



2021
Year in
review

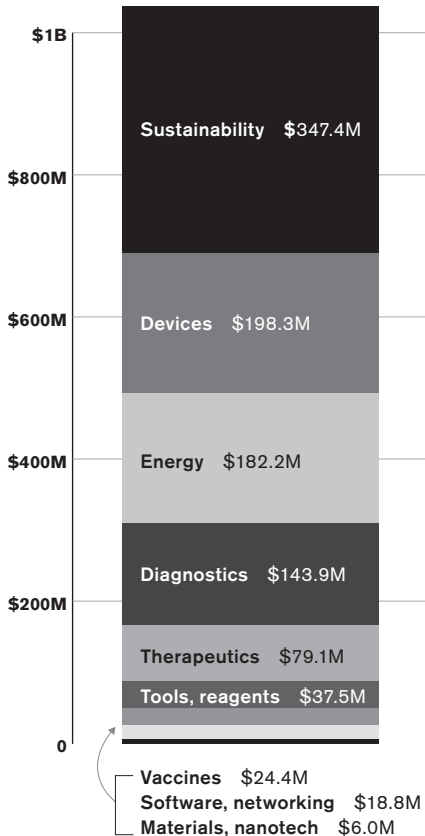
Highlights from another year
of innovative breakthroughs

Year in review

By the numbers

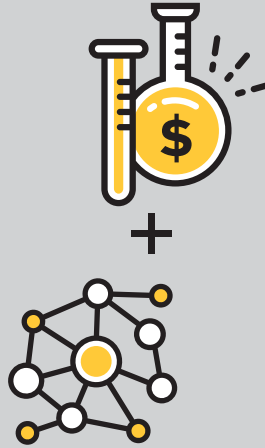
\$1 billion+ in external funding for ASU's Skysong Innovations startups

ASU passed the milestone in its portfolio at Skysong Innovations, the entity that brings ASU research into the marketplace.



SOURCE: SKYSONG INNOVATIONS

Research



#6
in the U.S. for
total research
expenditures among
universities without
a medical school

— NATIONAL SCIENCE
FOUNDATION HIGHER
EDUCATION RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT SURVEY, 2019

With an estimated
**\$673M total research
expenditures in FY20,**

ASU is one of the fastest-
growing research enterprises
in the U.S.

— ASU KNOWLEDGE ENTERPRISE



**Top 10 in
the U.S.
for patents**

ASU with MIT,
Stanford and Harvard

— U.S. NATIONAL
ACADEMY OF
INVENTORS AND
THE INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY OWNERS
ASSOCIATION

Academics

#1 most innovative in the U.S. for seven consecutive years, ahead of MIT and Stanford

— U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, SEVEN YEARS, 2016–2022

39 programs in the top 10 in the U.S.

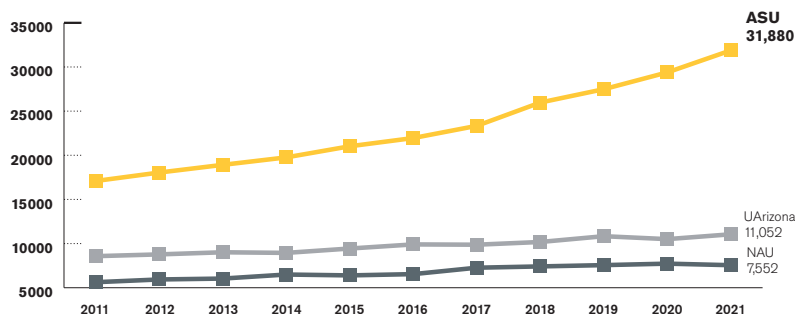
Along with 87 ASU degree programs in the top 25

— U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, 2022

Top 10 nationally for best online bachelor's programs

— U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, 2021

Degrees awarded



ASU annually graduates thousands of innovators who excel in engineering, business, education, the arts and other fields. In 2020–21, ASU awarded 22,067 undergraduate degrees and 9,813 graduate degrees.

— ASU OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ANALYSIS, UARIZONA UNIVERSITY ANALYTICS AND INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH, NAU INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

#1 public university and in the top 5 in the U.S. chosen by international students

— INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION, 2021

Top producer of elite scholars

For the past 10 years, ASU has been a top-producing university for elite scholars, including 279 Gilman Scholars, 191 Fulbright Scholars, 18 Goldwater Scholars, 14 Udall Scholars, 9 Gates Cambridge Scholars, 4 Marshall Scholars, 4 Truman Scholars, 2 Rhodes Scholars and 1 Churchill Scholar.

— LORRAINE W. FRANK OFFICE OF NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS ADVISEMENT, 2021

Athletics

Best in field

- Turner Washington won NCAA championships in both indoor and outdoor shot put and in discus.
- Jorinde van Klinken won the NCAA title in discus.
- Nine Sun Devils won Pac-12 individual titles, including five wrestlers.
- Baseball's Drew Swift earned Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Year.
- Four Sun Devils earned CoSIDA Academic All-America honors, led by Turner Washington who earned Academic All-American of the Year for men's track and field.
- Olivia Mehaffey (women's golf) and Samantha Plaster (beach volleyball) earned Pac-12 Scholar-Athletes of the Year.
- Lacrosse mentor Tim McCormack earned Pac-12 Coach of the Year.
- Wrestling, led by Sun Devil graduate Zeke Jones, won its 20th Pac-12 title and fourth in five years.

Philanthropy

\$356.6 million

raised by the ASU Foundation in FY21 for students, faculty, research and community programs



97,069 unique donors to ASU in FY21

7,416 ASU students received scholarships funded by donors in the 2020–21 academic year. The total amount disbursed was \$29.7 million.

Year in review

In the news

20

January

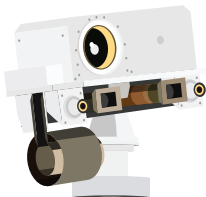
ETX center nationally recognized for effective digital learning

Well before the pandemic, ASU's Center for Education Through eXploration was transforming learning by developing and deploying digital learning experiences. ETX Center Director and President's Professor Ariel Anbar and his team have created online science courses, empowered educators to create and share next-generation courseware and technology and created Infiniscope, which uses education to bring NASA science to high schools and middle schools.

February

ASU Mastcam-Z team celebrates rover landing

ASU holds a live landing watch party as NASA's Mars 2020 Perseverance rover lands on Mars. On board the rover is the ASU-led mast-mounted camera system Mastcam-Z, which can zoom from wide angle to telephoto, take 3D images and videos, and take photos in up to 11 unique colors.



January

Film school renamed after Sidney Poitier

ASU renames its film school after actor and filmmaker Sidney Poitier, the first Black man to win the Academy Award for best actor. Poitier is known for breaking racial barriers and embodying characters with dignity and wisdom. Cheryl Boone Isaacs, former president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, will lead the school as its founding director. Boone Isaacs is drawn to ASU because of its emphasis on "representation, and the idea of inclusion, not exclusion," she says.

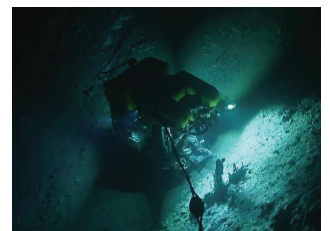
ASU virtual campus tour on Amazon Prime Video

ASU College Tour, a 60-minute episode about ASU in the new Hollywood-produced series, "The College Tour," offers an innovative approach to providing virtual college tours to future Sun Devils.

March

Deep-sea exploration breakthrough to guide future space missions

Scientists from ASU's Systematic Underwater Biogeochemical Science and Exploration Analog program pioneer a new approach to the scientific process of geochemical exploration for Earth and beyond. Their work, published in the journal Planetary and Space Science, could help change the paradigm of planetary exploration by speeding the interpretation of data from months to hours.



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April

#1 university in the U.S. for global impact

Times Higher Education magazine ranked ASU the No. 1 university in the U.S. and No. 9 in the world for global impact in addressing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in research, outreach and stewardship in 2021. The ranking is driven by work on issues such as poverty and hunger, gender equality, clean water and air, climate change and providing quality education.

Starbucks, ASU partner on new facility

The ASU-Starbucks Center for the Future of People and the Planet is a research and rapid innovation facility created to find new ways to design, build and operate Starbucks stores. It focuses on greener stores, food, wellness, community betterment and innovation test stores.

Advanced digital partnership top in the U.S. for equity

A four-year partnership between the Pendergast Elementary School District and ASU Prep Digital offers high school courses to about 150 seventh and eighth graders every year in algebra, geometry and English. It was a first-place winner of honors from the National School Boards Association.

May

ASU Health Futures Center opens

ASU's new Health Futures Center, home of the Mayo Clinic and ASU Alliance for Health Care, is the latest development in the nearly two-decades-long relationship between the nation's most innovative university and the recognized world leader in patient care, medical education and research.



May

Novus Innovation Corridor receives LEED-ND Gold certification

In a first for Arizona, the Novus Innovation Corridor earns LEED-ND Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. The 355-acre, mixed-use, public-private partnership between ASU and Catellus Development Corporation is adjacent to the ASU Tempe campus.

“When we walk the talk, operating our campuses in a sustainable manner, we are telling students that we actually believe in what we are teaching and we value their future.”

— MICK DALRYMPLE
DIRECTOR OF UNIVERSITY
SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES

ASU moves up nearly 30 spots on a list of top universities in the U.S. and is ranked No. 1 in the state, ahead of both Northern Arizona University and The University of Arizona.

— QS WORLD UNIVERSITY
RANKINGS



June

Poet Natalie Diaz wins Pulitzer Prize

Natalie Diaz, associate professor in the Department of English, wins the 2021 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry for her collection, “Postcolonial Love Poem.” The honor comes mere months after the MacArthur Fellow made history by becoming the youngest chancellor ever elected to the Academy of American Poets.

Alum Jon Rahm wins the U.S. Open



Professional golfer and Sun Devil Jon Rahm, '16 BA in communication, takes home first place at the U.S. Open in Torrey Pines, marking his first major championship win.

Mathematicians win prize for malaria research

Kamaldeen Okuneye, '18 PhD in applied mathematics, and Foundation Professor Abba B. Gumel win the 16th Bellman Prize. Their work presents a mathematical model to investigate the effect of temperature and rainfall on malaria transmission and the development of an effective public health policy.



July

Sun Devil Hall of Famer Lucy Casarez coaches Japan's softball team to gold-medal win in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, held in 2021.



Sustainability is integrated into construction, including the new ISTB7 Building, with glass fiber reinforced concrete, creating levels of shade during the day.

August

ASU scientist meets with pope amid climate crisis

Greg Asner, director of ASU's Center for Global Discovery and Conservation Science, meets with Pope Francis to discuss the ways in which science and faith can work in concert to combat climate change. Faith, according to Asner, offers understanding while science provides tools to navigate forward.



September

#1 university in sustainability

In North America's greenest colleges and universities, ASU ranks No. 1 on Sierra magazine's 15th annual "coolest schools" competitive ranking, ahead of UC Berkeley, Penn State, UCLA and Yale. This marks the first time the university attained this honor out of a record 328 institutions, rising from No. 4 previously, thanks to its comprehensive approach to sustainability that spans academia, campus operations, student life and endowment investments.



ASU California Center will feature top-ranked programs and opportunities to connect with Los Angeles companies and global industries.

Innovation takes root in the City of Angels

ASU holds a dozen events in the historic Herald Examiner Building in downtown Los Angeles — the site of ASU’s California Center — since its opening. It’s home to more than 100 students enrolled in L.A.-based programs.

First global coral reef maps completed

Using Earth-mapping technology, the team led by the Center for Global Discovery and Conservation Science identifies areas essential for biodiversity and climate resilience, and provides an estimate of the total amount of land area requiring protection to address biodiversity loss and climate change.

#1 in the U.S. for innovation

For the seventh year in a row, ASU is ranked No. 1 in innovation by U.S. News & World Report.

“This past year and a half has been a time of great challenges.

The university community persevered and innovated in order to continue to be of service. This recognition reflects that determination, which is emblematic of the Sun Devil spirit.”

— PRESIDENT MICHAEL M. CROW ON INNOVATION RANKING

October

Dreamscape Learn VR space installed

Construction on two new Dreamscape Learn pods begins on ASU’s Tempe campus. The new virtual reality immersive curriculum, scheduled to be rolled out this spring, is a partnership between ASU and Dreamscape Immersive, the world’s leading VR company.



1 millionth COVID-19 test

The university completes its 1 millionth COVID-19 test, a marker that commemorates the Biodesign Institute’s massive effort to marshal all its resources and respond to the pandemic statewide.

Professor to lead National Endowment for the Arts

President Biden nominates Maria Rosario Jackson as chair of the National Endowment for the Arts. An Institute Professor in the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts, she is the first African American and Mexican American in the U.S. nominated to lead the NEA.

#2 in the U.S. in EPA Green Power Partnership

ASU ranks No. 2 on the Environmental Protection Agency’s Top 30 College & University Partners listing. 78% of ASU’s total electricity use is green power derived, helping to reduce the effects of air pollution and emissions while supporting the development of clean energy resources.

ASU is one of two U.S. universities to achieve net zero emissions.

— TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION, 2021

ASU, Blue Origin to create business park in orbit

ASU announces it is part of a team led by Blue Origin and Sierra Space to develop a commercial space station called Orbital Reef. The station will make its home in low-Earth orbit and offer the infrastructure to support new markets in space including research, manufacturing, travel, education and exploration.

December

Students Brinlee Kidd and Sylvia Lopez represent the U.S. at the Red Bull Basement Global Final in Turkey for mentorship and networking for their note-taking app, Jotted.

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FULL SPEED AHEAD

With each rotation our planet makes around the sun comes the dawn of 365 new days. Each one seized by the students, faculty, staff and partners of ASU to expand the boundaries of new knowledge and the impact of new discoveries that make our communities, nation and world more responsive, inclusive and successful. And for the seventh consecutive year, U.S. News & World Report took notice, ranking ASU as the No. 1 school for innovation, ahead of MIT and Stanford.

On the cover: In October 2021, the Lucy Mission to the Trojan asteroids lifts off. It is named for the fossil discovered in 1974 by Donald Johanson, founding director of the Institute of Human Origins. On board is the ASU-led Lucy Thermal Emission Spectrometer. Watching the launch are STEM students nationwide who attended the ASU-led Lucy Mission L'SPACE Academy.



Learn to thrive

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