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Arizona's Public Universities' Six-year Graduation Rate Higher Than National Average

A report released yesterday by the U.S. Department of Education provides state-by-state graduation and loan default rates for institutions of higher education (cumulative data for public, private, and for-profit institutions). Numerous media outlets have published news about the report with headlines that indicate Arizona's college graduation rate is the lowest in the nation. Here's what you need to know about Arizona's public universities – Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University and the University of Arizona:

- The system-wide graduation rate for our three universities is 59.8% (2013-14 data). The national average for four-year public universities is 55% (2012-13 data, most recent available).
- Our own Arizona State University was cited in the report as showcasing new models to allow more students to obtain a degree: "Arizona State University awards about 60 percent more degrees today than it did a decade ago, and has doubled its number of African-American and Hispanic students during the same time period."
- The Board of Regents has set aggressive graduation goals for our universities and we aim to increase our system-wide graduation rate to 65.6% by 2020. All three universities are making significant strides to increase graduation rates through innovative retention initiatives, educational delivery models, student services and outreach programs.

Student success is the primary focus of our board and our public universities. The board and universities pride themselves on providing transparent information to the public on progress in numerous metrics to measure growth and success, including six-year graduation rates. We report on this information regularly at public meetings and publish data on all of our metrics [here](#).

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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.