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Date: July 11, 2014

LOTTERY NEARS HALF-BILLION-DOLLAR MARK IN SCHOLARSHIPS

(LITTLE ROCK) The Arkansas Scholarship Lottery finished the 2014 Fiscal Year with a sales total of over \$411 million, generating more than \$81 million to fund scholarships for Arkansas students. ASL Director Bishop Woosley expects net proceeds will easily surpass the half-billion-dollar mark in total scholarships funds in the 2015 Fiscal Year.

“It’s gratifying to know that, in less than five years of operation, we’ve helped more than 135,000 Arkansas students to realize their potential for academic achievement,” Woosley said. “Now we’re moving toward the half-billion dollar mark this next fiscal year. That’s \$500 million that was simply unavailable to Arkansas students before the Lottery opened in 2009. These dollars and students, studying at Arkansas colleges and universities, will create a more educated workforce to attract new industry and high-skill, higher-paying jobs to our state. The Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship can be a powerful economic development tool.”

The Arkansas Scholarship Lottery sold its first ticket on September 28, 2009, and as of June 30, 2014, total ticket sales have surpassed \$2.1 billion. The first lottery-funded Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarships were awarded in the 2010-2011 academic year, and since then net proceeds of \$434,182,227 have helped a total of 135,626 Arkansas students attend Arkansas’s public colleges and universities. And since its inception, ASL has paid over \$120 million in sales commissions to retailers selling Lottery products throughout Arkansas.

The sole purpose of the ASL is to provide scholarships and grants to Arkansas residents enrolled in public and private nonprofit two-year and four-year colleges and universities within the state. For more information on the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery, visit www.myarkansaslottery.com. For more information on scholarships and an application, go to www.adhe.edu. ASL contact: Patrick Ralston, 501-683-1877.

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