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## **Enrollment Continues to Increase at Arizona’s Public Universities** *Report Indicates Substantial Growth in Students Taking Online Programs*

Tucson, Ariz. – Enrollment at Arizona’s public universities continues to increase with notable growth in the number of students taking online programs. During the fall of fiscal year 2020, total student enrollment at Arizona’s public universities is 195,672, a 4.7 percent increase over the prior year.

According to the [Arizona Board of Regents Fiscal Year 2020 Fall Enrollment Report](#), since fiscal year 2016, online degree program enrollment has more than doubled, increasing by 112 percent at Arizona’s public universities. Online degree program students now comprise 27.3 percent of total enrollment.

“It’s encouraging to know that enrollment continues to increase at the universities as our state transitions to the New Economy that is defined by jobs that require education past high school,” said ABOR Chair Larry E. Penley. “With demographic declines associated with Generation Z and an aging population, Arizona must continue to increase opportunity for more residents to earn a degree to improve their quality of life and provide the workers needed to usher our state into the New Economy.”

Additional Fall Enrollment Report findings include:

- Undergraduate students totaled 158,135 at Arizona’s public universities this fall semester. Since 2016, undergraduate enrollment grew 18.9 percent from 132,986 to 158,135 and increased 25 percent in graduate enrollment from 30,029 to 37,537.
- The majority of students at Arizona’s public universities are taking at least one online class - 114,251 students or 58.4 percent of total enrollment.
- Most students enrolled at the universities are residents of the state. These 104,494 resident students are joined by 91,178 non-resident students.
- This fall semester, 53,369 students enrolled in an online degree program, 25.7 percent of whom are Arizona residents.

Most of the growth in overall enrollment was at Arizona State University where enrollment increased across all campuses with a year-over-year total increase of 7.8 percent. ASU’s total enrollment this fall is 119,951, exceeding last year’s total enrollment by 8,702 students. ASU’s online degree program enrollment for this fall semester is 43,342, comprising 36.1 percent of total enrollment.

Northern Arizona University’s enrollment declined slightly this year at the main and satellite campuses. Total enrollment for this fall semester is 30,733, a decrease from last year’s total enrollment by 333 students. NAU’s online degree program enrollment for this fall semester is 5,550, comprising 18.1 percent of total enrollment.

Enrollment at The University of Arizona increased slightly at the main campus. The university's total enrollment for this fall semester is 44,988, an increase from last year's total enrollment by 462 students. Online degree program enrollment for this fall semester is 4,477, comprising 9.9 percent of total enrollment.

"To ensure our workforce remains robust, we are advancing a plan to increase educational attainment among Arizonans through measures such as a need-based state financial aid program, expanded access to learning centers across the state and an expanded Arizona Teachers Academy to address teacher shortages," said ABOR Executive Director John Arnold.

The board approved the FY 2020 Fall Enrollment Report at its board meeting last week.

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