



The Arizona Students' Association:
A Good Investment

Textbooks

Textbook costs for Arizona students are down in large part because of the work ASA has done. Textbook prices have fallen from an average of \$480 to \$380 per semester, according to an ASA survey. That's a savings of around \$26 million per year for Arizona students. Students spend an average of \$900 a year on textbooks nationally, according to the Public Interest Research Group, while Arizona students pay \$760.

Financial Aid

ASA fought for and secured the only form of state-based financial aid, the Arizona Financial Aid Trust (AFAT). In 1989 ASA proposed and won passage of the Arizona Financial Aid Trust. This year, ASA won a real victory by ensuring that the state match to the Arizona Financial Aid Trust will not be permanently removed – guaranteeing future generations will have AFAT as a resource. AFAT distributed more than \$14 million to Arizona students in 2009-2010.

ASA lobbied at the national level for the maintaining of maximum Pell funding. In 2011, the Pell Grant was in danger of cuts, but students next year will be able to receive the maximum of \$5,500. For example, if this legislation had passed, 581 students at NAU would have lost their Pell Grants. ASA's work on this saved many Pell recipients almost \$800 per year.

Budget and Tuition

ASA fought to minimize the budget cuts to the university system. The State Senate proposed slashing university budgets by \$235 million, but ASA worked to minimize the overall cuts through grassroots campaigning and advocacy efforts. If the \$235 million cut had passed, students and families would have seen tuition and fees raised significantly more.

ASA worked to get Proposition 100 passed overwhelmingly. Without Prop 100, more of the financial burden for cost of attendance would have been placed on students and families. Prop. 100 passed with over 70 percent approval rating in legislative districts with college campuses.

Next year UA & NAU students will see tuition rebates. Students at the UA will receive rebates of \$750 and NAU students will see rebates of \$350.

Since ASA's existence, the organization has worked to keep college affordable and accessible. ASA has fought for lower tuition and has saved Arizonans millions of dollars in tuition and fees.

Advocacy

ASA hosted LobbyCon in 2011 and trained more than 100 student leaders how to lobby their elected official on issues that matter most to them. Student lobbyists worked this year to protect and defend students from drastic budget cuts and successfully advocated for a bill passed that grants in-state tuition to student veterans. This bill makes getting a college education more affordable and brings significant economic benefits to the state. Student veterans at the UA have a \$91 million impact to the local economy. In conjunction to the day-and-night lobbying ASA does at the Capitol, the organization holds an annual lobby day at the Arizona Capitol. This year more than 100 student leaders attended the day and over 30 lobby meetings were held.

Leadership Development

ASA has the largest internship program of any statewide student association. ASA set a goal of recruiting 100 interns for the Spring 2011 semester and met that goal. ASA sponsored the first annual Conference of Arizona Student Leaders (CASL) in 2010 to get all community college and university student leaders together to strengthen the statewide student voice. More than 200 student leaders participated in the conference in 2010. ASA has the goal of bringing together 250 student leaders for CASL 2011.

Voter Registration

ASA has registered more than 12,000 voters since 2008. One of ASA's highest priorities is to register, educate and get voters to the polls on Election Day. ASA works to register voters to engage students and build an effective student voting block. ASA's voter registration drives are non-partisan and ASA is gearing up to register thousands of voters for the 2012 election season.