dance enhance the quality of life for communities, Oro Valley is doing something about it.

leaders in all walks of life

While I watch my grandchildren developing their own leadership skills, I have also watched people in their 70s, 80s, and 90s in Oro Valley reinvent their leadership skills. If building

leadership enhances success in life and higher achievement, how perfect that we mentor and encourage leadership in all walks of life.