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Arizona High School Report Card: Increased University Enrollment, Improved Student Preparation

(Tucson, Ariz.) – The Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) today released their annual Arizona High School Report Card highlighting an increase in university enrollment and an improvement in preparation among Arizona students. The report shows an all-time high number of Arizona high-school graduates attending one of the state's three public universities the following fall semester.

The 2014-15 report card shows that the Arizona university system recorded an increase of 1,127 (9.4 percent) in the number of Arizona high-school graduates who enrolled in the fall semester immediately following their senior year. It also details the success Arizona schools have achieved during the past four years, increasing their percentage of students admitted without academic deficiencies from 80 percent in 2011 to 84 percent in 2014.

The study includes an evaluation of how prepared Arizona high-school students are when attending the state's public universities and how ready they are to achieve success at an institution of higher learning.

"The preparation of students in Arizona high schools to hit the ground running in their fall semester of their freshman year is critical to achieving a college degree," said ABOR President Eileen Klein. "As student preparation continues to improve, our universities can immediately build on their high-school education. We're very pleased with the increased number of high-school graduates attending one of our universities, and we're looking forward to continued growth in these improvements. We appreciate the hard work that teachers and parents accomplish every day in helping our youth prepare for college."

The Arizona [High School Report Card](#) is prepared by ABOR to empower student success and learning, advance educational attainment within Arizona and positively impact our state. These report cards are designed for and distributed to Arizona's high schools to help ensure that their graduates are ready for success in post-secondary education. The sample of students is limited to Arizona resident undergraduate students who graduated from an Arizona high school in the previous year.

The results contained within the report card are positive. In first year English, 77 percent of students took freshman English, achieving a grade-point average (GPA) of 3.2. Approximately 15 percent took advanced English and received a GPA of 3.4. About 65 percent of freshmen taking math took either college algebra or calculus. The average grade in calculus was 2.6 and was 2.4 for college algebra.

“This report card brings well-received news that collectively Arizona high schools are improving the rate at which they graduate students who are ready to achieve success in our higher education system,” said ABOR Chair Jay Heiler. “This report card is an important tool as we continue to identify opportunities to strengthen our K-12 system and allows high-school administrators to clearly see how they are performing in graduating students and preparing them for higher education.”

Following is a list of the top 15 high schools in terms of number of students enrolled in Arizona’s public universities in the semester following high school graduation. The table also includes the number of students graduated from the school, and percentage enrolled in an Arizona public university:

HIGH SCHOOL NAME	Total Enrolled in Fall 2014	Total Graduated In 2014	% of Graduated Enrolled in Arizona Universities
Desert Vista High School	340	700	48.6%
Hamilton High School	327	853	38.3%
Corona del Sol High School	276	435	63.4%
Desert Mountain High School	265	526	50.4%
Pinnacle High School	247	562	44.0%
Chaparral High School	221	500	44.2%
Catalina Foothills High School	219	401	54.6%
Chandler High School	198	750	26.4%
Basha High School	190	587	32.4%
Red Mountain High School	183	726	25.2%
Mountain Pointe High School	180	568	31.7%
Mountain Ridge High School	168	551	30.5%
Sandra Day O'Connor High School	162	561	28.9%
Horizon High School	158	472	33.5%
Cactus Shadows High School	154	418	36.8%

Fall Enrollment and Degrees and Majors Reports

In addition to the Arizona High School Report Card, ABOR also released the 2015 [Fall Enrollment Report](#). According to the report, Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University and the University of Arizona saw the largest increase of total enrollment at their schools since fall 1975.

Headcount enrollment increased by 6.7 percent, bringing the total enrollment at the schools to a record 163,183 students. During the past five years, headcount enrollment has increased by 21.4 percent and helped ABOR continue toward its goal of making a world-class education accessible to as many Arizona families as possible.

Also released was the [Degrees and Majors Report](#) to document the economic contribution of Arizona’s universities to improving the skills of the local workforce and expanding the educational attainment of the population. In 2013-14, the state’s public universities awarded 26,634 bachelor’s degrees and

10,222 graduate degrees. This is an increase of 849 (3.3 percent) in bachelor's degrees and an increase of 805 (8.5 percent) in graduate degrees compared to the prior academic year. The universities have also shown significant process over the past 10 years, increasing the number of bachelor degrees awarded by 44.6 percent and the number of graduate degrees by 40.5 percent. These studies fall on the heels of the [High School Eligibility](#) study released in September that shows that less than half of Arizona's high school graduates are eligible to qualify for admissions requirements at Arizona's universities.

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