

## **For Immediate Release**

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## **ABOR Announces New Student Record System to Track Arizona High School Graduates' College Attendance Rates Nationwide**

### **New Information Will Allow Arizona to Address College Preparedness Efforts**

January 28, 2010 (Phoenix, AZ) – Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) President Ernest Calderón today announced that the Regents and the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) have finalized an agreement with the National Student Clearinghouse to track the number of high school students in Arizona who move on to college, including two-year, four-year, public, private, trade school and vocational institutions nationwide. Never before has Arizona had the ability to track this information. Previously, Arizona has only been able to tap into the number of high school students who enroll in one of Arizona's community colleges or public universities. With this agreement, ABOR and ADE will have a wealth of information at their fingertips about Arizona's high school student college going trends.

"I'd like to thank Superintendent Tom Horne for his support in this endeavor," said President Ernest Calderón. "This is a monumental agreement that will dramatically change the current picture we have of Arizona students going on to post-secondary education, providing Arizona with the most accurate information available about how many of our high school students are going to college and where exactly they are going. It will also give us critical insight into Arizona's college preparedness efforts."

In addition to college attendance information, the agreement with the Clearinghouse will provide information on school choice, community college transfer students, and post-secondary degree attainment rates. High school graduate information will be matched against a national database that includes enrollment information from more than 3,000 collegiate institutions nationwide that account for more than 91 percent of all higher education students. ABOR and ADE will have immediate access to data from years 2003-2008 and every year thereafter once the data becomes available. The entire tracking process is estimated to take about a year from the high school graduation date.

“The results provided from the National Student Clearinghouse will benefit K-12 education in Arizona,” said Arizona School Chief Tom Horne.

This student record system is part of a set of reforms laid out by President Calderón in June of 2009 to assess student progress at every phase of learning, examine the effectiveness of educational practices and improve our knowledge of the outcomes of Arizona high school graduates in post-secondary education.

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