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ADEQ Director Owens Announces 2009 Recycling Scholarships for High School Seniors

PHOENIX (Sept. 17, 2008) -- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Director Steve Owens today announced that ADEQ is encouraging Arizona high school seniors interested in environmental issues to apply for the 2009 Arizona Recycling Scholarship Program.

Under the Recycling Scholarship Program, ADEQ will award 10 scholarships of \$1,000 each to high school seniors to be used for expenses at a college or university in Arizona. To apply, students must submit a proposal outlining a waste reduction or recycling project in their school or community to be implemented during March 2009. All Arizona high school students in their senior year are eligible to apply for the scholarship. The 10 scholarship recipients will be selected by ADEQ based on the proposals submitted.

"This is a very exciting program that encourages Arizona students to think about ways to protect the environment while helping them meet the escalating costs of college," Owens said. "We initiated this program in 2006 to promote awareness of the three R's – Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle – and the response has been tremendous every year since because of the keen interest among students in the environment and the high quality of the proposals we have seen."

Owens said ADEQ developed the scholarship program to encourage school recycling activities throughout the state and to get high school students involved in protecting the environment. Funding for the scholarship program will come through the ADEQ Recycling Grant Program.

"This is a great way for high school seniors to help protect the environment and pay for college," Owens said.

Proposals must be received by ADEQ no later than Feb. 6, 2009 and the scholarship winners will be announced Feb. 20. The winning projects will be implemented during March 2009. ADEQ will provide scholarship funds to the students after receiving proof of enrollment at a community college or university within the state of Arizona.

The scholarship package and informational materials will be sent to every high school in Arizona and also are available on ADEQ's Web site at <http://www.azdeq.gov/enviro/waste/solid/program.html>.