



Media Contacts
Pati Urias
602.568.9763
psuprconsultants@gmail.com

Margaret Mullen
Science Foundation Arizona
602.682.2800
mmullen@sfaz.org

Science Foundation Arizona P: 602.682.2800
400 E. Van Buren St. Ste 200 F: 602-682-2890
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

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SCIENCE FOUNDATION ARIZONA KICKS OFF PRESTIGIOUS AND COMPETITIVE “BISGROVE POST-DOCTORAL SCHOLARS” PROGRAM

Unique post-doctoral awards to attract and grow young scientific and engineering talent in Arizona

(Phoenix, AZ) –Science Foundation Arizona (SFAz) is launching the “Bisgrove Post-Doctoral Scholars” program that will attract the best and brightest early career scientists and engineers to the state to focus on complex, multidisciplinary research problems at Arizona State (ASU) and Northern Arizona University (NAU).

Having skilled and experienced post-doctoral scholars in science and engineering is a critical component of fostering innovation in the state and paving the way for a world-class, knowledge-based economy that creates high-quality, high-wage jobs. This program, the first of its kind in Arizona, possesses unique features that distinguish it from even the most prestigious mentored career awards in the nation. It will enable Arizona to produce and support the kind of research talent that will effect discovery and lead the state toward global competitiveness.

“As a longtime proponent of science and the potential it has for the state’s economy, I look forward to seeing the outcome of the work these scholars bring to Arizona. Clearly, this type of prestigious and competitive program is needed here,” said Jerry Bisgrove, Phoenix-area businessman and philanthropist, in whose honor the program is named. Bisgrove, chair and CEO of Stardust Companies, made a generous \$25 million contribution to SFAz at a critical time during its inception.

“The kind of talent that the Bisgrove Scholars program will attract is vital to the economic success of Arizona and ASU’s ability to attract and support excellence in research and education,” said Dr. Michael Crow, ASU president. “The Bisgrove Scholars program will help NAU accelerate our university’s work in sustainability and other sciences that are vital to Arizona’s future,” added NAU president John Haeger.

The Bisgrove Scholars program will be administered and overseen by SFAz, ASU and NAU, the schools that will sponsor the first scholars, expected to be recruited in time for the spring 2011 semester. Each year, the program will sponsor up to seven scholars statewide for two years, and will include intensive career mentoring within the universities, as well as links to industries and the community to enable participants to stay abreast of trends and relevant scientific discoveries. The program will be supported for five years by SFAz, after which time an endowment will be created to recruit this kind of talent in perpetuity.

“The Bisgrove Scholars will help put Arizona on the map as a research hub, where young and talented scientists and engineers are welcomed and encouraged to innovate,” said William C. Harris,

president and CEO of SFAz. “Over time, it could even compete with other well-known and important national and international scholarships, such as Rhodes Scholars.”

-30-

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 in conjunction with the executive and legislative branches of state government. SFAz serves as a catalyst for high-wage, knowledge-based jobs and economic diversity through administration and strict oversight of research, development and education grants to public education and other non-profit research performing institutions. For more information, visit www.sfaz.org.