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**Access and Affordability for Arizona Residents Cornerstone of Regent Ridenour's Term as Board Chair**

PHOENIX, Ariz. – A commitment to increasing access and affordability for Arizona residents to public higher education in the state, coupled with a passion for advancing education for those less fortunate have been the hallmarks of Regent Bill Ridenour's term as chair of the Arizona Board of Regents. His term concludes on June 30 and Regent Ron Shoopman will become the new chair.

Regent Ridenour has frequently recounted and credited his education as the catalyst for the many opportunities he has had in his career. He was the founder and managing partner of the law firm Ridenour, Hinton & Lewis, PLLC., and is a former Judge Pro Tem of the Maricopa County Superior Court. He joined Fennemore Craig as counsel in December 2015.

"It is still hard for me to imagine coming from the one-room schoolhouse in Oatman, Arizona, where I began my education - with one teacher who taught all eight grades - to my role on the Arizona Board of Regents. Growing up in Arizona, I have been a witness and participant to the opportunities of higher education and see my service as a regent as a culmination of my journey. Serving the people of Arizona in my role as a regent is one way of giving back to all those teachers who made success possible for me," Ridenour said.

"It has been a privilege to work together with Regent Ridenour, especially as he worked diligently to conduct and conclude a nationwide search for the next president of University of Arizona," said Regent and Vice Chair Ron Shoopman. "The success of that search is clear in President Robbins who is envisioning a bold new future for the University of Arizona."

He also was instrumental in advancing the board's ongoing, multi-year effort to slow tuition increases and improve predictability for students and families. During Regent Ridenour's term as chair, the Superior Court granted the board's motion to dismiss the Arizona Attorney General's lawsuit against the board on tuition.

A new cost study conducted during Regent Ridenour's term also indicates that Arizona's public universities rank among the most cost-effective universities in the nation.

"The board's No. 1 focus is ensuring Arizona students and families have access to an affordable, quality higher education at our public universities. Chair Ridenour has been – and continues to be – a consummate champion for our students and our universities," said Regent Shoopman. "I look forward to building on the incredible work Chairman Ridenour has created and continue to advance student success and the public higher education enterprise in Arizona."

Regent Ridenour has devoted his expertise and service to the community through numerous community activities, including serving on the board of directors for Arizona State University's College of Public Programs, **Arizona Board of Regents** | 2020 N. Central Avenue, Suite 230 | Phoenix, AZ 85004 (602) 229-2500 | [AZRegents.edu](http://AZRegents.edu)

the University of Arizona Law School Association, the University of Arizona Phoenix Alumni Association, Children's Steele Research Center, Scottsdale Museum of the West, Heard Museum (development chair) and the Arizona State Museum. He is the former chairman of the board for the March of Dimes, and is a founding member of the Arizona Nurses Foundation, as well as the Arizona Bar Foundation. He also serves on the University of Arizona Foundation – President's Society, and is a member of Governor Brewer's Task Force on Human Trafficking.

Former Governor Jan Brewer appointed Ridenour to an eight-year term on the Arizona Board of Regents in March 2014. He is the chair of the Regents Executive Committee and an ex officio member of the Business and Finance Committee, Audit Committee, Academic and Student Affairs Committee, and Research, Innovation and Impact Committee. He received a bachelor of arts from the University of Arizona in 1966 and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Arizona in 1970 where he served as the president of the Student Bar Association. His term at the Arizona Board of Regents expires in 2022.

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