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Statement from ABOR President Eileen Klein on the FY 2018 State Budget

The following statement may be attributed to Eileen Klein, president of the Arizona Board of Regents:

“On behalf of the Arizona Board of Regents and Arizona’s public universities, I applaud Gov. Doug Ducey and legislators for their bold vision, and the courage and tenacity to deliver a significant plan to fund Arizona’s public universities.

“The FY 2018 state budget approved today is a true investment for the future of our state. It makes possible the development of new research and education facilities to meet the needs of future generations of Arizonans. It also helps address the critical backlog of university repairs, renovations and upgrades to existing facilities. Special thanks go to business leaders from across our state who supported this plan because they recognize the importance of building upon our critical academic infrastructure in support of our state economy.

“This infrastructure plan will reap benefits for the State of Arizona for decades to come. The real impact of this investment is in the education of our students and the discoveries that will unfold, impacting our community and our world. The construction alone that will result from these dollars is expected to generate 2,200 jobs and add \$166 million to Arizona’s gross domestic product and \$148 million in personal income for each of the next five years. Importantly, the plan will help ensure our campuses remain safe, vibrant and high quality places for students to learn, work, conduct research and grow as members of the community and thriving contributors to the bright future of Arizona.

“Beyond infrastructure, this budget represents real progress toward the State of Arizona reclaiming greater financial responsibility for the university education of Arizona-resident students. We all have a stake in their success. We are grateful to Gov. Ducey and legislators for believing in our shared mission.

“Investing in Arizona’s public universities represents a prudent choice by our state leaders for the people of Arizona; our enterprise is a major economic force that represents a fundamental relationship between higher education and the economy – generating \$11.1 billion in economic impact and 102,000 jobs in fiscal year 2015 alone.

“We are proud of the achievements by the legislature and the governor to advance education for all Arizonans. On behalf of the board, Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University and the University of Arizona, we are sincerely appreciative and remain dedicated to working together on behalf of the citizens of this state.”