

Research I: Carnegie lists ASU among select universities

ASU has been called up to the big leagues: The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has classified ASU as a "Research University I."

"Designation as Research University I provides public recognition for what ASU has become — a modern major research university well positioned to continue its emergence into the 21st century," said ASU President Lattie Coor.

The Carnegie Foundation defines a Research University I as an institution that offers a full range of baccalaureate programs, is committed to graduate education through the doctorate and gives high priority to research. Research I institutions also award 50 or more doctoral degrees and received \$40 million or more in federal support each year.

Research I designation will help make the Phoenix area more competitive economically, according to Ionna Morfessis, president and chief executive officer of the Greater Phoenix Economic Council.

"This recognition will be critical to the future economic development potential of the region," Morfessis said. "Greater Phoenix takes its place among the most competitive cities, that is, those served by a Research University I."

ASU made the transition from teachers college to comprehensive university in 1959. The university was classified as a "Research University II" in 1987, the last time the foundation published its *Classification of Institutions of Higher Education*.

"This is a significant moment for ASU, signaling its full emergence as a major national research university," Coor said. "No university in the country has come further, faster than ASU, making this accomplishment especially noteworthy."

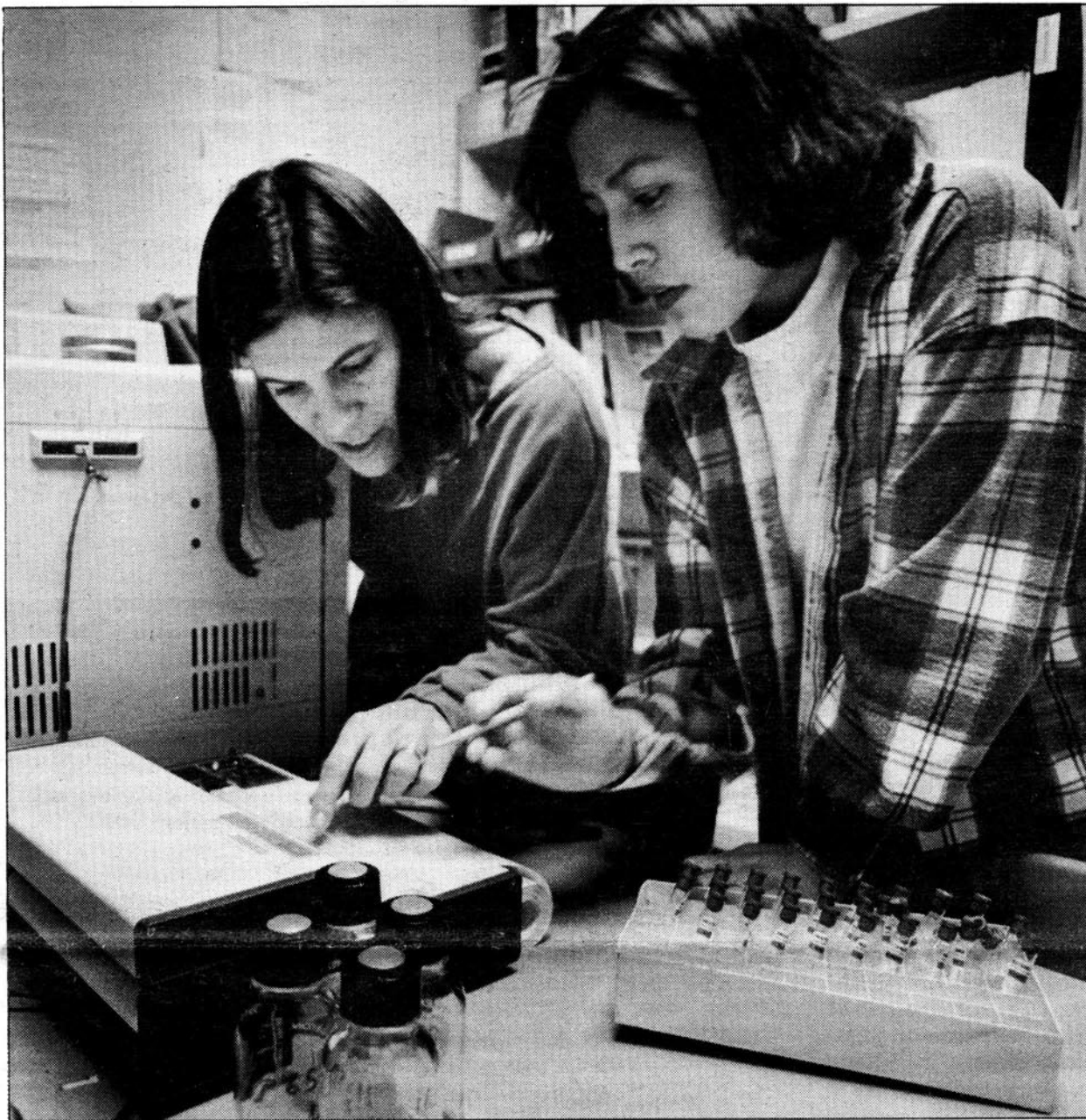
"Credit goes to the entire faculty and staff of ASU for this extraordinary accomplishment," Coor said. "Of particular note is the fact that of the current 70 Research I universities in the United States, only eight have accomplished this status without access to the substantial federal funds that colleges of agriculture and colleges of medicine provide."

"It makes the research accomplishments of the faculty at ASU and these other select universities even more noteworthy."

ASU joins such institutions as Cal Tech, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Princeton as a Research I university with neither a college of agriculture nor a college of medicine.

The designation bodes well for ASU undergraduate education and the Valley's economic development, according to ASU Senior Vice President and Provost Milton Glick.

"We believe that the research enterprise at this university is important for the undergraduates because it ensures that our faculty are on the cutting edge of their fields," Glick said. "More and more, we're encouraging our undergraduates to participate in a variety of ways in our research programs. We want them to learn how to learn as well as learn information



Nancy Grimm, (left) an assistant research scientist in zoology, and Karen S. Shorty, a freshman studying botany, examine results from air sample tests. With programs such as undergraduate ecology research experiences, ASU's Research I status bodes well for students.

Jeff Havir photo

out of textbooks."

ASU's research status could bring more high-value jobs to the Valley, especially in the high-technology industry, Glick said.

"The designation as a Research I institution in and of itself is recognition of our existing quality," Glick said. "The fact that we have achieved this status will undoubtedly assist us in attracting additional research dollars, which creates more jobs in the Arizona economy."

Under the Carnegie Foundation's definition for Research I status, federal support is the total amount of federal money used for academic science and engineering programs. The total includes expenditures for research and development (traditional research funding); capital expenditures for research and development facilities; money spent on facilities for science and engineering education; fellowships and training grants; general science support funds; and other science and engineering expenditures.