**For Immediate Release**

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**Greater Phoenix Leadership Supportive of Negotiations to Increase Teacher Pay**

Gov. Ducey plan would increase teacher pay by 20% by 2020

PHOENIX, AZ, April 16, 2018 - Greater Phoenix Leadership (GPL) is pleased to convey that the sense among GPL members, CEO’s of the region’s largest employers, is supportive of a deal being negotiated to increase K-12 teacher pay by 9% in FY19 and 20% by 2020.

As legislators meet to work out the details of the budget, GPL members are supportive of investing much needed dollars in education and specifically increasing Arizona teacher pay.

Currently, average teacher pay is $48,723. The governor’s proposal would raise this salary to $52,725 by the new school year and $58,130 by the start of school in 2020.

The proposed salary increase, subject to ongoing budget negotiations, would come from a mixture of increased state revenues due to a positive economy, a reduction in state agency budgets, caseload savings and a rollback of some of the governor’s proposals that were included in the FY19 Executive Budget.

GPL members stand in strong support of investing more dollars into Arizona teachers and classrooms and encourage legislators to work with Gov. Ducey to create a plan to increase teacher pay.

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**About Greater Phoenix Leadership**

Greater Phoenix Leadership is an organization of leading CEO’s aligning leadership and resources at the intersection of the business, education, philanthropy and public policy sectors to improve economic vitality and quality of life. The mission of GPL is to improve the greater Phoenix area and the State of Arizona by bringing together talent, resources, and leadership to create action on priority issues. More information is available at [www.gplinc.org](http://www.gplinc.org)