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College Success Arizona and ASU College of Public Programs Partner To Increase College Graduation Rates

PHOENIX November 18, 2014-College Success Arizona announced a new partnership today with the Arizona State University College of Public Programs to implement research-based strategies to boost college retention and completion.

Continuing in its efforts to increase the graduation rates of Arizona students, College Success Arizona is embarking on a combined effort with the ASU College of Public Programs (ASU COPP) to help new college students stay in school. The partnership is particularly focused on providing supplementary supports to first-year students that may benefit from the additional academic and professional advising.

“We’re excited to provide Arizona State University students with the support we know is critical for college success,” said Rich Nickel, president and CEO of College Success Arizona. “With the launch of this partnership, we’re one step closer to helping all Arizona students that enter college earn a valuable diploma.”

As partners, ASU COPP and College Success Arizona will work collaboratively to identify students that may benefit from the groups’ services. College Success Arizona will offer professional mentoring to students from dedicated Success Advisors on and off campus, peer mentoring through the Scholar Success Network, academic and financial aid counseling and other personalized services.

“Students at risk of dropping out can benefit from one-on-one, direct assistance to help them reach their educational aspirations of graduation,” said Dr. Jonathan Koppell, Dean of the ASU College of Public Programs. “Working with College Success Arizona, we’re developing and implementing student-centric approaches to dropout prevention that will increase both retention and graduation rates in the state.”

As part of the partnership, College Success Arizona and ASU will conduct research on college retention and completion strategies, interventions and outcomes. They will work together to refine a model that can be used at ASU COPP and replicated at other institutions, and in partnership with community-based organizations across the state.

About College Success Arizona

College Success Arizona is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization working to significantly increase the post-secondary attainment rate of students in Arizona, particularly for those who otherwise would not be able to attend or graduate. The organization was started as the Arizona College Scholarship Foundation in 2005. For

more information about College Success Arizona and its partners, visit www.collegesuccessarizona.org.

About ASU's College of Public Programs

Located in downtown Phoenix, Arizona, ASU's College of Public Programs is embedded in one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in the world. Through four schools and 17 research centers, we bring together one of the most comprehensive higher education programs focused on public service. We are home to a diverse student body—with the highest percentages of minority, transfer and working students and the largest community of first-generation college students at ASU. These young leaders are not waiting to graduate to make a difference. Through a wide network of community partners our faculty and students are affecting social and economic change today. Together we bring creativity, entrepreneurship, and systems-level thinking to the shared goal of creating and promoting dynamic, healthy and prosperous communities. For more information about the ASU College of Public Programs, visit www.publicservice.asu.edu.

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