

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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**Item Name:** Award of the Regents Medal

Action Item

**Requested Action:** The board office asks the board to award the Regents Medal to Dr. Nancy Tribbensee, as described in this executive summary.

### Background and Discussion

- In an extraordinary career that spans more than 30 years with the Arizona university system, Nancy Tribbensee, J.D., Ph.D., a nationally recognized lawyer specializing in education law, has been a remarkable and exceptional public servant, providing keen legal analysis and leadership.
- Dr. Tribbensee joined Arizona State University in 1989 as associate vice president for legal affairs. Her primary areas of practice included student privacy, mental health issues, student affairs, free speech, intellectual property, technology transfer, research compliance and risk management. In 2006, she moved to the Arizona Board of Regents to serve as senior vice president and general counsel to the board. Currently, Dr. Tribbensee serves as senior counsel and special advisor to the board.
- During her career with the Arizona university system, Dr. Tribbensee has provided legal guidance on countless significant and complex issues. She led or participated in every major legal and board policy action. Some highlights include:
  - The development of the board's intellectual property policy;
  - The development and implementation of the board's tribal consultation policy;
  - The development and implementation of the Presidential at-risk compensation structure; and,
  - Assisting in the implementation of the Enterprise Executive Committee structure.
- In addition to these specific initiatives, Dr. Tribbensee was a key leader at the board, providing advice and counsel to individual board members, board office directors, and university presidents. She also mentored multiple board employees.
- Dr. Tribbensee is a sought-after leader in the national legal community and served as chair of the National Association of College and University Attorneys. During her leadership at the association, she wrote or co-wrote more than a dozen articles, pamphlets, or books. She presented and taught numerous seminars and courses for

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NACUA and other educational organizations. The association awarded Dr. Tribbensee with the distinguished service award in recognition of her leadership and outstanding contributions to institutions of higher learning.

- Arizona and the state's public universities have benefitted immensely from Dr. Tribbensee's service and leadership. Her exceptional commitment to public higher education and the people of Arizona are to be commended and are deserving of the Regents' Medal.
- In recognition of Dr. Nancy Tribbensee's service to education in Arizona, by approval of this item the board awards Dr. Nancy Tribbensee the Regents' Medal, waiving the provision in ABOR policy 1-103 for unanimous vote by secret ballot.

### **Statutory/Policy Requirements**

ABOR Policy 1-103 "Regents Medal"