



Statement
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**Statement from ABOR President Eileen Klein in Reaction to
Gov. Ducey's 2017 State of the State Address**

“On behalf of the Arizona Board of Regents, I applaud Governor Ducey’s prominent focus in his State of the State address today on economic opportunity through public education – from early learning through college. K-12 and higher education are intertwined, and Arizona’s public universities will benefit from a stronger K-12 pipeline.

“Of course, there is no more powerful force than a great teacher when it comes to lifting the lives of students – and this initiative gives our universities an opportunity to build upon the great work we’re already doing to educate and train teachers. The governor’s innovative Arizona Teacher’s Academy will encourage more people to study, train and teach in Arizona. In accordance with Governor Ducey’s announcement, we look forward to collaborating with the governor, legislators, our university presidents and community college leaders on the details necessary to make the Arizona Teacher’s Academy a reality.

“More broadly, research demonstrates the value of higher education for students and the economy. On average, Arizonans who earn an undergraduate or graduate degree earn more – significantly more – than their peers with a high school diploma alone. That’s why education, business and community leaders across Arizona spearheaded the Achieve60AZ initiative to boost the number of Arizonans who earn a post-secondary degree or certificate, and we thank Governor Ducey for his continued recognition.

“Finally, it’s clear our public universities are on the right track. Graduation rates are up. So is student achievement and preparedness. Our university campuses are becoming economic hubs for technological transfers and business startups. This is all great news, and we look forward to working with Governor Ducey and legislators to ensure continued momentum for Arizona’s system of public universities in the coming year.”

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