



State of Arizona

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Governor Jan Brewer's *Arizona Ready* Education Council Discusses Goals, Strategies for K-12 Reform

PHOENIX – Governor Jan Brewer today convened her newly-appointed *Arizona Ready* Education Council to discuss goals and strategies for education reform in the State.

The mission of the 17-member group is to monitor the progress of Arizona's rigorous education goals, determine if reform strategies are improving student learning and oversee successful implementation of the Governor's *Arizona Ready* education plan.

"We've brought together some of the best and brightest minds in education, business and public policy in order to help Arizona improve classroom performance," said Governor Brewer. "We're raising expectations for our students, teachers and schools, and I have no doubt they'll be up to the task."

Arizona Ready Education Council members include:

- Craig Barrett (Council Chairman), Former President and Chairman, Intel Corp.; President and Chairman, BASIS School, Inc.
- John Huppenthal (Council Co-chairman), Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Thomas K. Anderes, President, Arizona Board of Regents
- Seth Alan Balogh, President, Commission for Postsecondary Education; Chief Academic Officer, Brookline College
- Norman Butler, Chairman, Arizona State Board for Charter Schools
- Donald Cardon, President, Arizona Commerce Authority
- Tim Carter, Superintendent, Yavapai County Schools
- Pearl C. Esau, Executive Director, Expect More Arizona
- Michael Kearns, President, Arizona Community College Presidents Council; Chancellor, Mohave Community College
- Amanda McAdams, Teacher, Glendale Union High School District
- Diane McCarthy, Director, Business Partnerships and Legislative Affairs at West-MEC
- Nancy A. Meech, Founding Partner, Heinfeld, Meech & Co., CPA
- Jaime A. Molera, President, Arizona State Board of Education
- Colleen M. Niccum, Vice President of Communications & External Affairs, Raytheon
- Onnie S. Shekerjian, Co-Founder, Arizona Parents Association for Children's Education
- Merl E. Waschler, President and CEO, Valley of the Sun United Way

- James Kendall Zaharis, Vice President/Education, Greater Phoenix Leadership

Led by Dr. Craig Barrett (Council Chairman) and Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal (Co-chairman), the panel began initial discussion of an online education “report card” that will be used statewide to review the performance of Arizona students and coordinate efforts to approve achievement. Members also discussed a series of specific, high-profile state goals for 2020, including:

- Increasing to 94 percent, up from 73 percent, the number of 3rd graders reading at or near grade level;
- Increasing the high school graduation rate to 93 percent, up from 75 percent; and
- Doubling the number of baccalaureate degrees issued by Arizona institutions of higher education.

The online “report card” – coupled with higher standards, improved training of teachers and a new, internationally-benchmarked assessment aligned to the standards – will help achieve these and other education goals in the State of Arizona.

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