

ASU public art in Top 10

Public Art Review, considered the leading magazine in the field of public art, cited ASU with one of the best public art collections in America. The magazine polled 500 public art professionals and artists to determine its "Big Ten" article.

"At ASU, public art is a part of campus life," says Diane Cripe, director of public art in the ASU Herberger College of Fine Arts. "The depression-era Arizona murals build pride of place. The contemporary art challenges, amuses and informs."

Public Art Review recognized ASU's program for its permanent collection, exhibitions and opportunities for student artists.

Nursing College launches new master's program

The ASU College of Nursing introduces this fall the nation's first Master's of Healthcare Innovation (MHI) program accessible as a distance-learning program from anywhere in the U.S. and targeted for both nursing and non-nursing health care students.

"As an industry, healthcare continues to change at an increasingly rapid pace, integrating complex technology, clinical devices, sophisticated database programs, genomic pharmacology and biotechnology," says Dean Bernadette Melnyk.

"Given these dynamics, healthcare leaders need skills in understanding, managing, creating and evaluating the continually present innovations necessary for progress."

The MHI distance education initiative is being led in collaboration with the ASU School of Health Management and the Hugh Downs School of Human Communication.

Biotech education gets boost

ASU's Biodesign Institute and Polytechnic campus, Mesa Community College (MCC) and Mesa Public Schools (MPS) together have been awarded a \$900,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) in response to future workforce needs in the biosciences field.

Recent studies conducted in conjunction with the state of Arizona show an immediate need for qualified bioscience laboratory technicians with demand outstripping supply by four-fold.

The grant will focus on meeting workforce demands for technicians by introducing summer workshops to high school instructors so they can develop or advance biotech courses and programs at their schools; establishing a formal partnership between MCC and regional high schools to earn college credit for general studies lab science during their high school biotech programs; creating formal partnerships with ASU's Polytechnic campus and Biodesign Institute for additional student opportunities; establishing a formal partnership agreement with the Translational Genomics Research Institute for MCC faculty and student research internships; and identifying ways to streamline the transfer process to bioscience baccalaureate programs at ASU.

ALPHA program starts strong

The creation three years ago of the Office of University-School Partnerships focused an ASU effort to take a stronger role in improving Arizona's public schools. Results to date show the endeavor is making a difference:

- ASU has increased the number of student teachers in ALPHA districts (26 schools in eight high-need districts) more than 100%, by awarding scholarships and asking the districts to improve mentors. Numbers climbed from about 55 in 2002-03 to 125 in 2005-06.

- Twenty teachers in ALPHA districts will complete work in December on their masters' degrees in educational administration with a principal's certificate.

- An "Early Learner" program for children ages four to seven is under way in nine schools in three districts, in which students meet daily with teachers to overcome learning gaps.

- ASU has increased the number of teachers it graduates by 50%, from 1,000 per year in 2002 to almost 1,500 in 2005.

ASU's scholar athletes

The United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association named 12 members of the ASU track and field program to its 2006 list of academic award winners. The athletes attained the honor by maintaining at least a 3.2 grade point average (GPA) and qualifying for the

NCAA Indoor Championships and/or the NCAA Regional Championships during the outdoor season.

The entire women's program also was honored by the association as the collective roster carried a 3.13 GPA for the year.

The Golf Coaches Association of America named three Sun Devil golfers in the men's program as Cleveland Golf All-America Scholars for the 2005-06 season; they each had to have a 3.2 GPA and under a 76.0 stroke average. It marked the first time three Sun Devils earned the honor in the same season.

Name change for research center

The Center for Competitiveness and Prosperity Research is the new name of the Center for Business Research, a research unit at ASU's W. P. Carey School of Business. "The Center will examine the factors that influence a region's ability to compete and prosper, from issues like business climate and investment strategies, to knowledge and skills of the workforce," says ASU President Michael Crow.

According to Robert Mittelstadt, dean of the W. P. Carey School of Business, the Center also will deepen business leaders' and Arizona residents' understanding of the role of economics in daily life.

"Too many of our citizens don't understand the role that economics plays in explaining everything from their broad standard of living to the cost of a bar of soap," he said.

Now hear this!

The world could start sounding a lot clearer to people suffering from hearing loss if ASU researchers succeed in a new project funded recently by a \$200,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Connection One, a NSF industry-university cooperative research center based at ASU, is developing a micro-scale digital hearing aid that would closely mimic the way natural hearing organs work.

The Connection One team is investigating new techniques for improving the performance and comfort of hearing aids by decreasing their size, increasing the sound quality, making the devices more flexible and extending battery life.