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**Education Funding and Enhanced Economic Development Tools  
Deemed Critical Priorities for 2009 Legislative Session**

*- Nearly 600 Tucsonans respond to TREO's 2009 Legislative Priorities Survey -*

Tucson, AZ (December 17, 2008) – These are unprecedented times for Southern Arizona businesses. With Gov. Napolitano's appointment to the Obama administration, a new governor and state legislature take office in January facing tough decisions and dealing with significant impacts from the recession.

So what should be the priorities for public policy? From Dec. 5-11, 2008, nearly 600 Tucson business leaders responded to an online survey sent by TREO requesting their input on priorities for the 2009 legislative session. Questions addressed funding for the following areas of concern:

- K-12 and higher education
- Transportation infrastructure
- Technology and communication infrastructure
- Tax credits and incentives for economic development

The purpose of the survey was to establish specific goals to share with legislators based on the priorities of Southern Arizona community leaders. Taking into account the current budget shortfall, survey respondents ranked the following in order of importance for dedicated funding: 1) maintain elementary education funding; 2) enhanced economic development tools; 3) maintain higher education funding; 4) transportation infrastructure funding; and 5) technology/communications infrastructure funding. See attached for a complete summary of the survey results.

"Results of the 2009 Legislative Priorities Survey indicate that funding for education and enhancing economic development tools are of great importance to Southern Arizona leaders," said Joe Snell, TREO's President and CEO. "TREO will use the survey results to work closely with legislators in the coming year in order have an effect on state budgeting decisions. In a tough economy, decisions made now by our legislators will be critical to the future of our local economic development efforts."

**About TREO (Tucson Regional Economic Opportunities, Inc.)**

TREO's mission is to provide insight, infrastructure, resources and development efforts to accelerate economic prosperity throughout the Southern Arizona region. TREO supports the creation of new business, the growth and expansion of existing businesses, and the attraction of companies that offer high-impact jobs and share the community's values. For more information, visit [www.treoaz.org](http://www.treoaz.org).

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