

NEWS

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ASU named one of nation's best

Arizona State University is named as one of the best national universities in the 2008 edition of "America's Best Colleges" by *U.S. News & World Report*.

ASU has advanced its position among the nation's top universities, ranking 124, up six spots from 130 last year. The progress moves the university into the top tier of the rankings.

Among the factors that determine national university rankings, ASU saw gains in its student performance, quality of its faculty, alumni giving, and expenditures per student.

Medical school makes debut

A historic collaboration came to fruition this month as the first class of students at the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix in partnership with Arizona State University began classes in downtown Phoenix.

The medical-education curriculum at the college features an interactive teaching approach and an emphasis on biomedical informatics - computer technology skills that support information gathering, diagnosis, and the creation of tailored medical treatments or personalized medicine.

ASU projects record freshmen class

ASU anticipates its freshman class will break records again, with a projected 9,300 students. This number of first-time freshmen is the largest in history, almost twice as large as the entering class 10 years ago.

More than one-third of the 2007 freshman class are students of color, doubling over the past 10 years, reflecting the changing demographics of Arizona and the nation. ASU students come from all 50 states and more than 150 foreign countries.

ASU President and Provost Scholars, students who perform at the top of their high school graduating class, increased 11 percent over last year and 64 percent in the past five years. More than 1,700 President and Provost Scholars, 30 percent of the freshmen from Arizona, are part of this year's class.

SkySong lures Canon

Developers of SkySong, the ASU Scottsdale Innovation Center, announced that Canon

U.S.A. Inc., will join other forward-thinking companies at the 37-acre, mixed-use center at the southeast corner of Scottsdale and McDowell roads under development as a portal for technological innovations and a portal for expanding global trade.

Canon will lease 9,000 square feet in the first building, scheduled to open this fall, to take advantage of the ASU resources available to SkySong tenants.

Last fall Canon established an alliance with ASU to build a world-class "Sustainable Digital University." As part of that initiative, Canon is working with ASU to identify cooperative research projects and to explore and evaluate new technologies.

New copiers promote sustainability

In an effort to align itself with ASU President Michael Crow's vision to create a more sustainable university, the University Technology Office and ASU's Digital Document Services are replacing campus printers and copiers with more energy-efficient models by Canon. All four ASU campuses – Downtown Phoenix, Polytechnic, Tempe and West – will receive new machines for use in student computing labs as part of a larger endeavor to incorporate Crow's initiatives into ASU's computing and printing services.

ASU is the first university to implement a sustainability program of this magnitude and will create a new university standard in the process.

Students get help with ASU 101

This fall semester, ASU debuts a five-week introductory course, ASU 101, that introduces first-year students to the unique culture, challenges and opportunities at the nation's largest university in a small class environment.

Duane Roen, a professor of English at the Polytechnic campus and one of more than 200 faculty teaching ASU 101, says building an intimate community within a large setting is crucial to connecting students to the university and helping them achieve success.

Eight/KAET-TV creates 'buzz'

Eight/KAET-TV's Buzz, the pilot for an innovative arts program, has won the pres-

tigious CINE Golden Eagle Award. CINE is a national competition that celebrates excellence in film, video and media arts. The Golden Eagle awards are recognized internationally as symbols of the highest production standards in filmmaking and videography.

"Phoenix's vibrant and emerging arts community is the focus of this initiative comprising television, an interactive Web site and teacher materials that meet Arizona arts standards with uniquely Arizona content," says Beth Vershure, station manager for Eight and executive producer of Buzz.

Gammage makes dramatic impact

A study by the League of American Theatres and Producers Inc., the Economic Impact of Touring Broadway on Metropolitan Areas, shows that the series at ASU Gammage resulted in \$41.3 million in spending in the Phoenix metropolitan area in 2005.

According to the report, which was part of a national economic study and included responses from 350 individuals attending shows at ASU Gammage, the 2005 series generated \$23.5 million in direct spending and an additional \$17.8 million in visitor spending. Among the shows presented that season were "The Lion King," "Movin' Out" and "Wicked."

ASU Gammage is one of the most successful touring Broadway series in the country. The 2006-2007 season outsold most markets for every show in the series.

Researcher receives fellowship

Doctoral student Janelle Kappes has received the Association for the Study of Higher Education/Lumina Foundation Fellowship award for her research on low-income students. The fellowship promotes innovative scholarship by funding research into barriers to opportunity and student success, particularly among underserved student groups, including adult learners.

"In the long term, I hope my research affects the way low-income student aid is dispersed, as well as the funding provided to support low-income students," Kappes says.