



# Cochise County Board of Supervisors

Public Programs...Personal Service  
www.cochise.az.gov

**THOMAS E. BORER**  
Chairman  
District 1

**EDWARD T. GILLIGAN**  
County Administrator

**ANN ENGLISH**  
Vice-Chairman  
District 2

**SHARON GILMAN**  
Associate County Administrator

**PEGGY JUDD**  
Supervisor  
District 3

**KIM LEMONS**  
Clerk of the Board

June 25, 2020

Melissa Silva, Regional Manager  
University of Arizona Distance Network  
4190 W. Highway 80  
Douglas, AZ 85607

Dear Ms. Silva and UA Distance Network partners,

The Cochise County Board of Supervisors is proud to expand our relationship with the University of Arizona by offering classroom space in our historic Douglas Regional Service Center for your exciting new project, U CAN RISE! Recognizing the importance of this project to our community, we fully support your efforts, including the application to the US Department of Agriculture's Distance Learning Telemedicine Grant opportunity.

Expanding educational opportunities through direct access to distance learning technology in Douglas will help move our economy forward. This is a primary goal of the Board's Strategic Plan. Low educational attainment among residents age 18-24 is one factor impacting our capacity to attract businesses seeking a talented workforce. According to American Community Survey data, in this age group, nearly four times as many individuals have not graduated high school (16.2%) as have attained a bachelor's degree (4.4%).

Our Douglas Service Center's downtown location is within walking distance of the Raul E. Castro International Port of Entry and residential neighborhoods. The building offers many essential services to children and families. This location is an ideal place for The University of Arizona Distance Network to promote and provide access to advanced education. Your goal to address the perceived barriers of awareness, opportunity, and achievement is key to increasing bachelor's degree attainment for future STEM leaders. The economic future of southeastern Arizona, and particularly the border community of Douglas, will depend upon our successful development and retention of these leaders.

Cochise County has successfully worked with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension to address the changing needs of our constituents over the years. We value this longstanding partnership and are excited to provide a physical home in our Douglas Service Center for the U CAN RISE! Project.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Borer  
Chairman, District 1

Ann English  
Vice-Chairman, District 2

Peggy Judd  
Supervisor, District 3

1415 Melody Lane, Building G  
Bisbee, Arizona 85603  
520-432-9200  
520-432-5016 fax  
board@cochise.az.gov