

Biotech Progress Report

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According to the [Flinn Foundation's](#) Arizona Bioscience Roadmap, there are four main strategies the state needs to focus on to develop a strong bioscience hub. Here are those strategies and how Arizona fared in the first half of 2005.

Strategy 1: Build research infrastructure

- After a lengthy battle, the state Legislature added \$7 million to the budget for startup expenses of the University of Arizona medical school in Phoenix in partnership with Arizona State University. Renovation began on three historic buildings at the Phoenix Biomedical Campus to house the medical school.
- A full slate of political and scientific dignitaries and 500 guests christened the opening of the headquarters of the Translational Genomics Research Institute in downtown Phoenix.
- IBM partnered with UA's Arizona Research Laboratories to design a central system to store massive amounts of data involved in scientific research. The tech giant agreed to contribute computer equipment worth hundreds of thousands of dollars in exchange for the opportunity to gain insight into the emerging life-sciences market.
- Several institutions benefited from million-dollar donations: Mayo Clinic Scottsdale received a \$5 million gift from retired oil executive Mark Mazzarino for a medical research endowment; TGen landed a \$3 million donation from SonicAir founder Ray Thurston for breast cancer research; and the UA Cancer Center scored \$1 million from UA basketball coach Lute Olson to fight cancer in women.
- Mayo Clinic Scottsdale earned a prominent role in a \$10.8 million grant from the National Cancer Institute to develop new therapies for a specific type of brain cancer.

Strategy 2: Build critical mass of firms

- The Arizona Board of Regents approved a land trade to enable UA to build a 350-acre bioscience park in Tucson for startup and emerging companies. The park will be anchored by the Critical Path Institute (C-Path), a joint effort of UA, the Food and Drug Administration, and SRI International to accelerate the drug-approval process.
- The UA Science and Technology Park opened the Center for Technology Commercialization, a program to help young technology firms develop products for the commercial market.
- ASU began planning a second research park at a yet-to-be-determined location, expecting its current facility to be at capacity in two years.

- W.L. Gore & Associates, a Flagstaff-based medical-device manufacturer and one of Arizona's largest bioscience companies, announced plans to build a new 100,000-square-foot building and add 100 jobs a year for several years.

Strategy 3: Enhance business environment

- The technology community scored a victory in the Legislature with the passage of a bill to stimulate investment in early-stage tech firms. The legislation enables angel investors to secure tax credits of 30 percent for investment in tech firms and 35 percent for biotech and rural companies.
- The Arizona Bio Expo 2005, in Phoenix, attracted about 250 attendees, its largest number to date. The event, organized by the Arizona BioIndustry Association, featured an inaugural biotech awards dinner. Among the winners were: Bioscience Leader of the Year, George Poste, Biodesign Institute at ASU; Bioscience Executive of the Year, Robert Penny, Molecular Profiling Institute; Startup Biotechnology Company of the Year, NanoBiomics Inc.; Biotechnology Company of the Year, Isotechnika Inc.; and Medical Device Company of the Year, Kinetic Muscles Inc.

Strategy 4: Prepare work force, educate citizens

- Downtown Phoenix hosted the world's premier science event for high school students, the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. The six-day competition involved more than 1,400 finalists from 40 countries and thousands of additional students, teachers and judges.
- Pima Community College announced a new program to train medical laboratory technicians, helping to fill a void following the closure of a similar program at UA.
- A cadre of Arizona bioscience leaders traveled to Washington, D.C., to brief the state's congressional delegation and staffs on bioscience issues and participate in the annual Bio Legislative Day.
- Phoenix Union High School District progressed in its plans to open a biosciences high school in downtown Phoenix, starting with an initial class of approximately 100 freshmen in the fall of 2006. With feedback from city, civic and neighborhood leaders, the district is developing a curriculum for all four grades in the sciences, math, humanities and electives. The district's architect, Orcutt/Winslow Partnership, is preparing final site plans and meeting city building requirements for renovating an existing historic structure and constructing an addition for the school.
- The Governor's office launched a Web site to provide information on the planning of the Phoenix medical school by the Arizona Commission on Medical Education and Research. The site is available at www.governor.state.az.us/ACMER.

