



DEBRA K. DAVENPORT, CPA
AUDITOR GENERAL

STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE
AUDITOR GENERAL

MELANIE M. CHESNEY
DEPUTY AUDITOR GENERAL

Independent auditors' report

Members of the Arizona State Legislature

The Arizona Board of Regents

Report on the financial statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the business-type activities and aggregate discretely presented component units of the Arizona State University as of and for the year ended June 30, 2016, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the University's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's responsibility for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We did not audit the financial statements of the aggregate discretely presented component units. Those statements were audited by other auditors whose reports have been furnished to us, and our opinion, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for the discretely presented component units, is based solely on the other auditors' reports. We conducted our audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. The other auditors did not audit the aggregate discretely presented component units' financial statements in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, except for those of the Thunderbird School of Global Management and ASU Preparatory Academy, Inc.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditors consider internal control relevant to the University's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the University's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Opinions

In our opinion, based on our audit and the reports of the other auditors, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the business-type activities and aggregate discretely presented component units of Arizona State University as of June 30, 2016, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

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Emphasis of matters

As discussed in Note A to the financial statements, the University's financial statements are intended to present the financial position, the changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows of only those portions of the business-type activities, major fund, and aggregate discretely presented component units of the State of Arizona that are attributable to the transactions of the University. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of the State of Arizona as of June 30, 2016, the changes in its financial position, or, where applicable, its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

As discussed in Note A to the financial statements, for the year ended June 30, 2016, the University adopted new accounting guidance, Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 72, *Fair Value Measurement and Application*. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Other matters

Required supplementary information

U.S. generally accepted accounting principles require that the management's discussion and analysis on pages 18 through 25, schedule of the University's proportionate share of the net pension liability on page 64, and schedule of University contributions on page 65 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary and other information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the University's basic financial statements. The combining statements on pages 68 and 69 and the introductory and statistical sections listed in the table of contents are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not required parts of the basic financial statements.

The combining statements are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards by us and the other auditors. In our opinion, based on our audit, the procedures performed as described above, and the reports of the other auditors, the combining statements are fairly stated, in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

The introductory and statistical sections have not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements, and accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on them.

Other reporting required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 9, 2016, on our consideration of the University's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the University's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Debbie Davenport
Auditor General

December 9, 2016