

Arizona Rural Health Association Alison Hughes Biography

Alison Hughes is a founding member of the Arizona Rural Health Association and has been a member since its founding in 1994. She began working in rural health shortly after she graduated from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government in 1985 and continued in this trajectory until her retirement in 2012. She first served as Associate Director of the State's Rural Health Office, and upon the untimely death of Director Andy Nichols, was appointed to the position of Director. She served as AzRHA Board President twice during this time period. She was an active member of the National Association of Rural Health having served on its policy committee and other committees. She was appointed by the Clinton administration to serve on the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services (then titled the national Advisory Committee on Rural health), and also served on the Good Neighbor Environmental Board, an independent Federal Advisory Committee that advises the President and Congress on good neighbor practices along the U.S. border with Mexico. She was a founding member of the National Association of State Offices of Rural Health and served as the board's second President. Prior to her retirement from the Rural Health Office, she was responsible for the transformation of that office into what is known today as the Center for Rural Health at the University of Arizona. During the past six years on behalf of AzRHA, along with former AzRHA Board member Lucia Spikes, Alison has organized the border youth leadership conference and taught leadership skills to the youth participants.