

CORPORATE CHAMPIONS

Apollo Education Group
APS
The Arizona Republic
Arizona State University
ASU Polytechnic
Arizona Water Company
Banner Health
Basbas'
CenturyLink
CliftonLarsonAllen LLP
Cox Communications
Dignity Health
The East Valley Tribune
Empire Southwest
ENF Construction
Goodwill of Central Arizona
Intel Corporation
Maricopa Comm. College District
Phoenix Business Journal
Phoenix Sky Harbor Intl. Airport
Pinal Partnership
Resolution Copper Company
Southwest Airlines
SRP
TrustBank
Wells Fargo Bank

CORPORATE PARTNERS

A.T. Still University
Able Engineering
All City Towing
Alliance Bank of Arizona
AmeriCopy
Arizona Bank & Trust
Arizona West Contracting
BBVA Compass Bank Berge Ford
The Boeing Company
Chandler-Gilbert Comm. College
CMC Americas
Consolari Concert Hall
Copper Point Mutual Insurance
D.L. Withers Construction
Davis Miles McGuire Gardner, PLLC
DMB Associates
East Valley Hispanic Chamber
East Valley Institute of Technology
Fennemore Craig PC
FirstBank
HDR Engineering
HighGround
Jennings Strouss Attorneys at Law
Landmark Companies
LDR/Pacifica Retail
Macerich
Mesa Comm. College
Morrison Ranch
Mutual of Omaha Bank
Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport
Pima Medical Institute
Polsinelli Shughart PC
Rio Salado Comm. College
Schmidt Westergard & Co.
Snell & Wilmer
Southwest Ambulance
Southwest Gas
Steptoe & Johnson LLP
Total Transit
Valle; Metro RTPA
Wallace Plese + Dreher LLP
W Holdings
Wilkes University

MUNICIPAL MEMBERS

Arizona Dept. of Transportation
City of Apache Junction
City of Chandler
City of Mesa
City of Tempe
Gila River Indian Community
Maricopa County
Town of Florence
Town of Fountain Hills
Town of Gilbert
Town of Queen Creek



Improving business and quality of life in the East Valley

February 9, 2016

Arizona State Legislature
1700 W Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Additional Funding for State Universities

Dear Members of the Legislature:

Last Thursday, the Board of Directors of the East Valley Partnership unanimously agreed to support the proposal that would increase the current budget amount for State Universities - included in Governor Ducey's budget at \$8M - to \$32M.

The East Valley Partnership is a regional coalition of community, business, educational and government leaders, whose primary goal is to provide leadership and support to our community partners in their efforts to encourage economic development and improve the quality of life for our communities and the region.

As an organization, we recognize that higher education is a critical factor for the future of economic development in both the East Valley and Arizona. We need to ensure that our state is producing the trained and educated workforce necessary to grow companies and attract new businesses. In Arizona, two-thirds of all job openings in 2018 will require a post-secondary education. It is clear that economic development and a successful higher education system are necessary for Arizona to succeed. It will take an innovative approach and sound investments in our higher education system to see the results we need and our students deserve.

East Valley Partnership has also been supportive of increased funding for our K-12 education system and we applaud recent efforts by Governor Doug Ducey and the Arizona Legislature to direct more dollars into our classrooms and settle the inflation lawsuit. Strategic investments in higher education and K-12 systems can help us provide a world-class education system to our students at the lowest cost possible to Arizona families.

EVP is also on record as supporting the state investment model proposed by the Arizona Board of Regents that will move higher education forward in our state.

Given the state's positive financial condition, we believe it would be reasonable to invest an additional \$24M towards the post-secondary education of Arizona's young people. With those funds added to the governor's initial proposal of \$8M, the state's share of funding for in-state students would still be relatively low at 36.2 percent. Under the new funding model, this could be a symbolic first step towards a time when the state would fund half of an Arizona undergraduate's cost of attending our public universities.

We urge the Legislature to continue to recognize the valuable role our universities and post-secondary schools play in the future of our state. We believe that investing in higher education is a wise and reasonable move that will pay future dividends for many generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Hutchinson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mike Hutchinson
Interim President & CEO
East Valley Partnership