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mesaaz.gov

March 12, 2009

Dr. Michael Crow
President
Arizona State University
Mail Code 7705
PO Box 877705
Tempe AZ 85287-7705

Dear President Crow:

Understanding that we are living in a new economy, the City of Mesa made some very tough budget decisions last Fall which resulted in a reorganization of how we serve the needs of those in our community. Making those decisions was not easy, just as the decisions you are making now to deal with similar budget cuts are not easy. All our decisions were based on how best to move our City forward in a time when resources are especially scarce. We respectfully request that you do the same.

As such, we would like to take this opportunity to express both our continued support of the ASU Polytechnic campus, and our deep concern that the proposed budget cuts would eliminate certain valuable educational programs on that campus.

The goal of the City of Mesa is to promote the creation of 100,000 high-wage jobs in the Mesa Gateway Area. Maintaining the ASU Polytechnic campus as a distinct, research-intensive campus with a focus on engineering, science and technology is vitally important to this vision. The value of ASU Polytechnic to the Gateway vision lies in the presence of its leaders and distinct academic programs. If Poly's leadership is located elsewhere, and if programs are disestablished, it is inconceivable that Poly can realize its part as an economic developer at Gateway.

Maintaining a healthy applied arts and sciences program at ASU Polytechnic is also important. Mesa's economic core industries of healthcare, education, aerospace and tourism rely on programs such as nursing, teacher education, aircraft maintenance and management and the professional golf program. Additionally, the ongoing quality of fire and emergency medical service to our community has been positively impacted by Poly's fire program. We encourage you to consider the importance of these programs to our community.

Mesa leadership and its citizens are entirely committed to the growth and vibrancy of the ASU Polytechnic campus. In just the past three years our citizens have voted twice to pay for bonds for critical Polytechnic campus water, wastewater and road infrastructure projects. In May 2006, Mesa

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voters approved \$18 million in bonds for water and wastewater infrastructure improvements at ASU Polytechnic. Then again in November 2008, voters approved \$13 million in transportation bonds to design and construct a new, four-lane central ring road for the growing student population out at ASU Polytechnic campus. These infrastructure projects, when completed, will help this campus and its students reach their full potential.

Thank you for your consideration. Again, we are all too familiar with the position you are in, deciding how to keep your institutions on a path of growth and success despite ever-shrinking resources. However, we hope you will give full consideration to preserving the very important educational programs at ASU Polytechnic.

Sincerely,

Scott Smith
Mayor

Kyle Jones
Vice-Mayor

Scott Somers
Councilman, District 6

Dave Richins
Councilman, District 1

Alex Finter
Councilman, District 2

Dennis Kavanaugh
Councilman, District 3

Dina Higgins
Councilwoman, District 5

cc: Elizabeth D. Capaldi, ASU
Fred Boice, Arizona Board of Regents