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August 10, 2010

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University Students Release 2009-2010 Legislative Report Card

Forty-Three Legislators Awarded an 'A' for Supporting ASA Legislative Agenda

PHOENIX – Directors from the Arizona Students' Association (ASA) have released on their website the first annual 2009-2010 Legislative Report Card, giving forty-three legislators 'A' grades for their support of the ASA Legislative Agenda.

"I am proud that ASA now has a formal mechanism to evaluate individual legislators based on their support of the students' legislative agenda," said Elma Delic, a University of Arizona student and ASA Chair. "These grades reflect highly on those legislators who fiercely advocated for student priorities."

Those priorities included students advocating against university budget cuts for fiscal years 2009-2010 (S1001 and S1188) and for student-drafted legislation (S1186 and H2668).

As advocated by ASA, S1186 will strengthen efforts to ease the transfer of community college credits to the state's universities by matching course-numbers for 100 and 200 level courses. H2668 will formalize student government civic engagement efforts with university administration to expand voter access for college students.

A process that began with ASA establishing legislative priorities, students worked to recruit student stories, gathered research and letters of support, and attended committee hearings. The bills were drafted by ASA which is a statewide organization that represents the collective voice of Arizona's public university students.

"Passing two student-drafted pieces of legislation was a huge victory," added Taylor Bell, a University of Arizona student and Chair of the ASA Legislative Affairs Committee. "We are hopeful that in the coming legislative session, we can continue to bridge partnerships with such strong student advocates at the State Capitol."

About ASA

The Arizona Students' Association is the statewide student advocacy organization for all 120,000 public university students in Arizona and has been in existence since 1974. ASA works to make college affordable and accessible by advocating student concerns to all level of government and by showing grassroots support for student issues. For more information, please visit www.azstudents.org.