

# An Open Letter to Governor Doug Ducey

Dear Governor Ducey,

Under your leadership, the state of Arizona has not only recovered from the stress of the economic downturn that began in 2008, it now enjoys enviable economic growth and is positioned today to leverage that success in a way that will help ensure continued expansion into the next decade.

The state's public policy path has made Arizona an attractive place to invest, to relocate, and to plant seeds of entrepreneurial endeavors. This momentum provides us the opportunity to make thoughtful decisions about the future. With the challenges and opportunities of a new 21st Century economy upon us, the state is fortunate to have you as its leader at this important time.

What we know to be true from our work is that the key to continued investment and expansion for businesses large and small is access to the talent needed to do the work. Needs are changing and educating the people who will fill these new and expanding positions is a matter of increasing urgency.

**We write to you today to ask for your support for the Arizona Board of Regents FY 2021 state budget request** - a bold initiative to enhance Arizona's competitiveness in this new economy with strategic investments in areas of strength at our three public universities, which serve as economic engines for the state. We see wisdom in this targeted approach to workforce development.

As part of this initiative, each university will focus on the state's workforce needs in areas that they individually specialize. Northern Arizona University will focus on meeting needs in the healthcare professions, including behavioral health. Utilizing its 20 statewide sites, NAU will also focus on addressing the specific workforce demands of local communities throughout the state. The University of Arizona will leverage its position as a leader in space exploration and health sciences to help the state address workforce shortages and future healthcare challenges. And for Arizona State University, the assignment of designing and launching the largest center for engineering education and research in the United States, making the Valley the leading center for engineer production in America.

As someone who built a successful business, you know the importance of making wise investments with a predictable return on investment and you know that timing is important, too. The ABOR request speaks authoritatively to the investment and return. Given the velocity of change and the acceleration of demand for skilled workers, allow our experience on the front line of business expansion and workforce transition to express to you that the time to act is now.

We would be happy to meet with you and to discuss in greater detail how this investment will lead to tangible impacts on our businesses and employees and, ultimately, on the state. We are eager to provide the evidence and examples to help explain why this matters - to us and to the state of Arizona.

Sincerely,



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President & CEO  
Arizona Chamber of  
Commerce & Industry



**Chris Camacho**  
President & CEO  
Greater Phoenix  
Economic Council



**Robin Reed**  
President & CEO  
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**Farhad Moghimi**  
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