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For immediate release

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Research, innovation and entrepreneurship at heart of agreement between PAG/MAG regional councils and educational institutions

Identification and support of grant opportunities by Pima Association of Governments in Tucson, Maricopa Association of Governments in Phoenix and major educational institutions in both communities is a commitment these organizations will make to each other as part of a new agreement.

The PAG Regional Council approved the joint agreement today at its meeting to ensure that local educational institutions remain competitive in applying for research, innovation and entrepreneurial grants.

“This agreement is designed to advance Arizona’s economy,” said Farhad Moghimi, PAG Executive Director. “We can provide policy, in-kind and financial support as appropriate in collaborative arrangements with our educational institutions. MAG and PAG and our member jurisdictions represent nearly 80 percent of the population in our state.”

Educational institutions expected to sign the updated agreement include: the University of Arizona, the Arizona State University/Thunderbird School of Global Management, Northern Arizona University, all governed by the Arizona Board of Regents, and Pima Community College, Maricopa Community Colleges and other educational institutions that may join the agreement.

The agreement was made on behalf of economic development committees of both MAG and PAG. The committees’ members represent regional and state economic development, business, education and other organizations.

Specific grant interest areas include: (1) personalized medicine, biomarkers and health solutions; (2) renewable energy; (3) advanced manufacturing/manufacturing institute; (4) national security and defense systems (5) personalized learning systems; (6) biosciences; and (7) environmental services.

“Working together quickly to identify, process and support these grant efforts is essential to keeping our foot in a highly competitive global pool to improve business activity and quality jobs for our growing state and communities,” Moghimi said.

Pima Association of Governments is an association of local, state and tribal governments with a mission to build consensus among its members and the public on regional planning for transportation, watershed, air quality and economic vitality. Please visit www.PAGregion.com or www.facebook.com/PAGregion for more information.