



News Release

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Increasing Educational Attainment in Arizona, Enterprise Collaboration Hallmarks of Regent Shoopman's Term as Board Chair

Phoenix, Ariz. – A commitment to increasing educational attainment in Arizona has been a primary focus for Regent Ron Shoopman during his term as chair of the Arizona Board of Regents. He also was a tremendous proponent of increased collaboration of the public university enterprise. His term concludes on June 30 and Regent Larry Edward Penley will become the new chair.

Through Chair Shoopman's leadership, the board has increased efforts to boost awareness of the need to increase educational attainment throughout the state. New initiatives include increased stakeholder engagement and statewide collaborations, working to develop a toolkit for K-12 schools with university resources, and creating a new high school report card of schools that excel in preparing students for success in postsecondary education.

"I appreciate and thank Chair Shoopman for his dedication and commitment to public higher education," said ABOR Chair-elect Penley. "Without doubt, his leadership as chair will have lasting effects on this board. He is a man of great integrity and is an outstanding steward of public higher education. I am also most appreciative of Chair Shoopman's focus on educational attainment, and he has been instrumental in bringing this to the forefront in Arizona. This will remain a priority for the board as it must be for our state's leaders in business, education and government."

Chair Shoopman is a tireless advocate for education, dedicating his time to meeting with numerous business and community organizations as well as legislators. As chair, he has worked extensively with the media, met with statewide editorial boards and authored guest editorials that ran in the state's largest newspapers on subjects ranging from University of Arizona Robert Robbins' [new strategic plan](#) to [quality higher education](#) at the universities.

"Chair Shoopman is a tremendous leader and I have deeply appreciated his emphasis on collaboration and partnership on the board, with the presidents and for the enterprise as a whole," said ABOR Executive Director John Arnold. "He leads by example and has personally inspired me as I continue to grow in my leadership role at the board. I consider it an invaluable opportunity to work alongside Chair Shoopman and genuinely look forward to our continued work together."

During Regent Shoopman's term as chair, the board conducted a first-of-its-kind, independent [economic impact study](#) demonstrating the significant economic benefits of Arizona's public universities - \$11.1 billion and 84,000 jobs in fiscal year 2017.

"Chair Shoopman is an excellent ambassador for public higher education in Arizona. I appreciate his focus on the impact of the enterprise on our state and continuing the board's effort to ensure quality and increase education past high school for Arizonans. These are just a few of his many accomplishments during his year as chair of the board, and I look forward to continuing to work with him during the rest of his term," said Regent Lyndel Manson, incoming chair-elect of the board.

Chair Shoopman is a former General Officer and Wing Commander of the 162nd Fighter Wing, commanding the International F-16 Training Wing for the United States Air Force. He was president and CEO of the Southern Arizona Leadership Council from 2005 to 2018, an organization of 145 CEOs who are actively involved in improving education, infrastructure, healthcare, governance and the innovation economy.

He devotes his time to service on the board and to many other organizations. He represents the Arizona Board of Regents on the Campus Research Corporation Board and serves on the board for the Center for the Future of Arizona, the Making Action Possible Dashboard, the Arizona Bioscience Board and the Bioscience Leadership Council for Southern Arizona. Regent Shoopman is part of the Leadership Council for the Flinn-Brown Civic Leadership Academy and is immediate past chair of the state Bioscience Roadmap Steering Committee.

He received numerous Air Force awards, including the Legion of Merit. Other recognition includes the Governor's 2009 Celebration of Innovation McWhortor Community Service Leader of the Year and the 2012 Tucson Father of the Year.

Former Gov. Jan Brewer appointed Regent Shoopman to an eight-year term on the Arizona Board of Regents in March 2014. He currently serves as chair of the board and chair of the Regents Executive Committee and Regents Award Selection Committee. He is an ex officio member of the Finance, Capital and Resources Committee, Audit Committee, Academic Affairs and Educational Attainment Committee, and the Research and Health Sciences Committee. He received professional military education at the Air War College and the Air Command and Staff College, and received his bachelor's degree from Arizona State University in Aeronautical Technology. His term on the Arizona Board of Regents expires in 2022.

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