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May 11, 2010

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

RE: Letter of Support for Arizona Race to the Top Phase II Application

Dear Governor Brewer:

Northern Arizona University is pleased to provide a letter of support to Arizona's application for the U.S. Department of Education's Race to the Top Phase II program. Our University fully supports the program's goal of providing a high-quality education for every young American. The Race to the Top grant will greatly assist Arizona's public schools by providing the necessary resources to stimulate reforms which will better prepare students for college and a successful and productive career.

Arizona has developed an education reform plan in the four assurance areas identified by the Race to the Top program. As a member of the State Board of Education and a university president at one of three public universities in Arizona, I am confident in the steps taken to date. We continue to advance Arizona's public education by adding data elements and exploring optimal ways to collect and provide data. We will utilize an advisory council of technology and data experts. We will measure student success with appropriate standards, hold schools and school districts accountable for those standards, improve access to quality teachers by evolving our College of Education. One example at Northern Arizona University is to educate secondary education teachers through the college in the subject area in which they will be teaching. Our application during the first phase did not adequately outline what we have already accomplished but provides a base to build on plus all of the initiatives in the pipeline.

In a 21st century world, education is the key component of keeping America strong both politically and economically. Arizona is facing dire economic conditions and tough budget decisions have been necessary over the last three years. During these tough times, however, policies have continued to evolve which further the commitment of preparing our youth based on college and workplace standards. The resources provided by the Race to the Top funds will help us advance more quickly to the benefit of current students in our K-12 system.

In furthering the strong support of the various education sectors in continuous improvement of Arizona's education system based on the reform plan that has been developed, I assure you that Northern Arizona University is ready to play its role in this effort. I am confident that our phase II application to Race to the Top will demonstrate this commitment and am happy to provide this letter of support for this effort. Thank you for your leadership on this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John D. Haeger".

John D. Haeger
President