Highlights from another year of innovative breakthroughs

Year in review

2022

Highlights from another year of innovative breakthroughs
ASU is one of the fastest-growing research enterprises in the U.S.
With an estimated $760M total research expenditures in FY22
— ASU KNOWLEDGE ENTERPRISE

Top 10 in the world among universities granted U.S. patents
ASU with MIT, Stanford and Harvard
— U.S. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF INVENTORS AND THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

1,340 new U.S. patents*
with 166 new patents in FY22
— U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

*From July 1, 2002 to Dec. 7, 2022

Research

Economic impact

$2 billion+ of economic output
has been generated within Arizona from ASU-linked companies to date
— SKYSONG INNOVATIONS

New Economy Initiative impact on Arizona
For years, ASU has partnered with business and civic leaders in Greater Phoenix to develop the business environment, infrastructure and human capital necessary to drive rapid expansion in semiconductor manufacturing. Learn more at neweconomy.asu.edu.

40K new high-wage jobs
by 2041

2x return on state investment by 2032

$6.9B in economic output by 2032

100+ industry partners

Year in review
By the numbers
Sun Devil Athletics ranks first in the Pac-12 with an All-Time Best Academic Progress Rate, beating Stanford.

- SDA has matched its all-time high of 92% Graduation Success Rate.
- Sun Devil Triathlon claimed sixth straight national title.
- Wrestling won its third straight Pac-12 title and finished fourth at the NCAA Championships.
- Softball won the Pac-12 Championship with ASU’s most league wins in history.
- Men’s golf finished second at NCAA Championships; women’s golf finished ninth.
- Turner Washington won indoor shot put titles and outdoor discus and shot put victories at the NCAA Championships.
- Men’s swimming had its best finish at the NCAA Championships since 1982.

Academics

37 programs in the top 10 in the U.S.
Along with 81 ASU degree programs in the top 25
— U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, 2023

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A top university worldwide for academic reputation
— TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION, WORLD REPUTATION RANKINGS 2022

Top producer in the state
ASU annually graduates thousands of innovators who excel in engineering, business, education, the arts and other fields. In 2021–22, ASU awarded 23,139 undergraduate degrees and 10,598 graduate degrees.
— ASU OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ANALYSIS, UARIZONA UNIVERSITY ANALYTICS AND INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH, NAU INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

Global impact
ASU is repeatedly ranked #1 in areas that matter.

#1 most innovative in the U.S. for eight consecutive years, ahead of MIT and Stanford
— U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, 8 YEARS, 2016–2023

#1 in the U.S. and #2 in the world for global impact in research, outreach and stewardship
— TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION, 2022

Philanthropy

$30,955,532 in scholarships disbursed in the 2021–22 academic year

$331 million in new gifts and commitments for students, faculty, research and community programs

106,832 individual, corporate and foundation donors
Year in review

In the news

January
Largest cohort of Native American faculty marks major milestone
ASU’s cohort of approximately 60 Indigenous scholars is the largest ever. These world-class scholars have won Pulitzers, fellowships, MacArthur “genius” and National Institutes of Health grants, and have either been inducted into major academies or earned significant awards. They teach subjects from sustainability to education, dramatic arts, science, law and health care.

Professor Maria Rosario Jackson, the first African American and Mexican American woman leader in its history, takes the helm of National Endowment for the Arts.

February
Law school forms Center for Constitutional Design
The nonpartisan center will seek to inform the public about debates over the application of the U.S. Constitution to current events and disputes, and to consider ways in which our constitutional system may be reformed or improved.

March
ASU astronomers document monumental Hubble discovery of the farthest star ever seen
NASA’s Hubble Space Telescope establishes an extraordinary new benchmark: detecting the light of a star that existed within the first billion years after the universe’s birth in the Big Bang – the farthest individual star ever seen to date.

April
ASU named #1 in the U.S. and #2 in the world for global impact in research, outreach and stewardship
ASU is recognized as a global leader in sustainability efforts in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings. The annual international publication of university rankings looks at impacts made addressing 17 specific goals aimed at achieving a better world by 2030, known as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Adopted by all 193 United Nations member states in 2015, these goals provide a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.
May

ASU alumna and former faculty member Laurie Leshin leads NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Leshin served on President George W. Bush’s Commission on Implementation of United States Space Exploration Policy, as the director of Sciences and Exploration Directorate at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center, and was the first woman president of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

June

ASU launches partnership with US Space Force

Having participated in 20+ space missions, ASU will now assemble partnerships and models to collaborate with the Space Force on research and education.

Frank Wilczek, a Nobel Prize-winning physicist, author and ASU professor, is honored with the Templeton Prize, joining past recipients Mother Teresa and the Dalai Lama.

“...a meaningful
designation recognizes
our ongoing
institutional efforts to
support the success
of students who reflect
the demographic
diversity of our state.”

– MICHAEL M. CROW, ASU PRESIDENT

June

US Department of Education names ASU a Hispanic-Serving Institution

The designation recognizes the university’s efforts to more holistically serve its community through a range of programs for current ASU students, K-12 outreach programs that strengthen the pipeline to college and resources for the broader community.

Dwayne Martin-Gomez, with family and friends, celebrated his graduation from Barrett, The Honors College. Martin-Gomez, who identifies as Hispanic, was the first in the family to go to college.

July

A powerful new supercomputer, “Sol,” is installed at the Iron Mountain Data Center and made available to all faculty and students to advance research and learning.

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New school launches to protect the world’s oceans
The School of Ocean Futures is focused on studying, teaching and developing innovative solutions about the current and future states of the oceans.

October
ASU scientists Greg Asner and Robin Martin represent the global scientific community in film with Pope Francis on climate change
The film “The Letter” brings to life the transformative vision of Laudato Si’, Pope Francis’ encyclical letter on climate change and ecology, to inspire lasting action for our common home. It is published on YouTube and seen by millions of viewers.

ASU in position to help close microchip manufacturing gap
The CHIPS and Science Act is signed into law, delivering a $52 billion investment to help expand and accelerate U.S. semiconductor manufacturing, an important step for an industry critical to both economic competitiveness and national security. ASU, along with a host of state economic development and business leaders, is deeply engaged in this effort for the state. In November, Apple announced it will start sourcing microchips from Arizona in 2024, when a new fabrication facility comes online.

“ASU’s Knowledge Enterprise is already working to connect the laboratories where research is done to the fabrication plants where chips are manufactured — a ‘lab-to-fab connection.’”
– ASU PRESIDENT MICHAEL M. CROW

ASU is ranked in the top 10 in the U.S. for community and national service by Washington Monthly, ahead of Duke, UNC-Chapel Hill and Johns Hopkins, honoring contributions to social mobility, research and promoting public service.

NSF selects ASU to lead new innovation hub bringing research to the marketplace
ASU is the lead institution of a new National Science Foundation Innovation Corps Hub in the National Innovation Network.

ASU launches new science and technology centers
As part of a statewide effort to support high-tech industry, ASU launches ACT (Advanced Communications Technologies), PERFORM (Human Performance) and EXTREME (Extreme Environment) centers.

The Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences, a research center of ASU’s Global Futures Laboratory and home to faculty of the new School of Ocean Futures, maintains the longest, most complete data set of key markers in the Atlantic Ocean.

The U.S. State Department announces ASU as a Fulbright Hispanic-Serving Institutions leader.
VR biology course yields higher student success than conventional course

ASU’s Dreamscape Learn biology course debuted in the spring 2022 semester for students who took Biology 181 (introduction to biology for biology majors) and Biology 100 (introduction to biology for non-science majors). Initial studies show that students who participated in the Dreamscape Learn version of Biology 181 had dramatically higher lab grades — 9% higher overall — and better engagement than their peers who took the conventional lab course.

ASU joins top 20 for earned doctorates

ASU ranks in the top 20 by the National Science Foundation Survey of Earned Doctorates, ahead of Yale, Johns Hopkins and Duke.

ASU, Mesa celebrate new MIX Center as highlight of downtown partnership

The new Media and Immersive eXperience Center in downtown Mesa is capable of producing blockbuster superhero movies to virtual reality video games. It is the largest part of the Mesa City Center complex, which also includes an outdoor plaza space with a 100-foot movie screen and The Studios, with entrepreneurship programs.

November

Ex-quarterback who went viral as balcony opera singer performs at Salute to Service

Gus Farwell was on ASU’s football team with Pat Tillman and is now singing opera. He sang from his seventh-floor balcony in Barcelona, Spain, during the pandemic lockdown. He performs at a concert in Tempe for Salute to Service.

Senior Nathaniel Ross is awarded the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship to pursue postgraduate studies at the University of Oxford, one of only three students from a public university.

LunaH-Map launches

NASA’s LunaH-Map mission includes a miniature spacecraft, built by an ASU team and part of the Artemis 1 mission. It is designed to orbit the moon to map water-ice in shadowed regions of the lunar south pole. This is the first NASA spacecraft to be led, designed, assembled, integrated, tested and delivered from ASU’s Tempe campus.

Apple CEO Tim Cook announces the company will source chips for its devices from a plant in Arizona

ASU is working with industry and government partners to reestablish America’s capacity for domestic microelectronics and semiconductor manufacturing and innovation.

December

Enhancing digital platforms for 800K learners in Ethiopia by partnering with the Ministry of Education through a Mastercard Foundation grant.
Phoenix, West campus
Sun Devil Fitness Complex West, 2013
Phoenix, next to Mayo Clinic’s Phoenix campus
Health Futures Center, 2020

Tempe campus
Interdisciplinary Science and Technology IV, 2012
Tempe campus
Marina Heights, now part of Novus Innovation District, 2012

Tempe campus
Tooker House, 2017
Tempe campus
Walton Center for Planetary Health, 2021

Mesa, Polytechnic campus
Santan Hall, 2008

Downtown Phoenix campus
Walter Cronkite School, KAET 8, 2008

Downtown Phoenix campus
Najafi Thunderbird Global Headquarters, 2021

Downtown Phoenix campus
Walton Center for Planetary Health, 2021

Los Angeles
Herald Examiner Building, 2021

Tempe campus
Biodesign A, 2004
Tempe campus
Marina Heights, now part of Novus Innovation District, 2012
Tempe campus
Interdisciplinary Science and Technology IV, 2012

Walton Center for Planetary Health, 2021
Shaping skylines

ASU’s new buildings are embedded in communities to support collaboration, innovation, invention and learning. These strategically designed spaces prime ASU’s students to become master learners capable of tackling society’s most vital challenges and support the New American University in assuming fundamental responsibility for the economic, social, cultural and overall health of the communities it serves. ASU has built sustainable capacity into 69 buildings, completing certified silver, gold and platinum LEED projects.
2002
Michael M. Crow becomes ASU's 16th president
He introduces the New American University model.

2003
ASU collaborates with the city of Phoenix to establish the Downtown Phoenix campus which opens in 2006. As of 2022, the campus has over 11,000 students across 276 undergraduate majors, graduate programs, minors and certificates.

2006
The ASU School of Sustainability opens as the first comprehensive degree-granting program of its type in the nation.

2009
ASU Online launches broad access to higher education with the same high-quality faculty as on campus. ASU later launches the first electrical engineering degree, the world’s first adaptive-learning biology degree and the first honors college online. Today, ASU Online offers more than 300 undergraduate and graduate degrees and certificates; 82,000 students enrolled in the 2021-22 academic year.

2011
The Pat Tillman Veterans Center is created to ensure ASU’s military learners and student veterans have the support they need.

2014
Starbucks establishes a partnership to enhance access to education for its employees. By December 2022, nearly 10,000 Starbucks “partners” have graduated.

2015
New York Times columnist calls Barrett, The Honors College “the gold standard” among honors colleges
Named No. 1 public research institution for international students.

ASU initiates partnership with Mayo Clinic in Arizona
It will continue to grow, forming an alliance between ASU and Mayo Clinic, the recognized world leader in patient care, education and research.

Mayo Clinic and Arizona State University Alliance for Health Care
ASU is named the No. 1 ‘Most Innovative School’ by U.S. News & World Report
the first time the honor is granted. ASU will earn the top position in every one of the following eight years, including for 2023, announced in 2022.

ASU receives the inaugural “Seal of Excelencia” for commitment to Latino student success, which is also granted a second time in 2022. ASU is named a Hispanic-Serving Institution by the U.S. Department of Education in 2022.

Record number of highly qualified graduates
The total number of degrees awarded in 2022 is 33,737, up 199% from 2002.

Partnering with industry to build Arizona’s new economy
Five Science and Technology Centers launched or became fully operational, helping to attract new industries to the state and prepare Arizonans for future jobs.

Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory launches to study and develop solutions that help shape a thriving world for all of Earth’s inhabitants.

2019

2020

2016

ASU is one of the country’s fastest-growing research universities among those with $100 million+ in annual research expenditures — ahead of Harvard, Yale and Duke. ASU continues to be one of the fastest-growing today.

2022

$1.2 billion+ in external funding
for ASU’s Skysong Innovations spinouts.

$2.35 billion raised in the university’s first-ever comprehensive development campaign.
Contributions are made by 359,700 donors.

28.6 million+ square feet of space
for learning, research, innovation, entrepreneurship and campus life at ASU locations.

$1.2 billion+ in external funding

400+ highly prestigious faculty members
including Nobel, Templeton, Pulitzer, MacArthur “genius” and Guggenheim awardees.

86% first-year retention rate
exceeding the national average and now the highest in the state.

Record enrollment of nearly 170,000 students during 2021-22
Student achievements include winning Rhodes, Marshall, Fulbright and other internationally competitive honors.

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20 years of impact by the numbers

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2019

2020

2016

2022
Bigger, broader, brighter: Gift expands Luminosity Lab

Established in 2016 with just 15 students, The Luminosity Lab, a student-driven, research and development program, now in the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering, has quadrupled in size and launched partner programs with other colleges and universities around the country and world. Compelling results have also inspired the creation of a new scholarship fund that enables more students from a broader range of backgrounds to bring their unique abilities to the lab. Marty Vanderploeg, chief executive officer of the software technology company Workiva, donated $15 million to endow the Vanderploeg Luminosity Scholars Program.