

HARC hires new director of research and evaluation

Darby Wright, TDS 12:41 p.m. PDT July 6, 2015

Job Changes



Casey Leier (Photo: Courtesy photo)

HARC, Inc. (Health Assessment and Research for Communities) in Palm Desert announced that **Dr. Casey Leier** has joined the HARC team as the new director of research and evaluation. Leier is a researcher with more than nine years of experience in research design and analysis. She holds a master's degree in industrial/organizational psychology from **California State University, San Bernardino** and a doctorate in organizational communication from **Arizona State University**. Leier has conducted research related to well-being, community design and social justice. Prior to joining HARC, Leier worked at Arizona State University teaching courses in a variety of different topics including advanced research methods, conflict and negotiation, and leadership and development. Leier's duties at HARC will include oversight of the triennial health needs assessment, managing all survey and data

research, and research planning and development for HARC's clients.

The Coachella Valley Symphony, a nonprofit organization featuring Coachella Valley musicians, announced that **John Mario Di Costanzo** has accepted the position as symphonic conductor for the upcoming 2015-16 concert season. Di Costanzo was featured during the 2014-15 season as one of four guest conductors and kicked off last year's series by conducting the popular opening holiday concert. Di Costanzo was also a guest conductor for CVSymphony's Fiesta de Musica Latina concert. Di Costanzo, a veteran opera conductor, served three seasons as music director of the **Tri Cities Opera** in Binghamton, New York. Di Costanzo has led dozens of productions as guest conductor in companies across the country, including **Sarasota Opera** in Florida, **Toledo Opera** in Ohio, **Syracuse Opera** in New York, and **Opera Southwest** in New Mexico. In addition to his conducting duties, Di Costanzo has performed in recitals and is a leading coach of the Italian Opera repertoire in his New York City studio preparing internationally acclaimed singers for their roles on stages throughout the world.

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices in Palm Springs, formerly **Prudential California Realty**, announced it has added three new agents to its team.



Mary Marx (Photo: Courtesy photo submitted)

•**Mary Marx**, associate broker, is also a Certified Property Manager and past president of the **Building Owners and Managers Association of Greater Los Angeles**. Prior to entering the residential realm, Marx had a commercial real estate career spanning more than 30 years in a variety of senior level positions. Marx's extensive background with institutional investors provides technical and market expertise that she applies to her current role assisting clients in making decisions required to meet their real estate goals.



Conrad Miller (Photo: Courtesy photo submitted)

•**Conrad Miller** is approaching 10 years as a real estate agent. Miller possesses a diverse background though his current role focuses on home buyers and sellers. Miller made his move into the corporate world, holding positions in human resources and finance with the law firm of **Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP** in Los Angeles and later Pioneer North America. In 2006, Miller and his partner relocated to North Carolina, where they spent the next eight years practicing real estate. Miller and family returned to California, settling in Palm Springs.

•**Yvonne Berry** commenced her real estate career in 1997 as a sales associate representing new home sales for a national homebuilder. Berry obtained her broker's license and began practicing commercial real estate, adding to her expertise sales of hotels, motels and other boutique properties. Berry's background in real estate research,

analysis and evaluations has positioned her as a consultant, having served as trustee broker for bankruptcy courts and broker of record for attorneys in the liquidation of assets.

Philanthropy



Yvonne Berry (Photo: Courtesy photo submitted)

The H.N. and Frances C. Berger Foundation in Palm Desert presented **Desert AIDS Project** in Palm Springs with a \$25,000 Coachella Valley Spotlight grant. The funding will support "Get Testing Coachella Valley," an effort to dramatically reduce the spread of HIV by making testing and treatment accessible to all. "Get Tested Coachella Valley" is a three-year public health initiative driven by a community coalition led by Desert AIDS Project. The campaign reaches out to the medical community to make voluntary HIV testing a routine standard of care and also provides free and confidential HIV testing at community sites and events.

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