

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ACTION ITEM: Approval of Regents Awards for Outstanding Service to Higher Education

ISSUE: The Board is asked to approve the recommendation of the Regents Award Selection Committee to present the 2006 Regents Awards to Mary Lou and Ira Fulton, Greater Phoenix Leadership, and Robert Wick.

BACKGROUND:

In 1996, a Regents Award for Outstanding Service to Higher Education was established by the Arizona Board of Regents to provide special recognition for Arizona citizens and/or organizations that provide exceptional service to higher education in Arizona. Current and former Regents have contributed to a fund to cover the cost of designing, sculpting, and casting a suitable art object to present to recipients. The guidelines for the Award are listed below:

1. The Award is to be presented in recognition of outstanding service to a single Arizona university, more than one of the State's universities, or higher education in general, by a member of the Arizona community. A recipient may be an individual, group, organization, or company.
2. Former Regents are not eligible to receive an Award.
3. Any current or former Regent may nominate an individual or organization to receive an Award. Nominations from other parties may be sent to current or former Regents for their consideration.

Past recipients of the Award include:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Recipients</u>
1996	The Flinn Foundation; Jim Click
1997	Phelps Dodge Corporation; Robert and Katherine Herberger
1998	Frances McAllister; Donald Soldwedel
1999	Raytheon Systems Company; Roy Drachman
2000	Ed and Nadine Carson; Dick and Dinky Snell
2002	Jerry Colangelo; Bennett and Jacquie Dorrance
2003	The Honorable Clinton Pattea; the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation
2004	Don Budinger; Louise Solheim; APS/Pinnacle West
2005	Christopher Bevasi; James Rogers; the Virginia Piper Charitable Trust

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2006 recommendations are:

Mary Lou and Ira Fulton – Since 2003, Mary Lou and Ira Fulton have gifted nearly \$170 million to Arizona State University. They are considered the most generous and the largest single donors to the university. In December 2005, they donated \$100 million, one of the largest single donations in higher education history. Half of this gift was earmarked for the College of Education, where Mrs. Fulton received her bachelor's degree in 1975. In May 2006, ASU celebrated the naming of its College of Education honoring Mary Lou Fulton. Additionally, the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences was renamed to the Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering and the ASU Foundation Building was renamed to the Fulton Center.

Mr. and Mrs. Fulton have a lifelong commitment to Arizona and to the education of Arizona's youth. They are a wonderful example of what it means to give back to the community. Higher education and the well-being of all Arizonans are better off because of the remarkable philanthropy of the Fultons.

Greater Phoenix Leadership (GPL) – For nearly a decade, the Greater Phoenix Leadership has taken the lead in advocating for quality education, at all levels, and bringing together the resources to achieve success. This organization played a leadership role on Governor Hull's Task Force on Higher Education and was the primary business group supporting Proposition 301, which to date has provided over \$271 million in new revenue for technology and research initiatives at Arizona's public universities. In addition, GPL actively participates on Governor Napolitano's P-20 Advisory Council.

The overriding goal for GPL's higher education focus is to create a progressive, globally competitive system with the capacity to match Arizona's rapid growth. In pursuit of this goal, they have supported strategies to redesign the state's university system to expand and enhance the universities' undergraduate education program, as well as its world-class research capabilities and reputation. GPL played a major role in working with the business community, state policy makers, elected officials, the Department of Commerce, and the universities to attract the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen) and the International Genomics Consortium (IGC).

Robert Wick – Robert Wick is co-owner of Wick Communications, a company that owns and publishes 39 newspapers throughout Arizona and other parts of the United States. He was one of the founding members of the University of Arizona South Foundation Board and participated on the architectural committee whose mission was to design the UA South's first administration building. He was also one of the major financial contributors for the construction of this building.

Mr. Wick serves on the Astronomy Board at the University of Arizona and helped shift public opinion in support of the Mt. Graham Observatory. He recently provided a major contribution for the establishment of an astronomical observatory on the UA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

South campus that will serve as both an observatory and education center for students, adults, and children. As an internationally known artist and sculptor, Mr. Wick has provided amazing art pieces to the university, both in Sierra Vista and Tucson.

Upon Board approval, the University of Arizona will host a celebratory event honoring Mary Lou and Ira Fulton, Greater Phoenix Leadership, and Robert Wick. This event will be held in conjunction with the November 2006 Board meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board approve the recommendations of the 2006 Regents Award Selection Committee that Mary Lou and Ira Fulton, Greater Phoenix Leadership, and Robert Wick be presented with the 2006 Regents Award for Outstanding Service to Higher Education, as presented in this Executive Summary.