

ADVERTISEMENT

Family Owned, Customer Driven.

Click Here to View Our Inventory

LINCOLN



SN www.azstarnet.com™ THE ONLINE SERVICE OF THE ARIZONA DAILY STAR

tucson weather:

View Forecast

Hear KGUN9 Forecast

LIVE Tucson TRAFFIC Cams



Text Size: S M L

HOME · ENTERTAINMENT · HEALTH · FEATURES · BUSINESS · EVENT CALENDAR · SPORTS · UA SPORTS · SITEMAP

subscribe to the Arizona Daily Star · manage your Star subscription · classifieds · jobs · autos · real estate · obituaries

MORE FROM tucson.com POWERED BY TUCSON'S NEWSPAPERS

FEATURED ADVERTISEMENTS

Marketplace

apartments.com Find a place Moving

cars.com Find a car Sell a car

careerbuilder Find a job Fill a job

Tucson Classified Stuff Place an ad

shopLocal Coupons On sale Ads

eHarmony Dating Personality profile

tucsonhomes New Resale

Advertiser Marketplace

- ABYGAIL'S FINE BAKERY & CAFE
· ALLIED FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.
· ALLIED GLASS SERVICES
· ALLIED HOME MORTGAGE CAPITAL CORPORATION
· ANDY COURTNEY PROPERTIES
· ARIZONA GOLF ACADEMY
· ARIZONA THEATRE COMPANY
· AZ-TEC COATINGS
· BETTER BODIES
· BOTOX OFTALMOLOGO Y ASOCIADOS
· BRIDGE CAPITAL CORPORATION
· BUDGET

Tucson, Arizona | Published: 04.01.2003

« back



Download PDF

- All Headlines
· Mobile Edition
· Front Page
· Tucson Region
· Neighbors
· Arizona / West
· Nation
· Washington
· World
· Sports



enlarge image

WOMEN IN BUSINESS
Perkins is Breault CEO

Photo by James S. Wood

Kathleen Perkins, the new CEO of Beault Research Organization

Promotion puts her in optics industry's highest echelons

By David Wichner
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Kathleen Perkins on



(Flashing = current amber alert)

Click to sign up for alerts now

REAL Cities Visit other RealCities sites

Special Content:

- LIVE! Traffic Cams
· Coexistence
· StarNet Store
· StarNet Travel Deals
· Fantasy Sports
· Sports and Event Tickets
· Salary & Cost of living calculators

- [Opinion](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Accent](#)

WEEKLY SECTIONS:

- [Food](#)
- [Northwest](#)
- [Caliente](#)
- [Home](#)
- [Travel](#)



SEARCH:

- 7 day
- Star Archive
- Classifieds

ProQuest subscribers use this [link](#)

SPECIAL SECTIONS:

- [America at War](#)
- [Border news](#)
- [Destinations](#)
- [Earth 911](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [110 Degrees](#)

Monday was promoted to chief executive officer of Tucson-based Breault Research Organization, making her one of the highest-ranking women in the optics industry.

Perkins formerly was vice president of sales and marketing for Breault, which provides systems-analysis software and consulting services to the optics industry.

Bob Breault, company founder and chairman, said Perkins has helped guide the internationally renowned Breault's growth since joining the company in 1995 and has been instrumental in promoting Tucson as "Optics Valley."

"She's earned it, every bit of the way," Breault said, citing company sales that have grown from \$2.6 million to \$4.4 million since Perkins was first hired as a consultant in 1995.

Breault, co-chairman of the Arizona Optics Industry Association, cited Perkins tireless work on behalf of the local industry through her work

UNIVERSITY PHYSICIANS HEALTHCARE GROUP

We are a state sponsored, member funded plan for the self-employed and small businesses.

- [Email this Story](#)
- [Printer friendly version](#)
- [Write a letter to the Editor](#)

• [Newspapers In Education](#)

StarNet news partners:

- tucson.com
- Arizona Daily Star'
- azhighschoolsports.com
- aznightbuzz.com
- pac10fanatic.com
- kvoa.com
- KGUN 9.COM
- FOXTIAZ.com
- azfamily.com
- M 5 NBC
- YU100!
- EL IMPARCIAL.COM

Advertisements:

- BUDGET BLINDS WEST
- BURR
- CASA SANCHEZ
- CHILO'S
- CIRUGIA DE CATARATA
- CLAIRE JEAN PRAGER - COLDWELL BANKER SUCCESS SOUTHWEST
- COIT
- COLDWELL BANKER SUCCESS SOUTHWEST
- COLORTILE
- COPENHAGEN BUSINESS INTERIORS
- COYOTE CREEK
- DIRECT PAGING/CELLULAR & SATELLITE
- EDUCAMEXUS
- EI GUERO CANELO
- ESPECIALIZAMOS NADA M'AS EN TI
- GAIL LARocca - COLDWELL BANKER SUCCESS SOUTHWEST
- GLAMOROUS
- GOLD COAST MORTGAGE GROUP
- HANDYMAN CONNECTION
- HIDDEN VALLEY INN RESTAURANT & SALOON
- HOTCHKISS FINANCIAL, INC.
- HUGHES FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
- INN SUITES HOTELS & SUITES
- J.C. ROSE DENTAL CENTER
- JEWELL'S FINE ART FESTIVALS
- JOAN CARUSO - COLDWELL BANKER SUCCESS SOUTHWEST
- KARIMI ORIENTAL RUGS
- KARLIN FRANKLUND - COLDWELL BANKER SUCCESS SOUTHWEST
- KB HOME
- L.A. SPAS
- LA JOLLA DIAMONDS &

- [Local columnists](#)
- [Mapping the news](#)
- [Midwest](#)
- [Pets](#)
- [Pets 911](#)
- [Crime](#)
- [Star 200](#)
- [Tech news](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [UA Sports](#)
- [Varsity sports](#)
- [Weird News](#)
- [Wildfires](#)

STARNET HELP:

- [Contact Us](#)
- [Subscribe](#)

STARNET SERVICES:

- [Make StarNet My Homepage](#)
- [Get our daily newsletter](#)
- [Movie Times](#)
- [SN Community](#)
- [Bulletin Boards](#)
- [Newspapers in Education](#)
- [ethepeople](#)
- [Legal Resource Center](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Homes sold](#)

with the cluster. Clusters are networks of firms in like industries that work to promote their field.

Breault, formerly also president of the company, said he will leave that post vacant for now and remain chairman, with Perkins reporting to him.

"It frees me up to do my cluster stuff, my corporate stuff and my community outreach," said Breault, who has helped form 25 optics clusters around the globe and sits on the boards of 23 of them.

Perkins, 44, said she was honored by the appointment to the company's CEO spot.

"We've built an incredible franchise," Perkins said of Breault's products. "It's not a mass market, we're not a Krispy Kreme, but among the technology elite, this is the tool they choose over and over again."

An optics industry colleague said she was happy to hear of Perkins' promotion, noting that women in CEO spots are unusual in the optics industry.

"It's very uncommon, and Breault Research is a highly technical company," said Cindi Vernold,, an optical engineer and University of Arizona graduate who co-owns Optical Insights LLC in Santa Fe, N. M.

Vernold, who has been involved in efforts by the International Society for Optical Engineering to attract more women to the field, said the lack of female executives is rooted in the difficulty in drawing young women to technical fields.

apartments.com™

It will
move
you.



From studios
to condos.

Click on rentals on tucson.com



tucson.com

GEMS

- LYNN KLLNE - KLINE REALTY
- MARIA'S GOLD
- MARK GALLEGOS - COLDWELL BANKER SUCCESS SOUTHWEST
- MARRONEY THEATRE
- MARY ANN LEVENSON - LONG REALTY COMPANY
- MEDTECH MAMMOGRAPHY CENTERS & WOMEN'S IMAGING
- NANCY SNOW - COLDWELL BANKER SUCCESS SOUTHWEST
- NOVA HOME LOANS
- OSCAR RAMIREZ - LONG REALTY COMPANY
- PALA VERDE REAL ESTATE LLC
- PEPPER VINER HOMES
- PERSONAL ADVERTISER
- PERSONAL ADVERTISER
- PETLAND
- PIMA COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
- ROSEQUIST GALLERIES & CUSTOM PICTURE
- SARAH FRESE - COLDWELL BANKER SUCCESS SOUTHWEST
- SEARS CARPET AND UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
- SOLATUBE
- STEVE MCGARRIGLE - COLDWELL BANKER SUCCESS SOUTHWEST
- STOOL & DINETTE FACTORY
- STRATEGIC ADVISORS GROUP
- SUN LIGHTING
- TEDDY'S DOG HOUSE
- TER-MARK GUN SHOW
- THE CARPET STORE
- THE ECLECTIC CAFE
- THE MAX GALLERY
- THE PROVIDENCE INSTITUTE

- [Market Browser](#)
- [Headlines for your site or weblog](#)
- [Southern Arizona Community Profiles](#)

STOCK QUOTES

Search by ticker symbol, abbreviation from a newspaper or company name.

Stock Quote

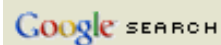


Business Name:

OR Category:

Enter City:

State:



"Part of the issue is having role models like Kathleen," Vernold said, adding that Perkins' promotion shows that engineering isn't the industry's only career path.

Both Perkins and Breault downplayed Perkins' gender as an issue, citing other female heads of local optics firms.

Perkins said opportunities for women have increased since she joined the industry.

"It's definitely changed, but I wouldn't say there are an enormous number of (women) role models," she said.

A local attorney who has worked with Perkins to teach small companies how to win funding said he wasn't surprised by Perkins' promotion.

"She's got a real good feel for technology and at the same time, she can express that in ways that everyone can understand," said Larry Hecker, a Tucson lawyer who specializes in capital formation issues.

Perkins said her mission will continue to be "customer obsession," though she knows her role has expanded.

"When you're in the CEO role, all of a sudden you're dealing with banks and leases and human resources, and you don't want to get too far from the customer," she said.

Perkins is no stranger to changing roles, coming to the optics industry after a career in the cosmetics business.

After earning a marketing degree from St. Joseph's University in

Featured content:



MORE LINKS:



A Pulitzer newspaper

- [STLtoday, St. Louis](#)
- [Arizona Daily Sun, Flagstaff](#)

- THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
- THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
- THE WESTIN LA PALOMA RESORT & SPA
- THRIFT STORE
- TIME WARNER TELECOM
- TOBACCO BARN
- UA PRESENTS
- WEST REALTY
- WILLIAM A. PENN - COLDWELL BANKER SUCCESS SOUTHWEST
- YETIVE LAURIE - COLDWELL BANKER SUCCESS SOUTHWEST
- YO MA SOLUTIONS
- YOSI'S CREATIONS FLOWER SHOP

Philadelphia in 1980, Perkins spent 10 years in the New York cosmetics industry, including a stint as regional sales manager of Revlon Corp.'s \$80 million Halston division.

In 1992, Perkins moved to Tucson to take a position as director of business development at LightPath Technologies Inc. before joining Breault.

Contact reporter David Wichner at 573-4181 or wichner@azstarnet.com.

[« back](#)

• [Email this Story](#) | • [Printer friendly version](#) | • [Write a letter to the Editor](#)

[Subscribe to the Arizona Daily Star](#)

[News](#) · [Sports](#) · [Entertainment](#) · [Health](#) · [Travel](#) · [Features](#) · [Tech](#) · [Business](#) · [Classifieds](#) · [Funeral Notices](#)

[StarNet's privacy policy](#)

All content copyright © 1999-2005 AzStarNet, Arizona Daily Star and its wire services and suppliers and may not be republished without permission. All rights reserved. Any copying, redistribution, or retransmission of any of the contents of this service without the expressed written consent of Arizona Daily Star or AzStarNet is prohibited.