

BELINDA NELSON
General Manager
Gila River Telecommunications, Inc.

Ms. Nelson is the General Manager for the Gila River Telecommunications, Inc. (GRTI) serving the Gila River Indian Community in south central Arizona. On January 1989, she became the first employee hired by GRTI as an Office Manager and worked under the direction of the Operations Manager and the Board of Directors. She also worked in the Accounting Office, Customer Service/Sales, and Human Resources. In March 1999, the Board of Directors selected Belinda to the position of Interim General Manager and she was later hired as General Manager. Belinda is a member of the Pima Tribe of the Gila River Indian Community.

GRTI currently has approximately 3,800 access lines, including business, residence, and private line circuits. Approximately 48 percent of these are business lines. The state-of-the-art telecommunications system currently consists of a host-remote configured SS7 network. Fiber optic cable connects all central offices, as well as serving ten Digital Loop Carrier concentrator units. The total system consists of over 140 miles of fiber optic cable and over 350 miles of buried copper cable. GRTI offers customers optional calling plans and service such as Centrex, CLASS and Custom Calling features. The company has scheduled deployment of Digital Subscriber Loop (DSL) for the end of 2002.

GRTI is also a 25 percent owner of the Gila River Cellular General partnership, serving the Rural Service Area 5 in Arizona with Verizon Wireless as the managing partner. The service includes a portion of the Interstate 10 corridor between Phoenix and Tucson, as well as all of Pinal and Gila Counties in Arizona.

In January 2001, Belinda was appointed to the FCC Consumer/Disability Telecommunications Advisory Committee by former FCC Chairman William Kennard. The committee serves and addresses the consumer needs of the American public, including the unserved and under-served populations of rural America.

Contact Information

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