



## **RESOLUTION OF THE METROPOLITAN EDUCATION COMMISSION REGARDING THE ARIZONA STATE FISCAL YEAR 2016 FUNDING FOR EDUCATION**

WHEREAS the Metropolitan Education Commission serves in the advisory role on education to the Tucson Mayor and Council and the Pima County Board of Supervisors;

WHEREAS the Commission is composed of representatives from K-20 organizations and institutions, business, social services, government, and youth;

WHEREAS the Arizona State FY 2016 funding for K-20 education will have long-term ramifications of divesting in education which will seriously limit business growth and new business attraction;

WHEREAS K-12 schools will suffer from a \$352 million cut in District assistance;

WHEREAS funding for Community Colleges in Pima and Maricopa counties has been eliminated;

WHEREAS Universities have been cut by \$99 million with the University of Arizona's portion as \$28.4 million;

WHEREAS JTED programs have been cut by \$30 million;

WHEREAS our K-20 education Districts and institutions have continually sustained prior cuts from the legislature;

WHEREAS K-20 education Districts and institutions have continued to pursue innovative ways to deal with these cuts, but are now faced with a greatly diminished ability to do so with the draconian cuts in fiscal support from the state;

WHEREAS the promise held in public education through Arizona's Constitution is more critical now than ever in our State's history;

WHEREAS the Metropolitan Education Commission believes the future and promise of our state wait for positive action changes to the FY 2016 state budget;

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved:** The Metropolitan Education Commission requests reversal of the action taken by the legislature in adopting a budget for the FY 2016 academic year that severely cuts spending to K-20 education. The Metropolitan Education Commission considers this budget to be a detracting influence to the economic development objective of providing a skilled workforce for local businesses and promoting economic stability in Arizona. The immediate and continuing impact of defunding education will include irreversible limitations on economic growth, widespread losses of business and household earnings, resulting in permanent reductions in State revenues, thereby creating funding limitations that will inevitably impact the State budget in all other areas of infrastructure and services.

Approved by the Commission on: March 26, 2015

#### METROPOLITAN EDUCATION COMMISSION

George Favela ( <b>Exec. Committee Member At-Large</b> )	Parent
Richard Elias	Member, Board of Supervisors
Bill Ardern ( <b>Treasurer</b> )	Health Care Community
Paul Lovelis ( <b>Secretary</b> )	Social Service Agencies Servicing Children/Youth
Jen Darland	Parent
James Cook	Parks/Recreation/Housing
Mary Jan Bancroft, Ph.D.	Social Service Agencies Serving Children/Youth
Regina Romero	Member, Tucson City Council
Aaron Myers	Libraries/Museums/Arts
Louis Albert, Ph.D. ( <b>Past Chair</b> )	Representative / Pima Community College
Molly Gilbert	Representative/Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
Linda Arzoumanian, Ed.D.	Representative/Pima County Supt. of Schools
Jo Riestler	Representative/Educational Foundations
Jennifer Sprung	Teacher, Grades 9-12 (AZ Education Association)
David Nicholson	Youth Representative Youth Advisory Council/Tucson Teen Cong. (YAC/TTC)
Javier Herrera	Hispanic Community Forum
Daisy Rodriguez Pitel, Ph.D.	Pan-Asian Community
Dennis Barger	Building Principal (AZ School Administrators)
Kasey Urquidez, Ed.D. ( <b>Chair</b> )	Representative – University of Arizona
Diego Martinez Barrera	Youth Representative (YAC/TTC)
Kent Paul Barrabee, Ph.D.	School Governing Board Member (AZ School Boards Assoc.)
Steven Freeman	Disabled Community (MEC Appointee)
Jennifer Flores	Teacher, Grades 5-9 (AZ Education Association)
Vicky Mullins	Tucson Indian Center
Amber Mathewson	At-Large Commission Appointee
Deborah Embry	Tucson Urban League
Alan Storm, Ph.D.	School Superintendents
Teri Laguna	Teacher, Grades K-6 (AZ Education Association)
Patricia Wiedhopf ( <b>Vice-Chair</b> )	At-Large Commissioner
June Webb-Vignery, Ph.D.	Executive Director, MEC