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## PRESS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: *Gayle Mabery, Town Manager*  
Address: P.O. Box 308, Clarkdale, AZ 86324  
Phone: (928) 639-2415  
Email: [Gayle.Mabery@clarkdale.az.gov](mailto:Gayle.Mabery@clarkdale.az.gov)  
URL: [www.clarkdale.az.gov](http://www.clarkdale.az.gov)

### Clarkdale Mayor Completes Flinn-Brown Civic Leadership Academy

*Clarkdale, AZ (December 12, 2011)* – Clarkdale Mayor Doug Von Gausig was one of 25 Fellows to recently complete the Fall 2011 Flinn-Brown Academy. Flinn Brown Fellows are selected through a competitive process that is designed to ensure that each Academy includes representatives with a broad range of experience from all walks of life and perspectives. Candidates exhibit a commitment to civic engagement and an ability to be an effective leader. Fellows must be able to analyze substantive, state-level policy issues and have the capacity and willingness to make fact-driven decisions, consider different perspectives and base public-policy decisions on serving the common good.

Mayor Von Gausig described the program as incredible: “We learned in-depth about the State of Arizona, how it works, what its challenges are, what its strengths are (its people!), and what we need to do in the future to bring our state forward. My classmates were some of the finest, brightest, most inspiring people I have met in my life, and I’m excited and anxious to put the knowledge and lessons learned at Flinn-Brown to work for Arizona, for Clarkdale and for the Verde Valley!”

The Flinn Foundation and the Thomas R. Brown Foundations formed a partnership to create the Arizona Center for Civic Leadership after the Center for the Future of Arizona’s undertook a 2009 Gallup poll to obtain Arizonans’ perspectives on issues, with an objective of creating a residents’ agenda for moving Arizona forward. The results, published in *The Arizona We Want*, reflect the importance of strong leadership to Arizona’s residents and its future. Poll respondents strongly agreed that:

“Arizona needs fully prepared leadership and governance structures appropriate to the 21st century.”

Administered by the Flinn Foundation, the Center works to strengthen civic leadership in Arizona and foster collaboration among all types of organizations involved in civic leadership and civic engagement.

To learn more about the Arizona Center for Civic Leadership and the Flinn-Brown Leadership Academy, visit <http://azcivicleadership.org/>

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Flinn-Brown Academy Fellows,  
Fall 2011