



State of Arizona

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Governor Jan Brewer Announces Success in Obtaining College Access Challenge Grant to Aid Low-Income Students

PHOENIX – Governor Jan Brewer today is pleased to announce that Arizona has been awarded a \$2.9 million College Access Challenge Grant for fiscal year 2010. The purpose of the College Access Challenge Grant program (CACG), a federally funded formula grant, is to foster partnerships among federal, state, and local governments and philanthropic organizations through matching challenge grants that are aimed at increasing the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

“I have fought hard to improve the quality of education in Arizona for *all* students,” said Governor Brewer. “The activities outlined in Arizona’s application are critical in providing opportunities for low-income students to better prepare for, access and afford postsecondary education.”

Funds provided through this grant will be directed at the six initiatives outlined in Arizona’s application and in collaboration with other public and private partnerships. A major initiative will be to provide scholarships to Pell-eligible students. Other initiatives include a student/parent web portal; specific college access programs for rural and Native American communities; and an opportunity for districts and charter schools to offer an early college readiness assessment to low-income students.

Together, these initiatives will help to ensure that historically under-served students recognize much earlier their academic abilities, will provide effective tools for planning high school coursework, and will provide students with meaningful career exploration and college planning strategies. This work will also serve to provide important data to the K-12 system regarding how well all students are being prepared as well as to encourage earlier interventions.

The Project Lead for this grant is Debra Raeder-Gay, Executive Director of the Governor’s P-20 Coordinating Council.

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