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## **Media Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Arizona Board of Regents Postpones Medical School Construction Kick-Off Until Legislature Resolves State Budget**

On April 27, 2005, the Arizona Board of Regents, the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, the City of Phoenix, and the Arizona Commission on Medical Education and Research had hoped to celebrate the expansion of the Phoenix Program of the University of Arizona College of Medicine. Unfortunately, this celebration is being postponed due to the unresolved status of funding from the Arizona State Legislature.

Representatives of the private/public partnership, which is essential to addressing our dire shortage of physicians in Arizona, will continue to discuss with lawmakers and Governor Napolitano both the short- and long-term plans of the College of Medicine. The \$7 million requested in connection with the medical school is critical in acquiring staff and purchasing equipment in anticipation of obtaining national accreditation.

The construction kick-off ceremony will be rescheduled once the budget situation has been resolved.

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"While I am disappointed that we have to postpone the construction kick-off ceremony, I am hopeful that the funding issue can be resolved. Regardless of the politics that surround the state's budget process, Arizona's university system will continue to work with Governor Napolitano, Mayor Gordon, members of the state legislature, business leaders, and health care organizations to address this important health issue," said Gary Stuart, President of the Arizona Board of Regents.

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