FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arizona Board of Regents Affirms Center and New Minor in School of Social Work

March 11, 2005 (Tempe, AZ) – The Arizona Board of Regents has approved the Arizona State University’s College of Public Programs School of Social Work proposal to grant center status to the Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Consortium. The new Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center (SIRC) will continue under the direction of Dr. Flavio Marsiglia, Foundation Professor of Cultural Diversity and Health. The center is funded by a National Institutes of Health/National Institute on Drug Abuse research infrastructure grant.

SIRC focuses on building a strong drug, mental health, and HIV/AIDS research program that will enhance the quality of the services provided in the State and beyond. This is accomplished by linking research in the core areas with service delivery systems in a culturally grounded approach. Faculty from social work, sociology and six additional allied disciplines partner with community-based social workers and other professionals to conduct research, share and apply the best practices for drug abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment and mental health services, particularly among the cultures of the Southwest.

The Board of Regents also approved a minor in social welfare in the School of Social Work. This program was previously a popular bachelor of interdisciplinary studies concentration, and will continue to focus on teaching the fundamentals of human relations in a social context.

Students majoring in nursing, psychology, sociology and justice studies historically have found this program to be a practical approach to learning how to analyze complex individual, family, and societal problems and the social welfare policies, services, and delivery systems designed to deal with them. It offers both a theoretical and applied approach in the context of societal values, cultural diversity and other social and economic variables.
Although this minor will complement many majors across the university, it is focused on students who want to be better prepared for careers requiring communication skills, critical thinking, and an understanding of society and social behavior. For students who discover the bachelor of social work degree later in their academic career, completion of this minor will be an alternative route to prepare for a master of social work degree.