



NEWS RELEASE

SCIENCE FOUNDATION ARIZONA ANNOUNCES \$4 MILLION GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Fellowships mark SFAz's first wave of grants

PHOENIX (Jan. 12, 2007) – Science Foundation Arizona (SFAz) will award top first-year graduate researchers at Arizona State University, University of Arizona and Northern Arizona University with fellowships totaling \$4 million for studies in science, engineering or biomedical research as part of the SFAz Graduate Research Fellowship program.

A faculty selection committee at each state university is now engaged in a talent search to name SFAz Graduate Research Fellows and provide them with fellowships of up to \$50,000.

For 2007, Arizona State University will receive \$1.85 million, University of Arizona will receive \$1.75 million and Northern Arizona University will receive \$400,000. The total number of researcher fellows will vary based on the amount of the grant.

These totals were awarded based on recommendations from a five-member expert panel from outside Arizona that reviewed funding proposals from each university. SFAz technical staff and the board of directors approved the panel's recommendations.

“The SFAz Graduate Research Fellows will be the highest caliber grad researchers in science, engineering and biomedical research programs at our three state universities. They will provide our state with a competitive advantage over other state universities and will begin to create a level playing field with the best private universities,” said William Harris, president and CEO of SFAz. “By awarding these fellowships, we may

(more)

be supporting a future researcher who transforms the medical field with a novel discovery or the next tech company entrepreneur who employs thousands in high-quality jobs right here in our own backyard.”

The SFAz Graduate Research Fellowship program challenges the leadership at Arizona’s research-performing institutions to set quality standards for their key graduate programs and to use this investment to transform competent graduate programs into internationally competitive programs.

These are the first grants for SFAz, which intends to help build a world-class science, engineering and medical infrastructure in Arizona by fostering innovative research programs. The specific areas of research funding for the SFAz Graduate Research Fellowship program include: advanced communications and information technology, biosciences and sustainable systems.

“SFAz has the potential to transform our ability to compete in the fast-paced, innovative world we live in because our funding decisions are based on the equivalent of market forces,” said SFAz Chair Donald Budinger. “SFAz is not about picking winners – it’s about investing in Arizona’s research readiness and competitiveness for the 21st century so our children and grandchildren can remain in Arizona instead of finding promising job opportunities elsewhere.”

About Science Foundation Arizona

Science Foundation Arizona (SFAz) is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization initiated in 2006 by the Greater Phoenix Leadership Inc., Southern Arizona Leadership Council and the Flagstaff 40. Its goal is to build and strengthen scientific, engineering and medical research programs and infrastructure in areas of greatest strategic value to Arizona’s competitiveness in the global economy. SFAz will invest in partnerships between nonprofit research institutions and industry; other science, engineering and math programs; and in the education pipeline to help Arizona create a knowledge-driven economy.

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