

Infrastructure projects help stimulate economy, pave way for growth

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According to Arizona's Bioscience Roadmap, commissioned and coordinated by the **Flinn Foundation**, the state needs to focus on four strategies to develop a strong bioscience hub. Here are those strategies and how the greater Phoenix area has fared since the October report:

Build research infrastructure

- **The Arizona Board of Regents** approved a plan to invest \$187 million in the downtown Phoenix Biomedical Campus. The bulk of those funds would go toward constructing a 268,000-square-foot health sciences education building.

- In its fifth special session of 2009, the Arizona Legislature restored nearly

\$18.5 million in funding to **Science Foundation Arizona**. This will allow SFAz to fulfill commitments it had made to research and education projects across Arizona.

- Several Arizona institutions were part of a team receiving a five-year, \$40.8 million federal contract to develop systems for rapidly measuring individuals' exposure to radiation. The project, directed by Carl Yamashiro of the Biodesign Institute at ASU, also includes researchers from UA, the **Translational Genomics Research Institute** in Phoenix, **High Throughput Genomics Inc.** in Tucson, and the **Scottsdale Healthcare Research Institute**.

- **Barrow Neurological Institute** at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix opened a new facility for its **Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center**.

- ASU recruited to its faculty Denis Cortese, retired CEO of the **Mayo Clinic**, who will lead a new program focused on promoting a sustainable U.S. health care delivery system.

Build critical mass of firms

- After a \$70 million investment to upgrade and expand the former site of **Watson Pharmaceuticals**, **Abraxis Health** opened its new plant on the west side of Phoenix. The facility, which will produce the chemotherapy drug Abraxane for **Abraxis BioScience**, will be one of the world's most sophisticated nanobiologics manufacturers in the world, providing up to 200 high-wage jobs.

- Officials with Banner Health and the **University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center** broke ground on their 120,000-square-foot joint endeavor in Gilbert: the \$107 million Banner M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, expected to open in 2011.

- BioAccel (formerly Catapult Bio), a nonprofit organization focused on stimulating economic development in Arizona by assisting in the commercialization of late-stage research, made its first two grants to startup companies. One, Casework Genetics, specializes in evaluating complicated forensic DNA evidence, using technology discovered at TGen and the **University of California at Los Angeles**. The other recipient, Mesa-based **Kemeta** LLC, is developing a palm-size breath acetone analyzer that measures fat metabolism.

- W.L. Gore & Associates sought approval from the city of Phoenix for \$30 million in recovery-zone bonds to help finance the medical device manufacturer's \$100 million expansion in north Phoenix. The project, which will include two 100,000-square-foot facilities, is expected to create 1,800 construction jobs over a two-year period and yield as many as 800 new research and manufacturing jobs.

Enhance business environment

- **The Biodesign Institute** at ASU hired Lee Cheatham, executive director of the Washington Technology Center in Seattle, to serve as the institute's operations director and as general

manager of its new Impact Accelerator.

- A 152-acre former Motorola Inc. campus in Chandler's Price Road Corridor took a step closer to rebirth as a science and technology park as its new owner applied to rezone the property to accommodate high-tech businesses, research and development facilities, and retail and restaurant buildings.

- An angel investment group was established in Surprise. The group will be based at the city's technology incubator, the AZ TechCelerator.

Prepare workers, educate citizens

- **The Arizona Technology Council** announced its backing for two Arizona STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education initiatives. First, the Tech Council will take over leadership of Project Lead the Way, which creates partnerships between schools and businesses to encourage students to consider careers and math and science; and getSTEM-Arizona, a Web portal that links teachers with businesses that support technology education.

- Phoenix learned it will host the Intel International Science & Engineering Fair, expected to draw 5,000 registrants, in 2013, 2016 and 2019. Phoenix last hosted the event in 2005.

— Compiled by the Flinn Foundation. Visit www.flinn.org to view "Overcoming Obstacles," the foundation's 2009 progress report on Arizona's Bioscience Roadmap.

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