



## USU STATEMENT ON ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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*Following is a statement by Nancy Zimpher, President of the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities (USU), on the conference agreement for the American Recovery and Investment Act of 2009.*

On behalf of the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities (USU), we want to thank Congress for passing a national recovery plan that recognizes the importance and economic impact of urban and metropolitan areas as well as their universities. We look forward to the President signing the bill into law.

While we face many challenges, none is more urgent than the economic recovery of our nation. It is clear that any successful and sustainable recovery must involve investing in our urban communities. USU applauds congressional efforts to include provisions in the recovery plan that address long-term economic distress in urban areas as well as highway, bridge, and mass transit construction.

As anchors for our nation's cities, public urban research universities stand ready and able to play an important role in producing economic stability for our nation's cities and metropolitan areas. We greatly appreciate the proposed investments in scientific research, student aid, teaching and healthcare workforce, and infrastructure improvement at institutions of higher education. USU is also grateful for your efforts to provide assistance to Governors to mitigate cuts in state education budgets. Collectively, these funding allocations will enable more of our local students to access higher education and increase the number of highly skilled workers within our metropolitan areas.

We look forward to working with our universities, community stakeholders, and state and local governments to leverage these funds into creating jobs and economic investments. Through these and similar endeavors we will continue to bolster our nation's economic competitiveness and make our cities a better place to live and work.

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*The Coalition of Urban Serving Universities (USU) is a network of 39 public urban research universities that represents every region of our country. University presidents created USU to leverage the intellectual capital and economic power of urban universities, thereby improving urban life and America's competitiveness in the global economy. To this end, USU is focused on three major issues -- creating a competitive workforce, building strong communities, and improving the health of a diverse population.*

Arizona State University ◦ California State University, Dominguez Hills ◦ California State University, East Bay ◦ California State University, Fresno ◦ California State University, Fullerton ◦ California State University, Long Beach ◦ California State University, Los Angeles ◦ California State University, Northridge ◦ California State Polytechnic University, Pomona ◦ Sacramento State University ◦ California State University, San Bernardino ◦ San Diego State University ◦ San Francisco State University ◦ San José State University ◦ City University of New York, City College of New York ◦ Florida International University ◦ Georgia State University ◦ Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis ◦ Morgan State University ◦ North Carolina State University ◦ Ohio State University ◦ Portland State University ◦ Temple University ◦ Tennessee State University ◦ University of Akron ◦ University of Alabama at Birmingham ◦ University of Central Florida ◦ University of Cincinnati ◦ University of Colorado, Denver ◦ University of Houston ◦ University of Illinois at Chicago ◦ University of Louisville ◦ University of Memphis ◦ University of Minnesota ◦ University of Missouri, Kansas City ◦ University of New Mexico ◦ University of New Orleans ◦ Virginia Commonwealth University ◦ Wichita State University