

NEWS

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2008

New lab advances solar energy

ASU is strengthening its commitment to boost Arizona's economic development prospects in the renewable energy industry by establishing the Solar Power Laboratory to advance solar energy research, education and technology.

Prominent scientists and engineers are being hired to lead the endeavor to improve the efficiency of solar electric power systems while making them more economically feasible.

The effort is a major part of ASU's response to the Arizona Board of Regents' Solar Energy Initiative, aimed at encouraging research and development to meet future needs for renewable energy sources, as well as help Arizona protect its environment, says Crow.

The laboratory will be a collaboration in partnership with ASU's Global Institute of Sustainability and Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering.

Initiative helps lead modern news era

Seeking to change the way journalism is taught in the United States, Carnegie Corporation of New York and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation are investing more than \$11 million in the expansion of a national initiative to adapt journalism education to the challenges of a struggling news industry.

ASU is one of three new journalism schools joining the effort to redefine journalism education and train a new generation of journalists capable of reshaping the news industry.

"Although traditional models of newspaper, radio and local television news dissemination are severely challenged," says Alberto Ibarguien, president and CEO of Knight Foundation, "every community in this democracy continues to have a core need for reliable information, news that informs and news that helps build the common language that builds community. Journalism schools have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to lead the industry."

ASU among top 'green' universities

ASU has been named one of the nation's "greenest" universities by the *Princeton Review* in its first-ever rating of environmentally friendly institutions.

The "2009 Green Rating Honor Roll" is a numerical score on a scale of 60 to 99 that the

Princeton Review tallied for 534 colleges and universities based on data it collected from the schools in the 2007-2008 academic year concerning their environmentally related policies, practices and academic offerings.

"Since 2004, ASU has been fully engaged in a massive effort to focus the nation's largest university directly down a path toward sustainability in all we do," says Jonathan Fink, the Julie Ann Wrigley Director at ASU's Global Institute of Sustainability and the university's sustainability officer.

Professors earn nod for innovation

Three professors from ASU's College of Teacher Education and Leadership (CTEL) – Teresa Foulger, Mia Kim Williams and Keith Wetzel – received the 2008 Research Paper Award from the International Society for Technology in Education's Special Interest Group for Teacher Educators for their innovative teaching methods in producing K-12 teachers who embrace the use of new technologies in their classrooms.

Foulger, Williams and Wetzel authored the award-winning paper, "Innovative Technologies, Small Groups, and a Wiki: A 21st Century Pre-service Experience Founded on Collaboration." One of the professors' key strategies is to have students work in small groups to learn a technological tool and its potential classroom uses.

"Students gain a sense of empowerment by working in small, self-directed groups," Foulger says. "When our students graduate and become K-12 teachers, we want them to use collaborative learning strategies with their fellow teachers as they refine their teaching techniques using new technologies."

ASU opens K-6 public school

East Mesa's new Center of Educational Innovation's Polytechnic Elementary School, which is managed by ASU's affiliate University Public Schools Inc., opened its doors Aug. 11 to its first class of about 220 students ranging from kindergarten age through sixth grade.

More than 150 families and their children have been involved in the process of creating University Public Schools' first school.

"ASU's efforts to partner with the pre-K-12 community to advance educational success in

the state takes a significant step forward with the first center opening," says Eugene Garcia, an ASU professor of education and vice president of Education Partnerships. "Using and sharing the multiple and substantial intellectual resources of ASU to address real Arizona educational challenges embodies the central mission of University Public Schools."

University Public Schools will continue to form partnerships with ASU faculty for curriculum development and research opportunities, and to seek partnerships with school districts across the metropolitan Phoenix area. For more details about the new school or future partnerships, visit the Web site <http://universitypublicschools.asu.edu>.

Eight/KAET-TV wins Telly awards

Eight/KAET-TV received two Silver Telly awards, the Telly organization's highest honor. Founded in 1978, the Telly is the premier award honoring outstanding local, regional and cable TV programs, video and film productions.

The competition, which is widely known and respected, receives more than 14,000 entries from all 50 states and many foreign countries.

The first award was for "Under Arizona," an original production that combines high-definition photography and computer animation for a compelling discovery of the natural riches found only in the Grand Canyon state. A second Silver Telly Award was presented for "Arizona Stories: World War II," which chronicles the war experiences of Arizona soldiers and their families with first-hand accounts from the battlefield and life on the home front. The documentary was produced as a local adjunct to "The War, A Ken Burns Film."

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