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Report Focuses on Enterprise Accomplishments, Improving Arizona's Future

Focused on student success and improving educational attainment for Arizonans, highlights from the fiscal year 2019 Arizona Board of Regents Annual Report detail enterprise accomplishments that are driving the state forward.

From its \$11.1 billion in economic impact to awarding more than 43,000 degrees, the university enterprise creates thousands of jobs, economic opportunity and better quality of life for many Arizonans.

"Arizona's public universities are an unparalleled asset for our state," said ABOR Chair Larry Penley. "This report documents how our public universities benefit Arizona – and the students, themselves. It describes how Arizona's workforce is renewed with highly skilled talent in the graduates. It documents how our economy grows through advanced research that drives innovation, technology transfer and new Arizona start-ups."

Key takeaways include:

- An independent economic and fiscal analysis found Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University and the University of Arizona were responsible for more than \$11.1 billion in total economic impact and 84,000 jobs during fiscal year 2017.
- Research at Arizona's public universities infused more than \$1.3 billion into Arizona's economy in fiscal year 2018, significantly impacting Arizona's economy, competitiveness and growth.
- Increasing educational attainment is a top priority for the board and supports the state's attainment goal for 60 percent of Arizonans to have a degree or certificate by 2030. In addition to strategic priorities, including increasing retention and graduation rates and strengthening the K-12 pipeline, this year the board intensified efforts to raise awareness of this issue.
- Wages of graduates demonstrate the tangible benefits of earning a degree with Arizonans with a bachelor's degree earning wages that are more than \$22,000 higher than those with a high school diploma.
- Arizona's public universities collectively served 464 students in the second year of the Arizona Teachers Academy in 2018-19, more than double the enrollment of 221 students during the first year. The academy offers students at Arizona's public universities an innovative teacher training option through varied program offerings across the state, representing a new model that rewards graduates with a tuition scholarship if they teach in Arizona public schools.

- Graduates of the universities earned more than 31,000 bachelor's and 12,000 graduate degrees in 2018 as well as a record number of bachelor's degrees in high-demand fields, including health care and STEM with more than 18,100 bachelor's degrees awarded.
- The Arizona Board of Regents strongly believes that free speech is critical for a healthy university system and each of Arizona's public universities is recognized with the highest rating for free-speech policies by the non-partisan [Foundation for Individual Rights in Education](#). The [Regents' Cup](#) will showcase free speech, civil discourse and democratic engagement while the [Arizona Board of Regents' Committee on Free Expression](#) underscores the board and universities' commitment to free speech.

"This report documents the tangible benefits of higher education from increased wages to improving Arizona's economy," ABOR Executive Director John Arnold said. "The regents are working to prepare our students and state for the educational requirements of Arizona's emerging economy."

The Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report is filed in accordance with A.R.S. 15-1629. Read more [here](#).

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