



Arizona Department of Education
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 29, 2011

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Arizona Department of Education Awarded \$611,064 to Support Advanced Placement Test Fee Waivers for Low-Income Students *Grant Will Allow Thousands of Students to Take AP[®] Exams at No Cost*

Phoenix, AZ, March 28, 2011– Today, the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) announced that its 2011 application for continued funding for its highly successful Advanced Placement Test Fee Waiver Program has been officially approved by the U.S. Department of Education. The \$611,064 grant provides the opportunity for low-income public school students from all across Arizona to take Advanced Placement exams at no cost - and has been an invaluable catalyst to expanding both access and excellence in Advanced Placement programs throughout Arizona.

“ADE’s vision for education in Arizona is to create an educational environment where every child may realize their full potential,” explained Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal. “I am very excited that this wonderful program will help expand access to rigorous academic programs for all learners and open the door to success, both in high school and beyond – particularly for traditionally underserved student populations.”

The AP[®] test is an objective measure of student performance for the College Board’s Advanced Placement program. Students earning a minimum score of 3 on a scale from 1-5 on an AP[®] test can earn college credit, advanced placement, or both at most colleges and universities.

“Last year, 8,284 AP[®] exams were able to be taken by low-income students in Arizona through this program – a more than ten-fold increase from 2004,” said Peter C. Laing, ADE’s Director of Grant Development/Gifted Education & Advanced Placement Programs. “This new grant provides a direct incentive for low-income students to take the most rigorous courses available to them in high school, and serves as a vital tool in our ongoing efforts to expand and support increased rigor in the classroom for all learners.”

Arizona student achievement on the AP[®] exams has risen along with access. The number of 2010 low-income graduating seniors earning a 3 or higher on AP[®] exams (1,356) exceeds the total number of seniors from the 2007 graduating class (1,210) that even took AP[®] exams.

“During a time in which earning a college degree is more important than ever for a student’s economic future and our nation’s international competitiveness, Arizona educators and leaders deserve praise for

their success in expanding the diversity of students taking college-level Advanced Placement coursework and succeeding on the intensive AP Exams,” said Trevor Packer, the non-profit College Board’s Vice President for Advanced Placement.

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