

MAG Data Disputes Report of College Graduates Leaving State

The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), Arizona State University (ASU), and Arizona Commerce Authority are strongly disputing a March 2016 news report that shows Arizona at the bottom of the list when it comes to retaining college graduates. In an article published in *The Atlantic CityLab*, author Richard Florida indicates that Arizona is among the worst states for two- and four-year college student retention, at only 36.3 percent. However, MAG findings show a much different and extremely more positive picture, with retention rates for Arizona State University closer to 70 percent and for the University, about 56 percent.

[Click here to view the press release.](#)

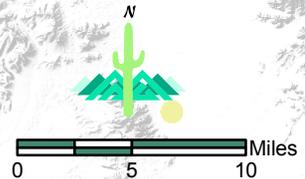
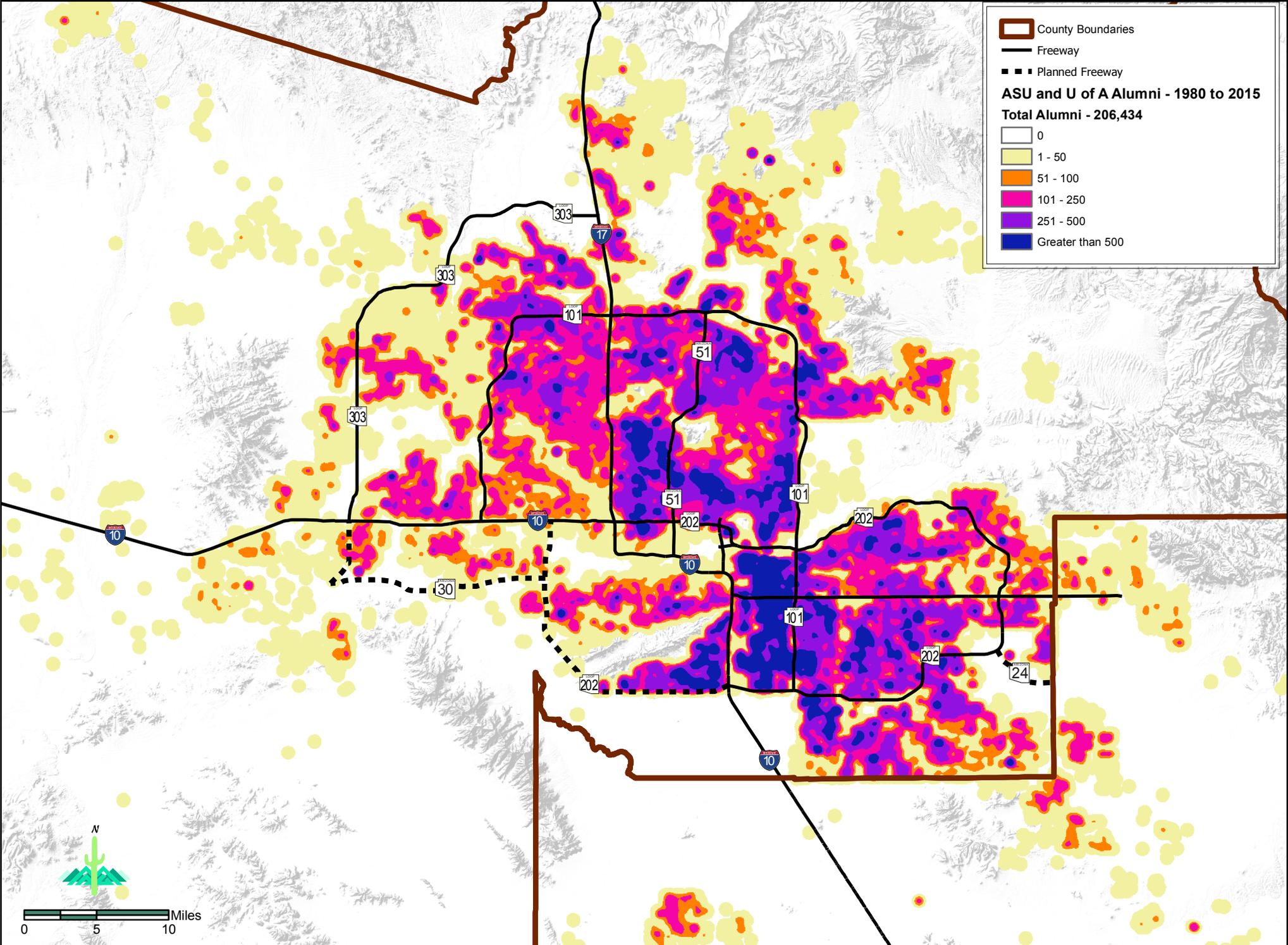
For additional information, please see the table and maps below.



Arizona State University and University of Arizona Alumni 1980-2015 Concentration - Phoenix MSA



County Boundaries
 Freeway
 Planned Freeway
ASU and U of A Alumni - 1980 to 2015
Total Alumni - 206,434
 0
 1 - 50
 51 - 100
 101 - 250
 251 - 500
 Greater than 500





Arizona State University and University of Arizona Alumni 1980 - 2015 Concentration - Tucson MSA

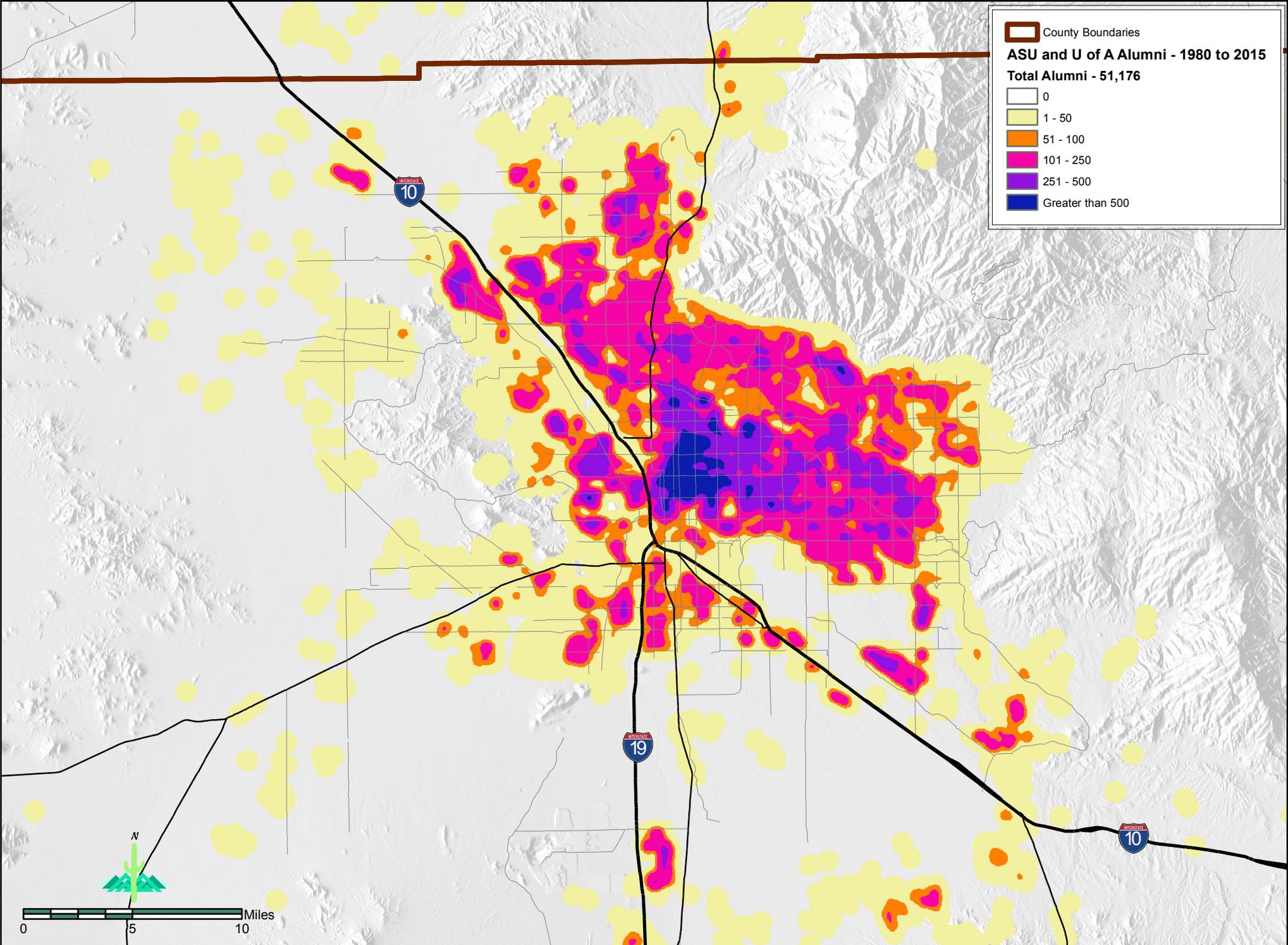


 County Boundaries

ASU and U of A Alumni - 1980 to 2015

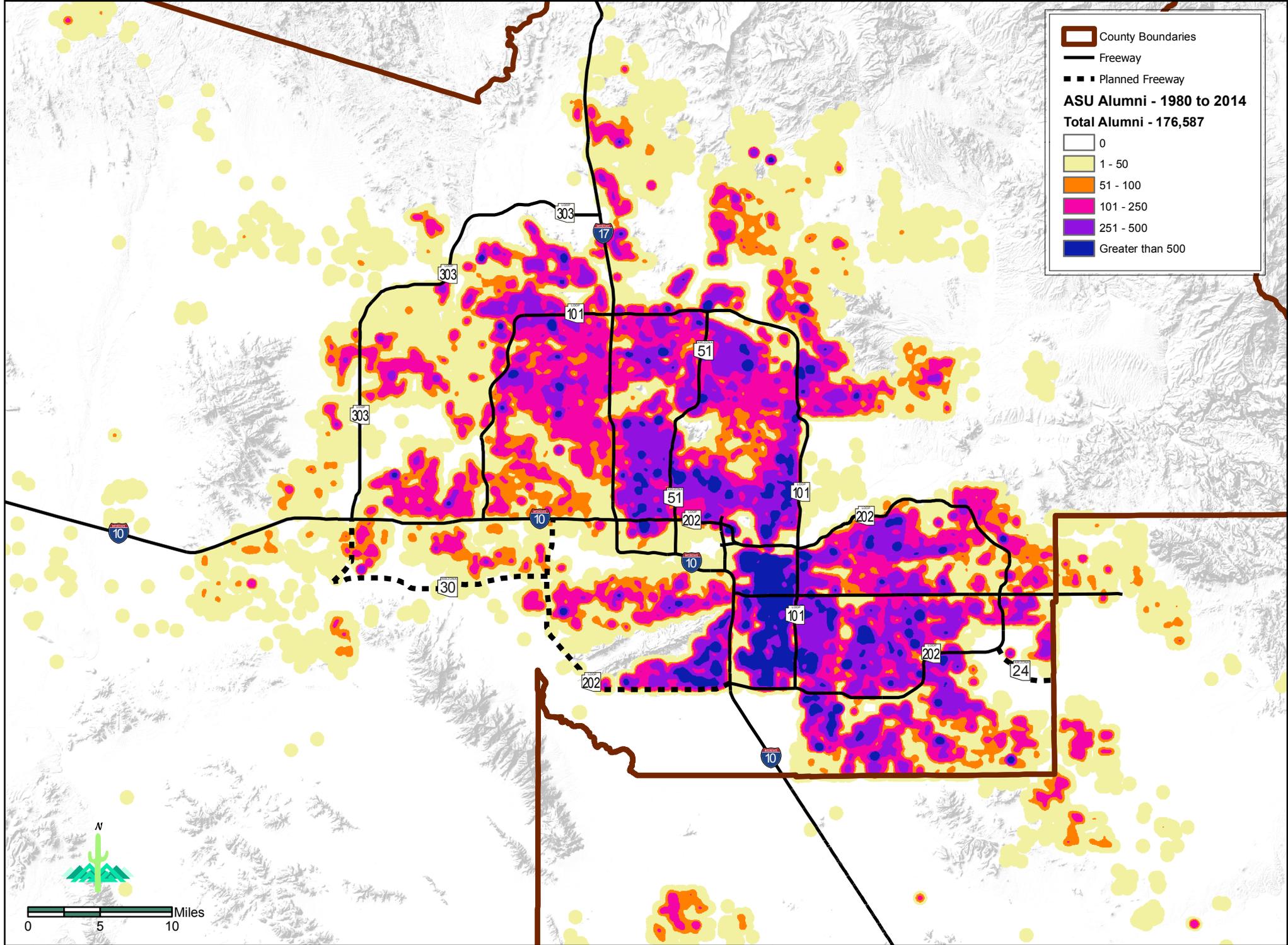
Total Alumni - 51,176

	0
	1 - 50
	51 - 100
	101 - 250
	251 - 500
	Greater than 500



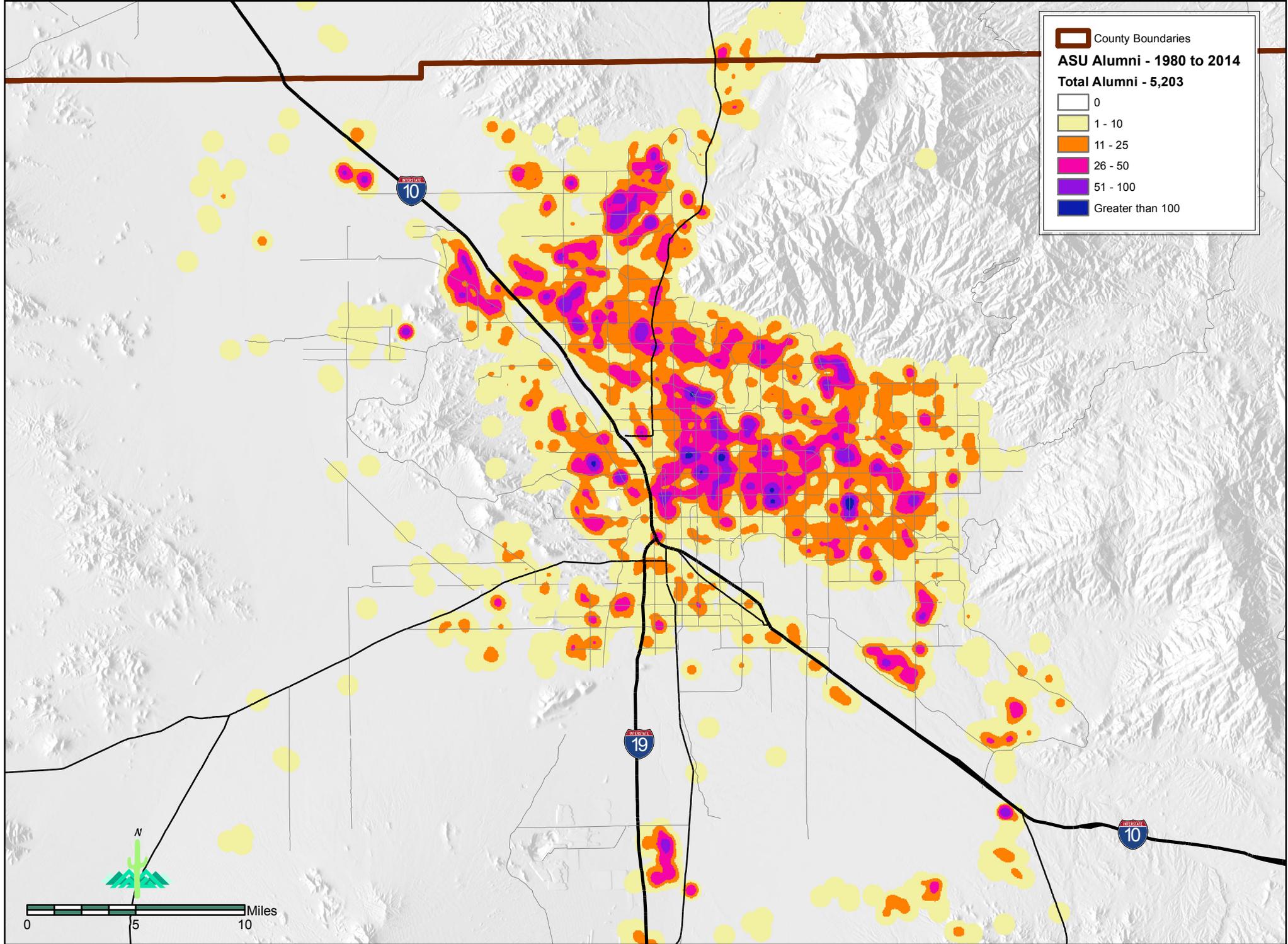


Arizona State University Alumni 1980-2014 Concentration - Phoenix MSA



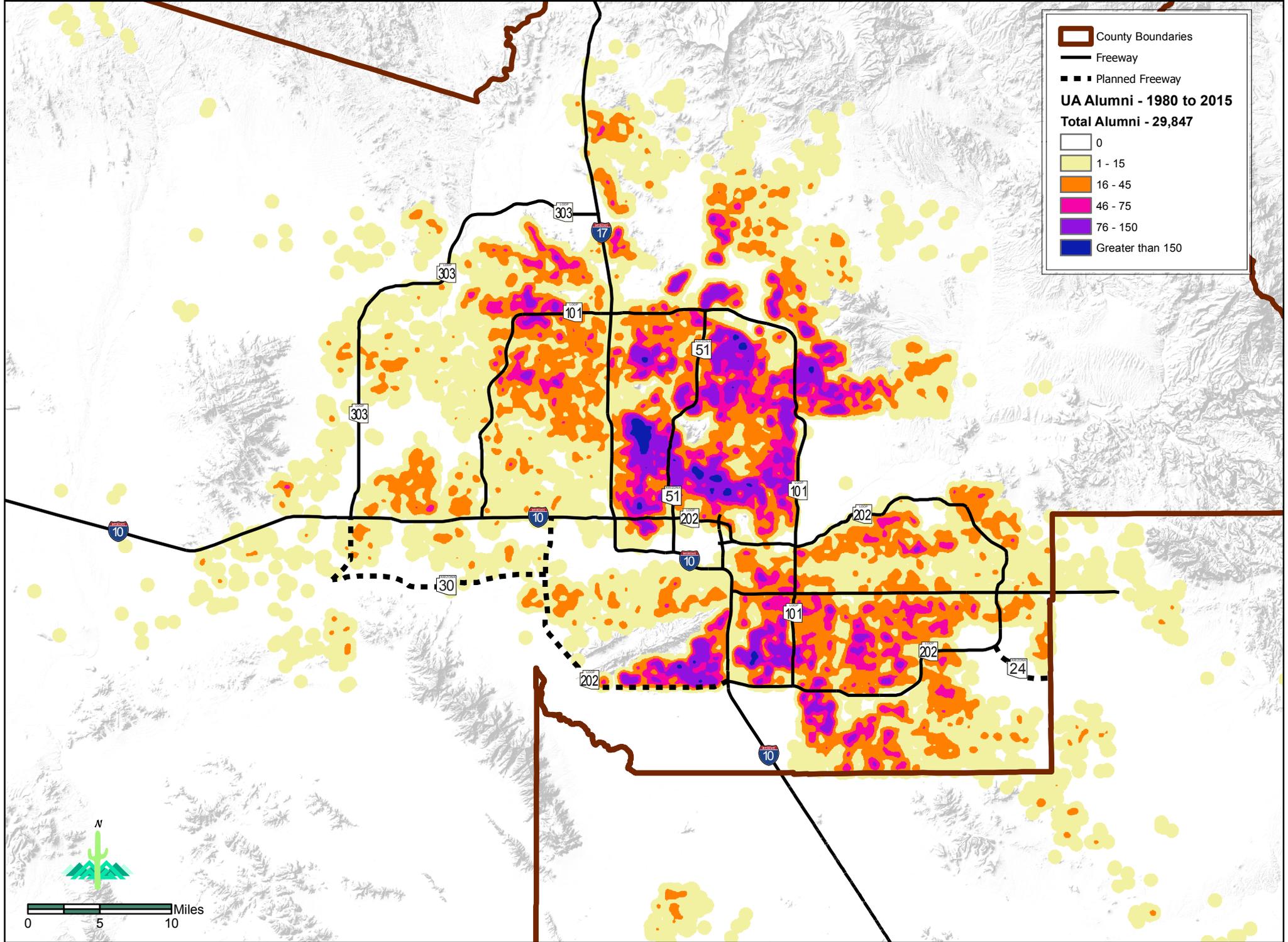


Arizona State University Alumni 1980 - 2014 Concentration - Tucson MSA



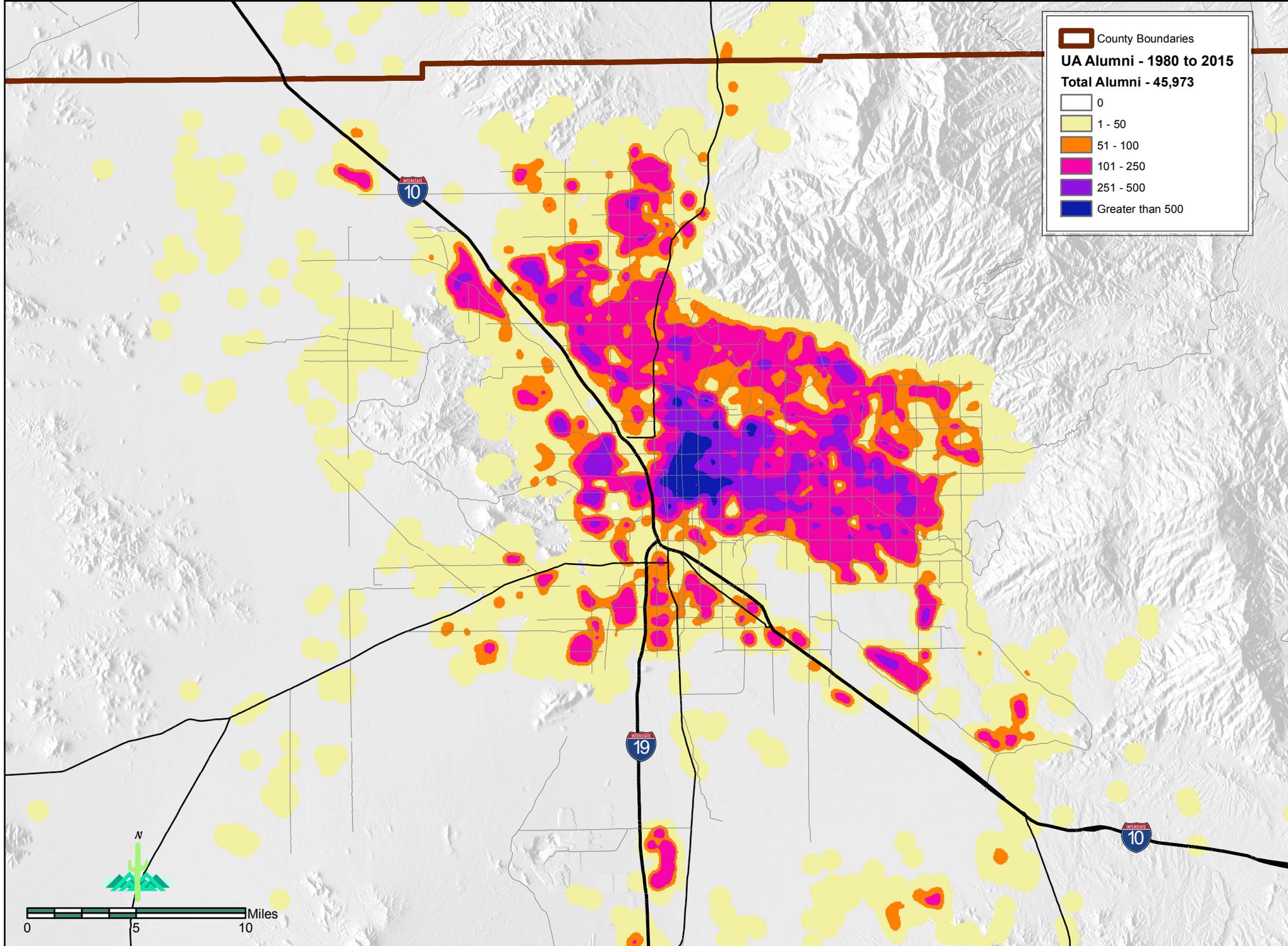


University of Arizona Alumni 1980-2015 Concentration - Phoenix MSA





University of Arizona Alumni 1980 - 2015 Concentration - Tucson MSA



Graduate Retention Rates for Arizona State University (ASU) and University of Arizona (UofA)

	Total Graduates		
	Since 1980	Since 1990	Since 2000
Arizona State University	325,122	266,381	190,782
University of Arizona	167,661	134,807	93,495
Combined (ASU, UofA)	492,783	401,188	284,277

	Graduates Residing in Arizona					
	Since 1980		Since 1990		Since 2000	
	Graduates	Retention Rate	Graduates	Retention Rate	Graduates	Retention Rate
Arizona State University	202,274	62.2%	174,085	65.4%	131,859	69.1%
University of Arizona	84,362	50.3%	70,497	52.3%	52,671	56.3%
Combined (ASU, UofA)	286,636	58.2%	244,582	61.0%	184,530	64.9%

	Graduates Residing in Phoenix Metro Area					
	Since 1980		Since 1990		Since 2000	
	Graduates	Retention Rate	Graduates	Retention Rate	Graduates	Retention Rate
Arizona State University	176,587	54.3%	153,669	57.7%	114,454	60.0%
University of Arizona	29,847	17.8%	25,021	18.6%	17,883	19.1%
Combined (ASU, UofA)	206,434	41.9%	178,690	44.5%	132,337	46.6%

	Graduates Residing in Tucson Metro Area					
	Since 1980		Since 1990		Since 2000	
	Graduates	Retention Rate	Graduates	Retention Rate	Graduates	Retention Rate
Arizona State University	5,203	1.6%	4,257	1.6%	3,185	1.7%
University of Arizona	45,973	27.4%	38,534	28.6%	29,562	31.6%
Combined (ASU, UofA)	51,176	10.4%	42,791	10.7%	32,747	11.5%

Sources: Arizona State University Alumni Database, University of Arizona Alumni Database
Prepared by Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), March 2016

MAG Contacts:

Kelly Taft, ktaft@azmag.gov (602) 452-5020
Anubhav Bagley, abagley@azmag.gov (602) 254-6300