Contact: Sarah Harper, (602) 402-1341, sarah.k.harper@azregents.edu
Julie Newberg, (602) 686-1803, julie.newberg@azregents.edu

Statement from Arizona Board of Regents Chair Ron Shoopman in Response to Governor Ducey's Budget Proposal

"Governor Ducey's executive budget proposal is a strong start toward securing the ongoing funding necessary to provide a high quality, affordable public higher education for all of the people of Arizona.

"The board commends Governor Ducey for his leadership and vision in proposing a budget that will invest in some of our state's most vital assets - Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University and the University of Arizona.

"The governor's plan augments university operations with $35 million in funding that will help ensure our state's public universities continue to meet demand while maintaining their affordability and accessibility for Arizona students and families.

"Additionally, Governor Ducey proposes $21 million for the Arizona Teachers Academy, a university-led initiative through which these institutions are recruiting and training the next generation of quality teachers for K-12 classrooms across our state.

"The board also is grateful that the governor provides real relief from the practice of using tuition dollars to subsidize the state's Health Insurance Trust Fund.

"ASU, NAU and UA are chief economic drivers for the state – responsible for generating an estimated 83,000 jobs and more than $11.1 billion in total economic impact each year. Simply put, an investment in these public universities is an investment in Arizona's future.

"As he begins his second term, Governor Ducey continues to deliver on his promise 'to be a partner in strengthening Arizona higher education.' On behalf of Arizona's public universities students and families, we sincerely thank Governor Ducey for prioritizing public higher education. The board will work alongside Governor Ducey to advance his budget priorities for the universities."

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