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Friendly Tips for Families: College Savings Plans, Financial Aid, Innovative Programs Improve University Access

PHOENIX – The Arizona Board of Regents welcomes a record 142,000 new freshmen and returning students to all our campuses across the state, as well as to all “future freshmen” in Arizona’s K-12 system.

One of our top commitments to Arizona families is to make a university education in Arizona available to everyone. Affordability and access are crucial. Students and parents must remember it’s never too late to start thinking about college savings plans, financial aid and other innovative ways to ease the costs of a quality higher education at one of our three state universities.

Here are a few options to consider:

College Savings Plans:

The state of Arizona offers one of the most diversified college savings programs in the country. The Arizona Family College Savings Program, also known as an Arizona 529 Plan, is designed to provide anyone an opportunity to save for future educational expenses.

The earnings grow tax-free, and there are other tax exemptions when the money is spent on qualified education expenses. Arizona residents can take advantage of tax deductions for investing in the Arizona 529 Plan. For more details, please visit www.az529.gov.

AZTransfer: Moving from Community College to a University:

Increasing access and affordability to Arizona’s public universities has been a priority of the Board and today, over 1,200 bachelor’s degree pathways between the community colleges and our universities. Our partnership and collaboration with Arizona’s public community colleges ensures a smooth transition for students who transfer from a two-year college to the universities without a loss of time or credits – and at a lower cost. These “pathway programs” can save anywhere from 15 to 50 percent in tuition costs. For more information, visit AZTransfer.com.

Financial Aid:

Financial aid improves affordability and access to a public university education for students. For those families who need financial assistance, we recommend they complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#).

The financial aid pages on our three public university websites – [Arizona State University](#), [Northern Arizona University](#) and [University of Arizona](#) – also have a wealth of information about loan options, scholarships, grants, as well as money management tips and cost calculators.

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The Arizona Board of Regents is committed to ensuring access for qualified residents of Arizona to undergraduate and graduate instruction; promoting the discovery, application, and dissemination of new knowledge; extending the benefits of university activities to Arizona's citizens outside the university; and maximizing the benefits derived from the state's investment in education. For more information visit www.azregents.edu.