UA-produced Ariz. stats book wins award

By Nathan Tafoya

It’s no longer necessary for students to spend hours flipping through reference books trying to locate information on Arizona’s public school expenditures or statistics on the poverty status of Arizona counties. Students looking for Arizona-related statistics can now consult the award-winning 2003 Arizona Statistical Abstract, published by the UA’s Economic and Business Research program.

The 700-page data handbook was nationally recognized when it received the Award of Excellence in Publications from the Association for University Business and Economic Research last month. EBR researchers, Pia Montoya, a 1977 alumna, and Valerie Rice, who received her graduate degree at the UA in 1994, compiled the newest edition with the help of current students.

The EBR at Eller College is a coordinating agency for the Arizona State Data Center. Its purpose is to provide demographic and economic data to the public.

Marshall Vost, the EBR program director, said Montoya and Rice get the credit for putting together the best example of a state statistical abstract.

"It’s formatted in a way that makes it very useful," Vost said. "So when somebody goes into a library and asks about social or economic data about Arizona or about Tucson, the librarian is going to go straight for this book.”

Montoya and Rice said state decision makers, businesses and libraries are among those who use the abstract to obtain information about demographics and economics in Arizona.

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