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ARKANSAS SCHOLARSHIP LOTTERY SURPASSES PREVIOUS SALES RECORDS

June 1, 2016

LITTTLE ROCK— With still one full month remaining in the fiscal year, the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery last week surpassed its previous cash sales record for annual draw game sales. Additionally, over Memorial Day weekend, Arkansas's Lottery surpassed its cash sales totals for fiscal year 2015.

"This is an incredible achievement that simply could not have been accomplished without the hard work of our small but dedicated staff, our players, and our incredible network of nearly 2,000 Lottery retailers in every corner of the state," Arkansas Scholarship Lottery Director Bishop Woosley said.

The previous high-water mark for annual draw games cash sales of \$87,682,793 was set in fiscal year 2014. Current draw cash sales for fiscal year 2016 – again, with a month left on the fiscal year calendar – are at \$88,631,455. Overall, Arkansas Scholarship Lottery sales for 2016 presently are at more than \$419 million, compared with sales of just over \$410 million for all of 2015.

"More sales equals more winners equals more scholarships for Arkansas students," Woosley said. "So to us, this equals good news all around."

About Scholarships

The Arkansas Scholarship Lottery Act of 2009 provided for revenue raised by a state lottery to provide for college scholarships, to be administered by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE). Since then, more than 200,000 Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarships have been awarded to Arkansas residents for in-state colleges and universities across the state.

With today being the application deadline for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship, Lottery officials encourage both traditional and nontraditional students in the state to apply at scholarships.ADHE.edu.

About the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery

Since Lottery sales started in Arkansas in 2009, the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery has provided more than \$573 million for in-state college scholarships to Arkansas students, while players have won nearly \$2 billion in prizes -- and Lottery retailers have earned more than \$166 million in commissions. More than 92 cents of every dollar of Lottery revenue goes to prizes, scholarships and retailer commissions in the state.

Please follow the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Visit <u>www.myarkansaslottery.com</u> for more information on scholarships, winners, games, odds, promotions, and to join the free *Play it Again* Rewards Club.

To hear winning numbers, call the Winning Numbers

Hotline at <u>501-682-IWON</u> (4966). To get help with problem gambling, contact the National Problem Gambling Helpline at <u>1-800-522-4700</u>.

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