



# Arizona State Legislature

October 26, 2023

Secretary Cardona:

Arizona State Senate and House Republicans align with Grand Canyon University and ask that the Department of Education recognizes the University's lawful nonprofit status, just as other regulatory agencies have done, and that the targeted actions from the Department toward the University stop.

GCU was a nonprofit institution in Arizona since 1949 before taking on an investor in 2004 to avoid bankruptcy and to gain access to capital in order to grow the university. In 2018, GCU successfully reverted to its historical nonprofit status according to the IRS, Higher Learning Commission, and every other regulatory agency, commission, and board in the state and in the nation, except for the US Department of Education. It appears the Department is unjustly targeting GCU to bring harm to the largest Christian university in the country.

GCU has revolutionized higher education by creating an innovative and nontraditional model to successfully address the challenges facing post-secondary education today. Due to this model, the university has frozen tuition on its ground campus for the past 15 years to provide a private, Christian education for any individual, regardless of socioeconomic class. Many students from across the country have chosen to come to GCU, which educates over 100,000 students every year with over 25,000 students on the ground campus and 92,000 online.

The growth of the University has led GCU to become an economic engine of our state, contributing \$2.1 billion annually. More importantly, the Institution has a critical impact on the state's workforce needs as one of the largest providers of businesspeople, nurses, and teachers in Arizona, and in fact, in the nation, along with its ever-growing number of graduates in the fields of engineering and technology.

Many in Arizona, and in higher education, view GCU as a model of innovation for postsecondary education that provides solutions for 21st century demands. It is this revolutionary approach to higher education that causes many in Arizona, and in the higher education community, to value GCU and look to it as a leader in the future of higher education. However, it appears for these same reasons GCU is celebrated, the

Department is targeting the University. The issues being discussed by the Department could easily be resolved by two amicable parties.

It is our hope the Department of Education will work cooperatively with GCU on these disagreements and provide a path forward where the Department will recognize GCU's lawful nonprofit status as all other regulatory bodies have done.

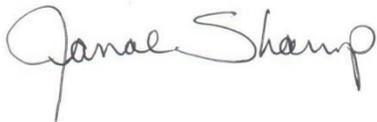
Respectfully,



Warren Petersen  
*President, Arizona State Senate*



Ben Toma  
*Speaker, Arizona House of Representatives*



Janae Shamp  
*Arizona State Senator*



Beverly Pingerelli  
*Arizona State Representative*



Ken Bennett  
*Arizona State Senator*