

**EDUCATE • DISCOVER • IMPACT**

Contact: Katie Paquet, 602-229-2543, 602-524-0009 Katie.Paquet@azregents.edu
Sarah Harper, 602-229-2542, 602-402-1341 Sarah.K.Harper@azregents.edu

ABOR Reaction to State Senate's FY15 Budget

The following statement may be attributed to Arizona Board of Regents President Eileen I. Klein:

(Phoenix, Ariz.) – “We appreciate the Arizona Senate’s inclusion of several of ABOR’s budget priorities in its fiscal year 2015 budget proposal. The \$27 million for parity close-out will help end per-student funding inequities among our three state universities. Additionally, the \$2.5 million for the University of Arizona’s Cooperative Extension program will benefit agriculture and community service programs in rural areas of all 15 counties. And, the \$3 million included for capital programs will assist with some critical infrastructure needs on all three campuses.

“However, Arizona’s public universities still lack a clear funding path for the future. Proposals requested by the Legislature to fund the universities based on meeting performance metrics that benefit the state have largely been ignored. Furthermore, the University of Arizona is now heading into its sixth year of receiving virtually no new money for its main Tucson campus.

“It bears repeating that tuition costs have a direct tie to state funding levels. As the state has started to recommit dollars to our universities tuition increases have leveled off. More could be done to ease the cost of a university education with an even greater commitment from the state.

“We strongly urge the House of Representatives to consider performance funding and critical dollars for the University of Arizona to carry-out their public mission and serve the citizens of our state before passing the Senate’s budget.”

###

The Arizona Board of Regents is committed to ensuring access for qualified residents of Arizona to undergraduate and graduate instruction; promoting the discovery, application, and dissemination of new knowledge; extending the benefits of university activities to Arizona's citizens outside the university; and maximizing the benefits derived from the state's investment in education. For more information visit AZRegents.edu.