



State of Arizona

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 27, 2010

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STATEMENT BY GOVERNOR JAN BREWER

Arizona a Finalist in Race to the Top

“Today’s achievement for the State of Arizona in the Race to the Top (RTTT) competition is a very significant and important milestone in Arizona’s comeback. When the first round of RTTT competition was completed in March 2010, Arizona finished 40th out of 41 competitors. But we did not give up – instead we pushed even harder for the education reforms we know are critical regardless of federal funding. At the top of my agenda since becoming Governor has been the creation of a high-quality and stable jobs climate. One of the most relevant factors in creating that proper climate is an educated Arizona workforce.

“I would like to personally thank all those involved with the state’s Race to the Top application process, especially Dr. Paul Koehler from the WestEd Policy Center for his tremendous collaborative efforts and outreach. I additionally want to thank the countless stakeholders around the state including the P-20 Council, educators, business leaders, philanthropic organizations, civic leaders, legislators and state policy leaders for their tremendous support. This announcement comes on the heels of the passage of some of the most sweeping education reforms Arizona has ever seen. The legislature approved and I signed the foundation for historic education reform, including but not limited to Senator Huppenthal’s SB 1040, Representative McComish’s HB 2298, and Representative Crandall’s HB 2733. These bills provided for the adoption of new teacher and principal evaluations, alternative teacher and principal certification, as well as an assessment of and governance for our data system. Our State also moved forward with the adoption of more rigorous college and career readiness standards.

“The conditions are in place to transform Arizona schools for decades to come. I look forward to the economic transformation that can occur based upon this solid foundation. We intend to send Arizona’s best and brightest education reformers to Washington as we continue to pursue the Race to the Top grant funding.”

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