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GEICO's Tucson office celebrates 15 extraordinary years

TUCSON, Ariz., Feb. 14, 2018 – GEICO this week celebrated its 15th anniversary in Tucson with its local associates and several special guests. Martha Furnas, regional vice president, welcomed Tucson Ward 5 City Council Member Richard Fimbres, representatives of state and federal officials and members of Tucson's business and civic communities. Also on hand for the celebration were GEICO Chairman and CEO Tony Nicely, GEICO president and COO Bill Roberts, and GEICO senior vice president Don Lyons.

"We're happy they helped us celebrate our associates. That includes the small group of employees that opened this office in 2003 and those who have just joined the GEICO family," Furnas said. "Their accomplishments over the past 15 years have been momentous in serving our customers and in supporting our Tucson community."

GEICO's Tucson office has built a solid business with record-breaking growth. What began 15 years ago with a startup crew flourished into a family of more than 2,000 associates that handles more than 1.3 million insurance policies for seven states.

The office was named a CareerBuilder "Top Company to Work for in Arizona" for multiple years and offers competitive starting salaries, a comprehensive benefits package, continuing education, tuition reimbursement, on-site college courses, career growth opportunities, community engagement opportunities and a friendly, supportive workplace. For many associates, their job with GEICO quickly grew into a career.

"I expected a typical call center atmosphere, but I was completely wrong," said Derrek Petroff, a GEICO supervisor. "I have been promoted six times in less than five years and in addition to that, I have been able to continue my education through GEICO's tuition reimbursement program."

Analyst Kimberly Rose shares a similar story to Petroff. "I joined GEICO expecting it to be a temporary job to pay my bills," Rose said. "I didn't expect to love the culture, rise up through the ranks and make a career. Since joining GEICO, I started in sales, have gone into leadership, been certified in Lean Six Sigma, have become proficient in Excel and coding and now have a position that I love."

Along with building solid business leaders, GEICO enriches the local Tucson community through its community outreach programs and financial support. The Tucson GEICO Corporate Community Citizens (GCCC) program partners with local programs to provide funds and volunteers. Last year, associates donated more than 3,300 hours of their personal time to the community.

Since 2013, GEICO has donated almost \$40 million to schools around Tucson and elsewhere in Arizona through the Arizona Leadership Foundation, making it the largest donor to this program in state history.

In addition, GEICO has partnered with Safe Kids Pima County and the Tucson Police Department to offer monthly classes to the public on proper car seat installation, and has provided almost 6,000 car seats to local families since the program began in 2009. The office is a huge supporter of the United Way of Southern Arizona, and associates pledged a record \$440,000 in 2017.

For job listings and to submit an application, visit <https://www.geico.com/careers/office-locations/arizona-tucson/>.



Martha Furnas, GEICO's regional vice president, shares some anecdotes as she reflects on 15 years of memories in Tucson. Joining her on stage (left to right) are Jim Click, president of Jim Click Automotive; Tony Penn, president and CEO of United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona; and Richard Fimbres, Tucson Ward 5 city council member.



GEICO Chairman and CEO Tony Nicely congratulates associates on 15 years of accomplishments in Tucson. Joining him on stage (left to right) are Andreina Valenzuela of San Miguel High School; Jim Click, president of Jim Click Automotive; Tony Penn, president and CEO of United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona; and Richard Fimbres, Tucson Ward 5 city council member.

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