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## **Dedication to Arizona's Students, Access to Affordable Public Higher Education Mark Cornerstones of Mark Killian's Service to ABOR**

(Phoenix, AZ) – A commitment to making higher education a reality for Arizona's students and families and a dedication to keeping public higher education affordable and accessible have been the cornerstones of Mark W. Killian's service to the Arizona Board of Regents. Regent Killian today announced his resignation from the board, effective Oct. 1.

Regent Killian, appointed by Gov. Jan Brewer to the board in 2010 for an eight-year term, was recently appointed by Gov. Doug Ducey as director of the Arizona Department of Agriculture. He most recently has served as the treasurer of the board and previously served as board chair.

"Regent Killian is a tireless public servant and has been a passionate champion for accessible public higher education in Arizona," said Jay Heiler, ABOR chair. "He is a genuine 'man of the people' and an ardent advocate of our universities and goals and mission of the board. His long tenure of public service to the state, coupled with his desire to make higher education a reality for all Arizonans provided a balanced view that has served the board well as it navigated unprecedented fiscal challenges and an evolving higher education landscape. His service has been distinctive, inspirational and truly exemplary."

Under Regent Killian's leadership as chair, the board updated its strategic plan that includes a proposed new state investment model that proposes the state's ongoing financial relationship with the university system be designed to support Arizona students. The new strategic plan continues to hold Arizona's public universities to strict account for high quality outcomes and also accelerates alignment with K-12 to raise academic achievement. At the board meeting last week, which marked Regent Killian's last meeting as a regent, the board approved the updated plan as well as the proposed state funding model, its FY 2017 state operating budget request and 2016 legislative agenda.

In addition to serving as chair and treasurer, Regent Killian served in numerous leadership positions on the board, including vice chair, chair of the Regents' Award Selection Committee and as a member of the Business and Finance Committee, Audit Committee and Regents' Executive Committee. He was also a regent during one of the most tumultuous times in higher education, punctuated by unprecedented state budget cuts.

Prior to joining ABOR, Regent Killian was the director of Arizona Department of Revenue and served for 14 years in the Arizona State Legislature, including as the Speaker of the House and House Majority Leader. Regent Killian is a licensed commercial real estate broker with 32 years of experience and is involved with a family ranching enterprise overseeing 1,700 acres of farmland in Arizona.

“Regent Killian’s passion for the people of our state coupled with his wise and balanced leadership was a tremendous gift to the board over the last five years,” said ABOR President Eileen I. Klein. “Through his unwavering respect for public higher education as a fundamental principle of our nation, his altruism and his integrity, Regent Killian leaves a great legacy for the board and a constant reminder of the true reason we do our work – to make public higher education a reality for all Arizona students. On behalf of the entire board, I thank him for his service to the university system and the state of Arizona.”

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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](http://AZRegents.edu).*