

# NEWS

## *You Need To Know™*



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### **ASU among 'America's Best'**

Arizona State University has been named one of America's Best College Buys by *Forbes* magazine in its 2009 edition of "America's Best Colleges."

ASU ranked 28th on a list of 100 colleges and universities that give students "the most quality for each tuition dollar spent."

Quality scores were based on students' satisfaction with their course instruction (25 percent) and indicators of their post-graduate employment success (25 percent), with almost as much weight given to the four-year debt load for typical student borrowers (20 percent). Other factors were four-year graduation rates and student and faculty success in competitive academic and research awards.

The other schools from the Western United States that landed in the top 30 were six California schools: University of California at Los Angeles, UC Berkeley, UC San Diego, UC Riverside, California Maritime Academy and UC Santa Barbara.

### **'Leading the pack'**

Arizona State University is ranked fifth among 77 colleges and universities that are "leading the pack in improvements and innovative changes" in academics, faculty, students, campus life and facilities.

For the second year in a row, ASU has been named as one of the "schools everyone should be watching" in *U.S. News and World Report's* edition of "America's Best Colleges." The ranking of "Top Up-and-Coming Schools" is based on the peer assessment of college presidents, provosts and admission deans.

Additionally, ASU for the third year in a row is named one of the "Best National Universities," ranking 121, the same spot as last year. There are more than 4,000 colleges and universities in the country and *U.S. News* surveyed approximately 1,500 for its rankings.

"The *U.S. News* rankings affirm that ASU is moving in a positive direction on all fronts," ASU President Michael Crow says. "The university has welcomed more qualified Arizona students and continued to be one of the best universities in the nation, proving that accessibility and excellence can go hand-in-hand."

In addition, ASU's W. P. Carey School of Business is ranked 31 among best undergraduate business programs at schools whose highest

degree is a doctorate. The Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering are ranked 40 among best undergraduate engineering programs at schools whose highest degree is a doctorate.

### **Nation's first honors campus**

ASU set a new standard this semester when it opened the nation's first comprehensive four-year honors college campus within a major research university.

Barrett, the ASU Honors College welcomed 1,700 students to a brand new seven-building campus that students had helped to design themselves.

Almost 800 upper-division students eagerly signed on to live in the new halls, leaving behind their off-campus apartments. The remainder are freshmen from around the United States, including 281 national scholars. About 70 percent of Barrett students are from Arizona.

The new campus has 12 classrooms, a dining center, faculty and administrative offices, a computer lounge, a fitness center and social lounges. The complex is designed to facilitate interaction between students, faculty and staff, so that learning will continue to take place even when outside of the classroom.

### **ASU earns military distinction**

Arizona State University has been selected by *G.I. Jobs* magazine as a "Military Friendly School for 2010." The list honors the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America's veterans as students.

ASU is the only public university in Arizona to make the list, compiled from a poll of more than 7,000 schools across the country.

The magazine's criteria included efforts to recruit and retain military and veteran students, results in recruiting military and veteran students, academic accreditations, and additional benefits to student veterans such as on-campus veterans programs, credit for service and military spouse programs among others.

The university also participates as a member of the Servicemembers Opportunity College (SOC), a consortium of more than 1,750 colleges and universities providing postsecondary education to members of the military worldwide. Recognizing

the unique nature of the military lifestyle, ASU is committed to easing the transfer of relevant course credits earned from regionally accredited schools and offers a portfolio of online and degree completion bachelor's and master's degrees suited to the needs of service members.

### **Public school opens downtown**

About 800 students were inducted as the first class at University Public School Phoenix in downtown Phoenix this month.

University Public School Phoenix, in partnership with Arizona State University and Phoenix Elementary School District No. 1, is the second school to open under the University Public Schools Inc. (UPSI) umbrella – a nonprofit organization that works to increase student achievement through innovation in public schools. UPSI opened its first campus, the Polytechnic Elementary School in Mesa, in August 2008.

With a research-based curriculum focused on innovation in education, the schools have rigorous science and math instruction, teach critical-thinking skills and use teaching methodologies that integrate the latest technologies. This is all part of creating a pathway that leads students to postsecondary education.

### **Grant to aid Native teachers**

Arizona State University's successful Professional Development School Excellence Network through Educational Technology (PDS-TENET) program – an offshoot of the Professional Development School (PDS) program that supports urban schools – is helping rural school districts in American Indian communities to "grow their own" elementary school and middle school teachers through the expanded support of a three-year, \$1.28 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education Indian Education Program.

"There is a severe shortage of American Indian teachers in Arizona, especially in elementary school districts with high American Indian enrollment," says Franklin Elliott, the coordinator for the Chinle PDS site. "PDS is playing a critical role in developing outstanding Native teachers to serve as role models for children in our community's schools."