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## **Governor Jan Brewer Announces Arizona's Application for Race to the Top Nearing Completion**

### *Strong Support from Business and Education Leaders for Round II of Competition*

PHOENIX – Governor Jan Brewer today announced Arizona is in the final stages of completing its application for Round Two of Race to the Top (RTTT), an educational funding competition of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

"The mission for the future of education in Arizona is to reinvent the state's competitiveness at all levels by building upon its business strengths and its history of innovation," said Governor Brewer. "Regardless of the outcome, much has been accomplished by a consortium of individuals who have in mind the best interests of Arizona students."

"The development of this Race to the Top proposal has been a thoughtful effort involving all constituencies, gaining the support of the philanthropic community," said Judy Jolley Mohraz, President and CEO of the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust. "As in the past, the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust will look forward to public-private partnerships which will further advance the educational opportunities of Arizona's children, youth and students in postsecondary education."

The focus of the plan is to build upon the work of the state's higher education system, which has established the goal of doubling baccalaureate degrees by 2020, knowing that the goal cannot be accomplished without an expansion in the capacity of the K-12 system.

"I laud your commitment to simultaneously secure our children's future and promote the general welfare of our great state," said Ernest Calderón, President, Arizona Board of Regents. "It is crucial that Arizona's schools realize the program's ambitious objectives and develop college-ready students to fulfill the 2020 Vision for doubling statewide baccalaureate production."

Since Arizona's first application, significant educational reform legislation was passed by the Arizona Legislature and signed by Governor Brewer regarding alternative teacher and principal certification; teacher and principal evaluation; data governance; and college and career readiness.

“The ability of Arizona’s public schools to produce graduates prepared to compete in today’s global economy and to be active, responsible citizens of our great state and nation is the foundation upon which Arizona’s future will be built,” said David Howell, Director of State Government Relations at Wells Fargo.

Arizona is building upon its innovative, entrepreneurial history of education reform, focusing on the one strategy the state has learned is most important to improving student learning – that is, ensuring that all students benefit from effective instruction, year after year, in every grade, in every course, in every school, and in every area across the state. Arizona is drawing on its courageous spirit to realize this strategy, aided by strong leadership and true partnerships among the State of Arizona, district and school leaders, teachers, the business community, communities, parents, and students.

A total of 355 MOU's have been signed by participating school districts and charters schools. The final Race to the Top application is due June 1.

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