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Regent Jay Heiler and Regent Ram Krishna Commemorated as Selfless Public Servants, Student Advocates

(Tempe, Ariz.) – Regent Jay Heiler and Regent Ram Krishna will be remembered as selfless public servants to the state of Arizona as they both conclude their eight-year terms on the Arizona Board of Regents.

“We are grateful for the expertise Regent Heiler and Regent Krishna brought to the board,” said Arizona Board of Regents Chair Larry Penley. “Not only are these two individuals experts in their respective fields – representing knowledge from K-20 education to the medical profession, they are dedicated public servants. Regent Krishna and Regent Heiler both work to ensure our public universities are positioned for success – for students and our state’s future economy. I thank them for outstanding service to the board.”

Appointed to the board in May of 2012 by Gov. Jan Brewer, Regent Krishna is a recently retired orthopedic surgeon who practiced in Yuma. As a surgeon, Regent Krishna brought his medical expertise to the board and provided perspective and insight to proceedings, particularly through input on medical education in Arizona. Beyond his career in medicine, he kept the needs of Yuma’s students and citizens at the forefront of the board.

Regent Krishna has been instrumental in addressing student success at all levels and served two terms as chair of the board’s Academic Affairs and Educational Attainment Committee. He also chaired the Health Affairs Committee during three terms. He served as secretary for the board and on the search committee for a new Northern Arizona University president that brought President Rita Cheng to the university.

Regent Krishna is a well-known medical professional in Yuma, and has served as chairman and secretary treasurer of the Yuma Regional Medical Center Board of Trustees. He was also chief of surgery for the medical center and president and vice president of the Yuma County Medical Society.

Regent Heiler was appointed to the board in February of 2012 by Gov. Brewer. A lawyer, journalist and political analyst, he is a dedicated education advocate who is the founder and president of the board for Phoenix-based charter school management organization Great Hearts Academies.

Regent Heiler served as chair of the board from 2015 to 2016. As a member of the University of Arizona Presidential Search Committee, he was instrumental in the search that brought Dr. Robert Robbins to Arizona. The board’s tribal consultation policy was updated during his chairmanship to further strengthen relations with tribal nations.

Regent Heiler was honored by the Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry with its 2013 Transformational Leader Award and he represents ABOR on the WestEd Board. He chaired the Arizona

Board of Regents Finance, Capital and Resources Committee; Regents Executive Committee; and served two terms each on the Audit Committee and Health Affairs Committee.

“I appreciate Regent Heiler and Regent Krishna for their mentorship, service and leadership on our board. Both are strong advocates for students and provided exceptional service to our board and universities during their years as regents,” said Arizona Board of Regents Executive Director John Arnold.

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