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## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **West-MEC's Rahsaan Bartet named Opportunities For Youth Chairman**

**Glendale, Ariz. (April 2022)** -- Opportunities For Youth, a nonprofit housed out of ASU's Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions recently named Rahsaan Bartet as the chair of their leadership council. Rahsaan steps into the position with years of experience serving disadvantaged children and youth.

OFY works with local communities, government entities and schools to help reengage youth between the ages of 18–24 who have dropped out of school, are under-employed or unemployed.

Talking about the need for supporting city youth, Bartet said, "The youth are our untapped potential. Specifically in Maricopa County, we have close to two hundred thousand youth out there who need our help. And the numbers have increased since the pandemic. Last year when I was introduced to the nonprofit, I was really excited as supporting disconnected youth is where I started my career."

OFY Program Director Maritza Valenzuela said, "Since I joined OFY mid-2021, Rahsaan has been active in OFY. His level of engagement and commitment made him an obvious choice for a bigger leadership role within OFY. He also understands opportunity youth and how to connect directly with them. We're excited to tap into his expertise and dedication even more now."

Rahsaan is the Elementary and Community Liason for West-MEC. Apart from moderating the group's successful town hall and advocating for the needs of youth, he hopes to introduce the disadvantaged population to CTE and its numerous opportunities through his new position.

### **About West-MEC:**

**West-MEC is a career technical education public school district that focuses solely on innovative career and technical education (CTE) programs that prepare students to enter the workforce and pursue continuing education. West-MEC CTE programs provide students opportunities to earn college credit and industry credentials. West-MEC serves more than 37,000 students from 48 high schools, across 3,800 square miles in the northern and western cities of the Phoenix Metropolitan area. West-MEC now also offers adult education programs. Visit [www.west-mec.edu](http://www.west-mec.edu) for more information about**

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