



Arizona Board of Regents

2020 N. Central Avenue, Suite 230

Phoenix, AZ 85004

(602) 229-2500

Fax (602) 229-2555

www.azregents.edu

Media Release

Contact: Andrea Smiley, 602-229-2543 or

480-766-6553

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**REGENTS RECOGNIZE COMMUNITY LEADERS FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE
TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN ARIZONA**

Flagstaff, AZ, June 18, 2009—The Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) honored Joseph and Marie Rolle, Sarah Smallhouse, and Craig and Connie Weatherup today with the “Regents Award for Outstanding Service to Higher Education.”

The award was established in 1996 to provide special recognition for Arizona citizens and/or organizations that provide exceptional service to higher education in Arizona. Current and former Regents contribute to a fund to cover the cost of designing, sculpting, and casting a suitable art object to present the recipients.

ABOR Regent LuAnn Leonard welcomed guests gathered tonight at a dinner and Regent Ernest Calderón, Regent Fred DuVal and Arizona State University President Michael Crow highlighted the contributions of the honorees:

Joseph and Marie Rolle have dedicated their lives to the betterment of Northern Arizona University. They have been the essence of what educational excellence represents, and their ongoing commitment to higher education has spanned more than 70 years, beginning in the late 1930s and continuing today as they regularly participate in campus events and activities. They have distinguished themselves in one or more forms as student, athlete, employee; alumni board president, donor, supporter and dignitary of Arizona State College and Northern Arizona University since the late 1930s. Joseph and Marie Rolle remain involved in student recognition programs, academic gatherings; alumni outreach board meetings, class reunions and donor recognition events. Mr. and Mrs. Rolle continuously give back to the university through financial contributions and donations to support special projects and scholarship funds.

Sarah Smallhouse currently serves as co-chair of the *Solutions Through Higher Education* Initiative and has made countless contributions to the University of Arizona and the University of Arizona Foundation. She is a true philanthropist and is highly dedicated and committed to enriching opportunities in higher education to promote a better quality of life in Southern Arizona. The time and energy she invests in higher education are enhanced by her financial commitments to the university. In 2006, through the Thomas R. Brown Family Foundation, she generously established two \$1 million endowed scholarship funds in the College of Engineering and in the Eller College of Management. The Thomas R. Brown Family Foundation added another \$1 million to the engineering fund in 2007. Last year, the Thomas R. Brown Family Foundation endowed three faculty chairs totaling \$6.5 million.

Craig and Connie Weatherup generously dedicated their time, talents and resources to advancing the educational experiences of our next generation of Arizona leaders. They are extremely active members of the Arizona State University (ASU) community, whose contributions to educational quality and success are many. As philanthropists, Connie and Craig are leaving a lasting legacy to Arizona higher education. They have made more than 100 gifts for various purposes since 1985, including the lead gift for the Weatherup center basketball practice facility and financial support for student athletes through the Adopt-a-Devil and

Sun Devil Legacy campaigns. The Weatherup Family Foundation has also liberally supported ASU – and the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company has donated to ASU nearly 35 times in the past 20 years, due to Craig’s timely intercession. Craig and Connie are keenly interested in the welfare of the communities in which they live and are deeply committed to building a better future through active engagement and generosity.

Previous award winners:

- 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 Bavasi; James Rogers; the Virginia Piper Charitable Trust
- 2006 Mary Lou and Ira Fulton; Greater Phoenix Leadership; Robert Wick
- 2007 Craig and Barbara Barrett, Dorothy Hunt Finley, June Morrison and the late Marvin Morrison

###

About the Arizona Board of Regents

The Arizona Board of Regents is committed to ensuring access for qualified residents of Arizona to undergraduate and graduate instruction; promoting the discovery, application, and dissemination of new knowledge; extending the benefits of university activities to Arizona's citizens outside the university; and maximizing the benefits derived from the state's investment in education. The Board consists of twelve members: eleven voting and one non-voting student regent. This includes the Governor and Superintendent of Public Instruction as ex-officio members, each serving while they hold office, and two Student Regents. For more information visit www.azregents.edu or call Andrea Smiley at 602-229-2543 or 490-766-6553.