



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

New Independent Report Gives High Marks to Science Foundation Arizona in Delivering Positive Statewide Economic Impact

Results indicate Science Foundation Arizona attracted \$110 million in outside investment helping spur new jobs and companies

PHOENIX, July 8, 2009 – Science Foundation Arizona (SFAz) is demonstrating positive return on the grants it has funded in fiscal years 2007 and 2008 according to a recent report of the organization's annual metrics prepared by Battelle, the world's largest non-profit independent research and development organization. Battelle tracks the performance of SFAz grants made to universities and non-profit research performing institutions (RPIs). These grants to Arizona's non-profit RPIs are selectively screened by SFAz as being highly qualified and promising in driving innovation to grow Arizona's technology sector. The report was commissioned by SFAz utilizing private funding sources.

The metrics highlight how Science Foundation Arizona has managed the state's \$60 million dollars appropriated through the Arizona 21st Century Competitive Initiative Fund toward fueling research and development that directly benefits Arizonans. The several positive benchmarks from the first two years of efforts include:

- A leverage ratio of \$2.18 in new monies raised for each SFAz university research grant dollar distributed
- \$109.8 million attracted to Arizona from outside funds
- 757 new jobs created
- 54,517 K-12 students educated in critical math and science skills
- 50 patents filed and issued
- 292 scientific publications produced
- 177 graduate fellows supported to develop young research talent in Arizona universities
- 11 new companies created statewide

(more)

Highlighted in the report are programs in sustainable resource development and mining, solar energy advances, bio-based jet fuels from algae, streamlining of the FDA process toward faster and less expensive essential drug therapies, skin cancer detection utilizing battlefield topography scanning, and nanotechnologies for defense and security applications.

“The Battelle findings indicate that our strategic focus is on track for connecting universities and non-profit research performing institutions in new ways to the private sector that are having real economic impact in the state.” said William C. Harris, president and CEO, Science Foundation Arizona. “What is necessary now is a bold commitment to Arizona’s future; we need to continue to bring forth the best ideas, innovations and new technologies toward commercialization opportunities, high-tech sector growth, and needed diversification of our state’s economy.”

The study also pinpoints the success of the SFaz K-12 education programs focusing on core STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) skills development. SFaz recognizes the crucial importance of STEM competency and a highly skilled Arizona work force as the foundation for a 21st century knowledge-based economy. Of the students polled by Battelle who had participated in SFaz education programs, 89% stated that they would be interested in pursuing further coursework in science and math. The goal is to increase the number of students in the STEM education pipeline by peaking interest in hands-on, inquiry based learning.

“This update on SFaz’s annual performance metrics demonstrates significant results from the organization’s support of non-profit research performing institutions. The level of matching support being leveraged by SFaz is particularly impressive, while the generation of patents, licenses and new company start-ups after just two years confirms that these efforts are making a difference in advancing the state’s technology-based economic development,” said Mitch Horowitz, vice president and managing director of Battelle’s Technology Partnership Practice. “The tangible results from SFaz’s grants are just what the state needs to ensure a strong footing for economic recovery.”

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About Science Foundation Arizona: Science Foundation Arizona (SFaz) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization initiated in 2006 by the Greater Phoenix Leadership Inc., Southern Arizona Leadership Council and the Flagstaff Forty. Its goal is to build and strengthen the scientific and education infrastructure in areas of greatest strategic importance to Arizona’s competitiveness in the global economy. These areas comprise advanced communications, biomedicine and sustainable systems that include renewable energies. The state has appropriated monies through the Arizona 21st Century Competitive Initiative Fund and these grants, totaling \$60 million in the first two years, leveraged an additional \$109.8 million in outside capital or \$2.18 for each university grant dollar distributed by SFaz. Founding executive leadership groups are funding operating costs for SFaz through 2012, enabling public and philanthropic funds to be directly applied to foundation initiatives. For more information, visit www.sfaz.org.

About Battelle: Battelle is the world’s largest non-profit independent research and development organization, providing innovative solutions to the world’s most pressing needs through its four global businesses: Laboratory Management, National Security, Energy Technology, and Health and Life Sciences. It advances scientific discovery and application by conducting \$4.6 billion in global R&D annually through contract research, laboratory management and technology commercialization. Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, Battelle oversees 20,400 employees in more than 130 locations worldwide. Battelle also is one of the nation’s leading charitable trusts focusing on societal and economic impact and actively supporting and promoting science and math education. The Technology Partnership Practice focuses Battelle’s broad experience to develop strategic solutions for economic development organizations, universities, industry associations, and non-profit organizations across the United States.