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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: March 1, 2010
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SHINING LIGHT ON A HIDDEN CONDITION

PHOENIX – (Mar. 1, 2010) – Governor Janice Brewer has declared March 7-13 Arizona Problem Gambling Awareness Week. The Arizona Office of Problem Gambling (OPG) will host a day-long symposium in Phoenix on Tuesday, March 8, to address this important topic.

According to Rick Pyper, Director of OPG, this disorder now affects 2-3% of the adult population. Contrary to stereotypes, problem gambling is often not a life-long issue, but something that can emerge for anyone who starts to make irresponsible decisions regarding gambling. "Education is the best tool in meeting the challenge," said Pyper. "The annual symposium provides valuable insight to the best treatment and recovery practices of this very real condition."

This year's event will feature keynote speaker Dr. Lia Nower, Associate Professor and Director of the Rutgers University Center for Gambling Studies. Her research focuses on the etiology and treatment of problem and pathological gambling and co-morbid addictive disorders and gambling-related policy issues. Lia will speak on "Treatment Outcomes in Arizona: A Profile of Problem Gamblers."

Problem Gambling Awareness Week is dedicated to informing the general public and behavioral therapists about the effects of problem gambling. This year's symposium, "Understanding and Meeting the Challenge," will be held March 8 at the Black Canyon Conference Center. The event is open to the public and especially recommended for professionals and students working in or studying the helping professions. Registration is \$90.00, which includes lunch and a certificate of completion for continuing education credits. Reservations can be made by calling 480.990.1887.

The Arizona Office of Problem Gambling seeks to support a sustainable continuum of services that reduces the impact of problem gambling by providing effective prevention, treatment and education programs throughout the state. OPG maintains a 24 hour problem gambling help line – 1.800.NEXT.STEP. More information can be found at www.problemgambling.az.gov.