

Ariz. foundation luring scientists, engineers

by **Ken Alltucker** - Mar. 3, 2010 04:14 PM
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Science Foundation Arizona will spend up to \$7 million over five years to lure post-doctoral scientists and engineers to research labs at state universities, part of the group's effort to spur research and build the state's technology [workforce](#).

Science foundation officials say the new program will fund five post-doctoral positions for labs at Arizona State University and two slots at Northern Arizona [University](#) beginning the spring semester 2011. The University of Arizona was not included this time, but foundation officials expect UA will compete in later rounds.

The "Bisgrove Post-Doctoral Scholars" program, launched with a donation from philanthropist Jerry Bisgrove, will be jointly managed by science foundation and participating universities. The post-doctoral students will receive two-year [scholarships](#) and mentoring from university officials and private businesses.

Science foundation will spend nearly \$2 million over the program's first five years. A \$5 million endowment will be established to sustain the program.

"These are the kinds of students who have not looked at Arizona in the past," said Science Foundation Arizona [Chief Operating Officer](#) Margaret Mullen, who said the students will be recruited with advertisements in Science magazine and other publications.

Science foundation is still evaluating its other programs as it seeks to restore [state funding](#) amid the budget crisis. Launched in 2006, Science foundation funds its operations from donations from the business community. It also oversees grant programs that match private donations and public funding, but the states' funding was discontinued last year.

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