

NEWS

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Congressional calling

Arizona State University's commitment to sustainability education and innovation has attracted the interest of leaders across the nation. Recently, U.S. Reps. Harry Mitchell, D-Ariz., and Stephanie Herseth Sandlin, D-S.D., were briefed on the latest energy research being conducted at ASU and the enormous potential for new technology and green jobs in Arizona. On their tour of the university, they learned about ASU's renewable energy portfolio and its alignment with several national initiatives to meet today's significant energy challenges.

"It is important that we showcase the exciting work that's being done at ASU and in Arizona as we work to become a leader in clean energy and green jobs," Mitchell says.

'Nobel' effort on health care

Arizona State University recently announced the appointment of Nobel Prize winner Leland "Lee" H. Hartwell to lead an expansive effort addressing two of today's top concerns: improving the effectiveness of health care while reducing its costs, and advancing science education.

Hartwell becomes the first Nobel Prize recipient in medicine to serve a faculty appointment at an Arizona university. He will establish and co-direct the Center for Sustainable Health at ASU's Biodesign Institute as ASU's second Virginia G. Piper Chair of Personalized Medicine.

"Dr. Hartwell already has transformed one worldview of science, earning a 2001 Nobel Prize for insights into the genes that control cell growth," says ASU President Michael Crow. "ASU provides a dynamic environment that will support the type of big ideas he has to help shape health care in the coming decade."

Award-winning innovation

Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer awarded a top award for economic development to the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen) and the Biodesign Institute at Arizona State University.

TGen and ASU's Partnership for Personalized Medicine won the 2009 Excellence in Economic Development award in the category of Innovative Economic Development.

The focus of the conference, presented by the Arizona Department of Commerce and the Ari-

zona Association for Economic Development, was preparing Arizona for economic recovery. The purpose of the awards is to honor partnerships, organizations, associations, service clubs and companies that have successfully created and implemented community and economic development strategies in the past year.

Partnering for student success

Arizona State University is teaming up with Pima Community College and Central Arizona College, respectively, to increase the number of students who complete a community college degree and attend and graduate from ASU. The goal is to significantly increase the number of students transferring to ASU from both community colleges – and to increase their success at the university.

Recognizing that academic preparation is the single most important determinant of transfer-student success, the institutions have established the Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) program, which will provide guaranteed admission into an ASU undergraduate degree program for students who complete the specific TAG requirements.

Arizona's 'Road to Recovery'

The Great Depression took its toll on Arizona as the state's first real economy, based on cotton, cattle, copper, citrus and climate – affectionately known as "the 5C's" – collapsed. But Arizona rebounded, building a new economy and becoming one of the most dynamic and fastest-growing states in the nation. Can Arizona do it again?

"The Road to Recovery: Lessons from Arizona First Economy," a new report by the Morrison Institute for Public Policy, looks ahead with an awareness of the legacy of the 5C's and suggests informed leaders can set Arizona's course out of recession and into a prosperous next century. In a brief and thoughtful reflection on Arizona's economic history, this new eight-page report offers insight into how the 5C's captured the essence and identity of Arizona's workers and, by extension, the state's economic identity.

To read the report, visit the Web site <http://morrisoninstitute.asu.edu/publications->

reports/forum-411/forum-411-road-to-recovery-lessons-from-arizonas-first-economy.

\$2.5M grant aids health research

The National Center of Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM), a center of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), has awarded a \$2.5 million grant for research of asthma disparities among Latino children to the College of Nursing and Health Innovation at Arizona State University. The grant, titled "Asthma Disparities in Latino Children: Acculturation, Illness Representation & Contemporary Alternative Medicine" (CAM) is the largest in the history of the college.

Racial and ethnic disparities in asthma health outcomes have been increasing in the United States, resulting in researchers and public health officials calling for studies to determine the causes. Compared with majority-population children, minority children use controller medication less often, have less continuity of care, and visit emergency departments more frequently.

In need of civics-minded students

A state civics coalition has concluded that civics education is in need of resuscitation. At the expense of teaching foundational principles of American democracy, Arizona public schools instead have focused their energy and resources on preparing students for high-stakes testing.

"The Arizona Civic Education Study," written by the Arizona Civics Coalition and The Center for Civic Education and Leadership, states that standardized testing is taking away from civics education because it is not a tested topic.

"The foundation of democracy starts in our public schools, and our findings prove that Arizona has pushed civics education to the back burner," says Sherman Elliot, the director of the Center for Civic Education and Leadership in ASU's College of Teacher Education and Leadership. "We need to teach our children how to participate fully and responsibly as citizens."

The study was released one day before Constitution Day and Citizenship Day, a combined event that commemorates the formation and signing of the U.S. Constitution on Sept. 17, 1787.