



NEWS RELEASE

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For release on June 16, 2005

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Arizona Board of Regents Presents Awards for Outstanding Service

June 16, 2005 – During a luncheon at Northern Arizona University today, the Arizona Board of Regents honored recipients of the 2005 Regents' Award for Outstanding Service to Higher Education. The awards were presented to Christopher J. Bavasi, James E. Rogers, and the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust.

Board President Gary Stuart praised the honorees for their commitment and service to Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, and the University of Arizona. Stuart stated, "The Arizona university system is extremely fortunate to be benefiting in so many ways from the commitment to higher education of these award winners."

Christopher Bavasi is a graduate of Northern Arizona University and a recipient of an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from NAU. During the NAU Centennial year, he received a Distinguished Alumni Award. He has served on many university committees, including presidential search committees. He has been a community advisor to every NAU president since J. Lawrence Walkup. Bavasi is past treasurer and current vice-chair of the NAU Foundation and a former member of the Skyjacks Board of Directors. He was one of the founders of the Center for High Altitude Training at NAU, and is currently chairing the Center's National Advisory Board. The NAU Center was recently designated a U.S. Olympic Training site, one of only seven in the country. Bavasi served on the Flagstaff City Council for 16 years, and he was Mayor for 12 years. During that time, he was the President of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns. In addition to his position as Executive Director for the Navajo and Hopi Relocation Commission, Bavasi finds time to serve as President of the Flagstaff Unified School District Board.

James E. Rogers holds both a bachelor's degree and a law degree from the University of Arizona. His many contributions to the UA include his service as co-chair of the university's capital campaign, "Campaign Arizona," which has already surpassed its \$1 billion fund-raising goal. Rogers' extensive record of personal philanthropy includes a total pledge of over \$130 million to the UA College of Law and the University of Arizona. The College of Law gift was the largest ever given to an American law school. In November 1998, the Board of Regents renamed the college to the "James E. Rogers College of Law."

Most recently, Rogers was listed as one of the top twelve philanthropists in the nation by TIME Magazine, having given or pledged more than \$275 million to various colleges and universities. In addition to his financial support, Rogers serves on various higher education boards and foundations. On May 6, 2005, Rogers was selected to be the ninth Chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education after having served in an interim capacity for one year.

The Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust has been an active supporter of higher education and Arizona State University. The Trust recently made possible the dedication of the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing through the gift of a \$10 million endowment. The Center will serve as an international hub for creativity and outreach. The endowment on behalf of the Trust provides valuable resources to enhance the work of existing faculty and also to support an artistic and collaborative haven for developing artists, writers, and scholars. The Trust has made possible an online book club which aims to bring together prize-winning authors, students, and community members. Other benefits of the new programs at the Center will include community writing seminars, online writing courses for statewide outreach and mentoring, and student and faculty outreach to local school districts to encourage the creative development of young aspiring writers. Judy Jolley Mohraz, President and CEO of the Trust, was on hand at the luncheon to accept the award.

Established by the Board in 1996, the Regents' Award recognizes and honors individuals and groups for their outstanding service to higher education. Previous recipients include APS/Pinnacle West Capital Corporation, Don Budinger, Louise Solheim, the Honorable Clinton Pattea and the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Jerry Colangelo, Bennett and Jacquie Dorrance, Ed and Nadine Carson, Dick and Alice "Dinky" Snell, Raytheon Systems Company, Roy P. Drachman, Frances B. McAllister, Donald N. Soldwedel, Phelps Dodge Corporation, Katherine and Robert Herberger, The Flinn Foundation, and Jim Click.

Current and former Regents contributed to establish and annually present the awards, commemorated with a bronze art piece designed by Chandler artist and NAU graduate, Jeff Hoffman.

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