



The Flinn Foundation

History: The Flinn Foundation was established in 1965 as a privately endowed grantmaking organization for the improvement of the quality of life in Arizona. Robert S. Flinn, a cardiologist and one of Arizona's leading medical practitioners, and Irene Flinn, a woman of considerable wealth and generous philanthropy, created the Foundation as a means to perpetuate their personal goodness and humanity in a way that would benefit the citizens of Arizona.

In the mid-1980s, the Foundation expanded its focus to include programs beyond healthcare, including the Flinn Scholars Program and the arts in Arizona. In 2001, after an exhaustive review of Arizona's healthcare needs, the Foundation board and staff decided to narrow its grantmaking in this field in order to have a greater impact in one key area: the advancement of the biosciences in Arizona.

After a comprehensive study by Battelle, commissioned by the Flinn Foundation, Arizona's Bioscience Roadmap was launched in 2002 with the goal of developing Arizona as a global bioscience research and commercial center. The Foundation supports the Roadmap through its grants and staffs the Roadmap's committees and workgroups. At present, nearly 300 individuals serve on 17 committees, led by the 75-member Steering Committee of statewide bioscience champions.

Grantmaking: The Flinn Foundation awards grants by invitation. In the biosciences, the Foundation's primary grantmaking interest area, grants support multidisciplinary, collaborative efforts involving research teams at the state's public universities and nonprofit research institutions. Grants do not support a specific disease, discipline, or single investigator's interests.

The Foundation continues to support the Flinn Scholars Program, which, in partnership with Arizona's three public universities, each year awards 20 fully-paid undergraduate scholarships to Arizona's top high school seniors. The program aims to strengthen the ability of the universities to compete for such students and to provide the students an outstanding academic experience. For a five-year period, the Foundation is also supporting the start-up activities of the Maricopa Partnership for Arts and Culture (MPAC), a nonprofit organization established in September 2004 to develop arts and culture as a vital component of future economic development planning and growth in the Phoenix metropolitan area.

Conference Center: The Foundation's building near downtown Phoenix features a conference center that is open at no cost to qualified nonprofit organizations for strategic planning and training workshops. Qualified nonprofit organizations are those functioning within the areas of health care, education, and the arts.

Leadership: The Flinn Foundation's board of directors includes leaders from Arizona's medical, law, business, and education communities. The board is chaired by **Dr. David J. Gullen, M.D.**, who practices internal medicine at Mayo Clinic, where he is also an assistant professor in the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine. The Foundation's president & CEO is **Jack B. Jewett**, a longtime Arizona leader in health care, education, and public policy.

For more information:

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