



Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education

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The Honorable Jan Brewer
Governor of Arizona
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

March 17, 2010

Dear Governor Brewer,

Fifteen Governor-appointed Commissioners of the Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education (ACPE) and I enthusiastically support Arizona's application for the second round of the Race to the Top (RttT) competition. As the Arizona entity which administers federal student financial aid, state student grants, and the Arizona Family College Savings Program the ACPE Commissioners and staff are painfully aware of the need to increase student success and completion of associate, baccalaureate and graduate degrees.

It is my opinion that the RttT application submitted by Arizona delineates a clear plan of action for improvements in Arizona's K-12 system. These improvements combined with an enhanced longitudinal data system spanning all segments of education will allow Arizona to succeed in our goal, set by the Arizona Board of Regents, of doubling the number of baccalaureate degrees awarded annually. In addition, the Arizona Productivity Improvement Imperative, funded through the Lumina Educational Foundation grant, is placing the public community colleges and universities on a path of efficiency and affordability which is critical for increased participation and success of our middle and low-income students. Arizona is committed to reaching this goal for the benefit of students and families and because an educated workforce will be the engine which will drive Arizona's economic recovery.

The Commission stands ready to work toward these goals by (1) supporting students through efficiently managed and accessible student financial assistance programs and (2) assisting families to increase their aspirations, lay plans for college-going, and take appropriate actions through our publications and initiatives, such as College Goal Sunday. We view the Race to the Top competition as a means to sharpen our planning and as a vehicle to move forward cohesively to our desired future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Steven A. Corey".

Dr. Steven A. Corey, Chairman