



Statement
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**Statement from ABOR President Eileen Klein in Reaction to
Gov. Ducey's Executive Budget Proposal**

"Governor Ducey's fiscal year 2018 budget provides needed support to our public universities and the students we serve.

"We are appreciative that the governor has introduced a sales tax recapture program that will allocate nearly \$37 million to support capital infrastructure at Arizona's public universities. This program is an innovative way for universities to retain and reinvest sales tax dollars generated on their campuses. The sales tax recapture program, which the board and university presidents discussed during a November board meeting, will provide support for new construction that will catapult our ability to perform cutting edge research. Arizona's public universities have set aggressive goals to double their research capacity that simply cannot be met without additional investment of this type.

"The funds generated also will provide some much-needed relief to tackle high-priority building maintenance and renewal needs, including those related to public safety, resulting from \$671 million in unfunded state support for building maintenance. All of this allows us to enhance our students' educational experiences while adding thousands of jobs to Arizona communities.

"Importantly, state support helps Arizona's public universities keep costs down for Arizona students and families. For that reason, I am especially pleased to see Governor Ducey's proposal to allocate \$15 million to the resident student funding model. These dollars will help support Arizona students seeking a university education. The resident student funding model, which is overwhelmingly supported by students as well as business and community groups statewide, provides a sustainable model moving forward to secure affordable access to our universities. We will continue to emphasize the need for permanent adoption of the resident student funding model, along with the entirety of the funds needed to support it, to ensure state dollars are used to the benefit of our Arizona resident students.

"While the governor devotes the lion's share of surplus dollars to K-12 education, as we have said previously, the success our public higher education system is tied to the success of K-12. Arizona's public universities and community colleges depend on and can only benefit from a stronger K-12 pipeline. We are committed to working with the governor and legislature, as well as our community college partners, on an Arizona Teachers' Academy to help grow the number of qualified teachers in Arizona classrooms.

"The board will discuss the governor's budget recommendations in detail, hopefully next week. In the meantime, I am encouraged by his efforts to bolster our public universities and will remain in close contact with the governor's office, legislators and staff members in the weeks and months ahead.

"As always, we will work to ensure the voices of Arizona students and families are heard as part of this process."