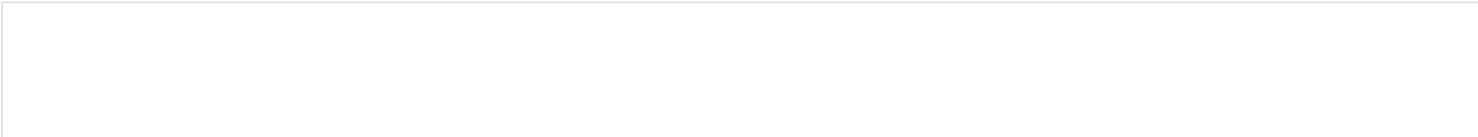


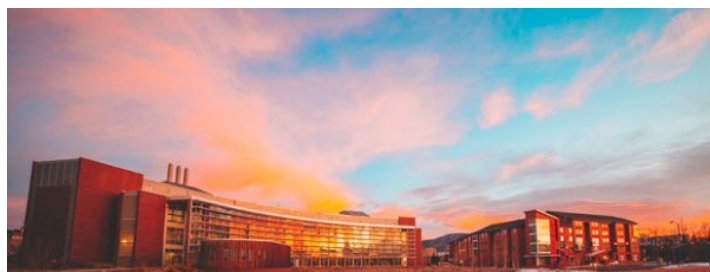
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ARIZONA NEWS

ASU, NAU, Arizona to offer free tuition to select in-state students

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ASU, NAU, Arizona to offer free tuition to select in-state students

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The Arizona Legislature approved the new program earlier this year.

“The universities for years have had lots of financial aid, but what we’ve done here is passed a state law that requires it,” said John Arnold, executive director of the Arizona Board of Regents, which is overseeing the scholarship.

“So it’s not a decision, there’s not a pool of money, it’s not first come first served – it is state law that if you do your part, you graduate from high school, you meet the admission requirements for the university, if you are a low-income family, you go without tuition and fees. I think it’s a really powerful message,” Arnold added.

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An estimated 3,800 students currently enrolled at the three universities are expected to be eligible for the program and funded this spring, according to data from the Board of Regents.

The total universe of eligible Arizona high school students is not clear, but last year about 12,400 Arizona students who filled out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid would have financially qualified, according to the board.

Likely even more students are eligible for the promise program but did not fill out the financial aid form in anticipation of applying to college.

State lawmakers funded the program with an initial \$7.5 million this year, and the board is pushing for

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Who is eligible for free college?

Students who qualify get a guarantee that their tuition and fees will be covered, according to the board. The scholarship fills any gaps for students in tuition and fees after their Pell Grant and any other aid they may receive.

“This is a promise. It’s a guarantee,” Arnold said. “If you meet all of those criteria, you receive the scholarship.”

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Griselda Zetino

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