



## Wingspan's new director is former employee

By Alexis Bechman

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After searching extensively for a new executive director, Wingspan has hired back one of its first employees.

Jason Cianciotto has been named the new executive director of Tucson's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community center. Cianciotto is a former member of the youth group and a grant writer.

"Tucson is the community that mentored and inspired me to make the pursuit of equality for LGBT people my life's work," Cianciotto said.

Cianciotto has a master's degree in public administration from the University of Arizona.

**He most recently served as research director for The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Policy Institute in New York City. He also was the Task Force's primary spokesman at press conferences.**

He has written and published reports and studies related to LGBT youth, Hispanic and Latino same-sex families and marriage equality, according to a press release from Wingspan.

"Jason brings to Wingspan tremendous national LGBT policy and advocacy experience," said Carol Lohmann, Wingspan board president. "We are confident that his vision and leadership will result in a deepening of our impact on the community, regionally and across the country."

Cianciotto was selected for the job after a national search resulted in 21 candidates and three finalists.

In September, Wingspan's executive director, Joseph Bodenmiller, quit after a month on the job for personal reasons. Bodenmiller succeeded Wingspan's first executive director, Kent Burbank, who headed the agency for six years.

Wingspan, which has been in Tucson for 20 years, has 20 employees and a budget of \$1.2 million. A public reception for the new director will be held at 5 p.m. May 15 at Wingspan, 425 E. Seventh St.