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ABOR Reaction to Governor Brewer's State of the State Address

The following statement may be attributed to ABOR President Eileen I. Klein:

(Phoenix, Ariz.) – “We appreciate the Governor’s acknowledgement of the role education and research play in building a strong economy for Arizona. Governor Brewer’s call for a more stable tuition model will continue the work ABOR has done over the last five years to increase access, affordability and predictability for students and families.

“One of the most important ways to achieve tuition predictability is through a commitment to sufficient and stable funding from the state. Just as Arizona suffered from one of the worst recessions in the nation, state budget cuts to Arizona’s public universities were also among the worst in the nation, resulting in a massive cost shift from the state to students and their families.

“A strong partnership with the state will allow Arizona’s public universities to better plan for the future and offer students and families a longer-term view of the financial picture as it relates to tuition, fees and debt upon graduation. As state revenues have rebounded and policymakers have begun to recommit dollars back to our universities in recent years, tuition increases have been zero to moderate. ABOR also offers many price points for students pursuing higher education through lower-cost partnerships with our state’s community colleges and branch campuses at all three universities. In the coming weeks, ABOR will continue to deliberate on ways to enhance tuition and fee predictability and simplify our billing statements.

“More can be done to ensure financial predictability for families and students and to further develop our three world class state universities – Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University and the University of Arizona. We remain committed to working with the Governor and our state lawmakers to secure the resources necessary to achieve these goals.”

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