

Greetings from the Land of Enchantment



Greeting from the Land of Enchantment, our neighbor state of New Mexico. I'm here through Tuesday for the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) meeting. I am one of three appointed commissioners for the state of Arizona, the other two being Leah Bornstein, president of Coconino Community College, and Chris Bustamante, president of Rio Salado College. This now 16-state commission was created in the 1950's to facilitate resource sharing among the higher education systems of the West. In the six decades since Arizona joined the commission, tens of thousands of students from Arizona have attended undergraduate, graduate and professional programs in other Western states through WICHE's Student Exchange Program, saving millions of dollars, thanks to reduced tuition rates in place through the commission. As well, Arizona has received funding to be part of numerous WICHE policy initiatives, including those focused on financing and financial aid, workforce policy and other areas.

I am here with our WICHE certifying officer, Louise Lynch. We have a full plate for our agenda and I'll look forward to sharing more information in next week's brief. For now, a short overview of what's on tap for our discussion -- whether to allow Grand Canyon University to participate in the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) program; the return on investment of a liberal arts education; State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) implementation around the country; and new models of student financial aid.

Commencement Season

Commencement season is upon us, and our congratulations go out to the Class of 2014, including our own Regent Thompson who will receive a master's degree in public administration from ASU next week! ABOR staff has been working directly with many of the regents and university staff to organize our speaking at many of the exercises, but if you have any questions, please contact [Kate Linder](#), (602) 229-2540. Click this [link](#) for a recap of who is attending and speaking at each graduation, as well as staff points of contact for each.

Business Community Works to Shape Discussion



Many business advocacy organizations are currently interviewing and evaluating legislative candidates as they prepare to make recommendations on their endorsements for the 2014 election cycle. It's good to see the emphasis the CEO leadership organizations and chambers of commerce have placed on education, and for the stand they've taken to fight for higher standards to help prepare Arizona's students for college and career. I look forward to partnering with them to support policies that will strengthen our economy and incorporate our higher education goals as part of their respective state and federal agendas.

Thank You, Thank You Very Much

We'll be working with you to develop opportunities to show our champions at the legislature how much we appreciate their leadership on higher education priorities. The June board meeting at NAU will provide an opportunity to share our gratitude to legislators who can join us in Flagstaff, and we are excited about the chance to focus on the victories we attained in the 2014 session with their support.

Looking Ahead

As we move into planning for the 2015 goals and legislative priorities I am meeting with each university's government relations teams to get their thoughts on how we can build upon this year to create stronger partnerships and strategy. This week we met with the liaisons from ASU and UA to debrief on what worked and what can work better – I look forward to meeting with NAU's team in the near future. The insight from those who spent every day at the Capitol is very helpful as the EEC works to enhance a political model that allows each university to use its strengths and connections as we all pursue a recommitment to higher education from our state leaders.

Student Safety Task Force Update



Each university continues its local task force work on the issue of student safety and are in midst of hosting public meetings on campus. On Monday, June 16 we will host a public meeting of the Statewide Student Safety Task Force where we will hear reports from each university on issues covered with the local task forces and steps they will be taking to enhance services and programs related to student safety. The meeting will be from 9:00 - 11:00 AM at ASU (Tempe Campus) in the Turquoise Room of the Memorial Union. We will provide a more detailed agenda once completed and I will report out further on this item at the June board meeting.

New Report, Old News

Last week, the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities released a [report](#) showing that Arizona was hardest hit in the nation for state budget cuts to higher education and conversely, had the biggest hikes in tuition to make up for those cuts. While the report is new, the news is not. These reports still generate a significant amount of media attention and while we were responsive to interview requests on the report, we tried to focus on the present state of our universities - what we're doing to provide more choices and mitigate costs for students and families, and how we're trying to move toward a new financing model with the state. Following are links to appearances made on [Horizon](#) and [KTVK Channel 3](#) (Phoenix).

Presidential Search Progress

The search continues to make substantial progress. The search committee is scheduled to have its next and possibly final meeting on Monday, May 19 at 3:30 pm. At that meeting the search committee is expected to forward on a list of prospects for the board to interview at its May 29 special board meeting. In anticipation of these interviews, regents will be provided access to information about each prospect, including each prospect's CV, current salary, individual leadership study, and a quantitative analysis of each prospect's institution's performance over the past several years. As we move to the next phase of the search I want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the search committee. They have worked extremely hard in recruiting outstanding prospects and we intend to honor their service at an upcoming board event.

Clean Energy and Job Creation



The Governor's Office on Energy Policy (OEP) is seeking to build stronger partnerships with our universities on clean energy and the jobs it creates across Arizona. I recently met with the OEP Director Leisa Brug and Senator Bob Worsley, who has become a key leader in this area, to discuss the many ways in which we can help enhance the discussion. Arizona was one of only four states to receive a grant from the National Governor's Association to pursue a roadmap to jobs based in clean energy, and organizers are moving quickly to have a plan in place by September. The goal of the grant is to enhance research, job creation and energy security from our energy-related university research. There is extensive energy research and development occurring at our universities and in association with other state energy "collaboratories." The university presidents and I look forward to exploring opportunities

to demonstrate our existing capacity and examine potential opportunities to collaborate as part of this grant.

Arizona's First (Annual) Transfer Summit

More than 135 faculty, administrators and staff recently attended Arizona's first Annual Transfer Summit held in Phoenix. Organized under the leadership of the AZTransfer Steering Committee, all of the public universities, community colleges and tribal colleges were represented. David Longanecker, president of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, provided the key note. Several sessions were joint presentations by university-community college colleagues, including: ASU – Eastern Arizona College on partnering to offer four-year degrees on a community college campus; UA and Pima Community College on an advising collaborative to enhance communication and engagement; and NAU and Glendale Community College on a nursing concurrent enrollment program. This first summit received rave reviews with 86 percent of attendees rating it excellent or above average and 90 percent indicating they would attend next year. The steering committee is already making plans for next year's summit. Stephanie Jacobson sits on both the steering committee and the executive committee.

Successful Math Instruction Project Expanded and Extended



The Improving Teacher Quality project team from the University of Arizona has been awarded an additional \$45,000 and a project extension through Sept. 30, 2014, to more than triple the number of teachers in its summer math-practice professional development program.

The Southern Arizona Math Initiative project's initial math-instruction training, built around the national Intel Math curriculum, proved so popular that the team requested an extension to offer a summer program to help meet the demand from teachers in rural and outlying districts in southern Arizona. The 30-hour summer institute will focus on the mathematical practice standards of the College and Career Ready Standards, via rigorous math problem-solving tasks. Originally

slated for 25 teachers, the summer program was again expanded to 78 teachers when word spread and interest continued to grow. The \$45,000 add-on award is funded by Improving Teacher Quality (ITQ) dollars that have reverted from other projects and must be spent by Sept. 30, 2014.

The response has been "incredible," project co-leaders Erin Turner and Cynthia Anhalt noted, with more than 300 applications for the 78 slots. ITQ is a federally funded grant, administered by ABOR for projects to improve teaching in K-12 core subjects through K-12 and higher education partnerships.

Taking Flight



Student Regent Designee Mark Naufel joined several members of ABOR staff recently on an extensive tour of the ASU Polytechnic campus to get an up-close look at several of the programs and meet with key leaders on the campus. Our appreciation to Dr. Wilkinson and Lori Briese for organizing the outstanding tour, which included visits to the print and imaging lab; simulator building – including stops to the air traffic control suite and flight simulators; start-up labs; and the Arizona Center for Algae Technology and Innovation. The tour also highlighted the many community and business partnerships in place that ultimately support workforce development in the various industry segments students' study on the campus, including aviation, print and design, engineering and more. These types of tours are an important way for regents and ABOR staff, as well, to become

immersed in the universities' operations. In the end, it helps facilitate our advancement of our strategic plan as we can draw upon the experiences and information received in the tour to illustrate our conversations in the community with business and community groups and leaders.

Illuminations at Lumina



A delegation from ABOR and Maricopa Community Colleges recently traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana for a final report out on what states accomplished during their four years of implementing a \$1.5 million grant from the Lumina Foundation. The dominant topics at the event were performance funding and new business models, meaning what states are doing to serve more students at a lower cost. Many of the states in attendance have implemented performance funding models to varying degrees. Some states tie performance funding to student success and degree productivity. Others tie funding to job placement and wages earned by graduates. Our finance team will continue to look at other state's models for lessons learned in advancing models with state legislatures. Competency-based education was also a topic of discussion as institutions learn how to scale programs.

At the end of the conference, Montana reported that one of their main takeaways from the conference was Arizona's transfer model. In their words, "we want to rip-off Arizona's transfer model and implement it in our state." Way to go AZ!

Moody's Investors' Services presented their view for the outlook for higher education, which was a mixed bag. They feel that demand for college degrees, particularly graduate degrees will remain strong. However, they feel there will be supply constraints on public colleges and universities due to 1) constrained state appropriations, 2) limits to tuition growth, and 3) reductions in federal support for both financial aid programs and for federally funded research.

Many thanks to Katie Paquet who developed the team's story board and represented ABOR at the meeting.

Fee Reform Continues to Generate Headlines

The fee reforms under study by the EEC continue to generate media interest. Last weekend, *The Arizona Republic* invited me to participate in their "Into the Mind" column, with the focus on university funding. The [column](#) ran this Saturday.

In the Community...

Regent Ron Shoopman hosted a Southern Arizona Leadership Council (SALC) P-20 Focus Area Committee meeting last week in Tucson. Rebecca Gau from the Governor's Office of Education and Innovation, and Pearl Chang Esau of Expect More Arizona joined the meeting to share their views and engage in the discussions. The committee reviewed the results from this legislative session and their impact on SALC's ongoing education priorities. In addition, a new program to enhance teacher engagement and retention was presented by Dr. Renee Clift, associate dean, UA College of Education in partnership with Tucson Values Teachers. The new program is designed to develop a pipeline of high quality teachers committed to Tucson schools.

Mark Denke represented ABOR at a recognition ceremony last week honoring Dr. Wanda Howell, distinguished professor and chair of the faculty, and Robert Mitchell, vice chair of the faculty and presiding officer of the UA Faculty Senate. President Hart and Provost Comrie hosted the event to honor Professors Howell and Mitchell for their dedicated leadership and service to the university.

Chad Sampson participated in the launch of the Tucson Regional Economic Opportunities (TREO) 2014 Economic Blueprint Update for southern Arizona. There are a number of important initiatives in the blueprint that dovetail with the board's 2020 goals. Specifically, the ABOR goal of educational attainment aligns with the TREO focus on meeting the need for talented graduates in high-demand fields. The board's goal of impacting Arizona also aligns with the TREO recommendation of building a better talent pipeline in K-12 and encouraging placing a focus on infrastructure, a strong entrepreneurial environment and a healthy region. Regents can learn more TREO's recommendations at <http://www.treoaz.org/index.php/about-treo/2014-blueprint-update>

Coverage at the ABOR Office...

As many of you know, Mya Trivison, administrative assistant for public affairs and external relations, is expecting twins in the next month. Her doctor has placed her on modified bed rest for the time being, so she'll be working on projects from home until her two bundles of joy arrive. Once her babies arrive, she'll be out on leave until late summer. In Mya's place, please contact [Sue Sosa](#), (602) 229-2516, for assistance.

Sincere Condolences...

Peggy Martin's father passed away last week and I hope you will join me in extending our deepest sympathy to Peggy and her family in this time of grief. Here is a [link](#) to information about her father, and the memorial service that is planned.