

ASU | An award-winning year in innovation

# 2016: Inspiring the best-qualified innovators to change our future

In 2016, Arizona State University continued its upward trajectory as the country's most innovative school, as recognized by U.S. News & World Report for the second year in succession. ASU also earned the No. 9 ranking among the country's top universities for graduate employability, ahead of MIT, Columbia and UCLA, inspiring a new generation of best-qualified innovators with the confidence and courage to build a brighter future for all of us.



[View the PDF of this 2016 Year in Review](#) to learn more about our many accomplishments – milestones in research, accessibility and service to our local and global communities.



**MacArthur fellow, dance legend joins ASU**  
Choreographer, author, educator and 2002 MacArthur "Genius Grant" Fellowship recipient [Liz Lerman joins ASU](#) to lead programs and courses that span disciplines within and beyond ASU's Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts.



Research at ASU [identifies genetic mutations](#) in childhood speech disorders.



Future ASU Olympians will train under [legendary swimmer Michael Phelps](#).



**U.S. News & World Report: ASU Prep is 'outstanding'**  
U.S. News & World Report calls ASU Prep "an outstanding example" of a successful charter school in an urban area, reflected in its 100 percent graduation and postsecondary acceptance rates.



**Fourth and fifth Nobel laureates join ASU**  
ASU adds a pair of Nobel winners to its faculty, complementing a roster of Pulitzer Prize recipients, MacArthur fellows and hundreds of recognized, highly prestigious teachers.



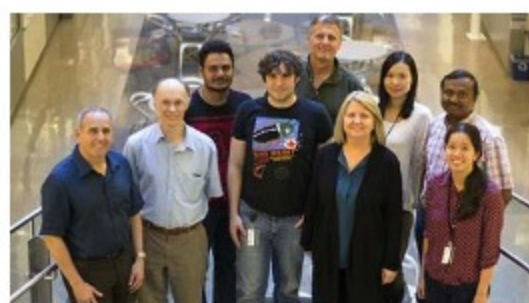
**Ford names ASU a top-tier school for recruiting**  
The legendary automaker Ford names ASU as a premier school and top-tier recruiting and hiring institution. The designation puts ASU alongside MIT, Notre Dame, UC Berkeley, Purdue and a crew of other prestigious schools in Ford's premier status. Ford joins a list of 50 top U.S. companies that have designated ASU as a premier, top-level recruiting university.



**Business school launches 'innovative' access program**  
The W. P. Carey School of Business welcomes 119 "Forward Focus" MBA students. The tuition-free program provides greater access to an MBA degree. Forbes magazine calls it another example of ASU innovation.



A first-of-its-kind Sun Devil Rewards loyalty app launches with 10,000 downloads.



**'Groundbreaking' research reveals how to mitigate earthquake risk**  
A new way to look at the impact of fracking and wastewater disposal on seismic activity, based on research led by ASU scientists, is among the first in the world to definitively measure uplift on the ground above wastewater wells.



In its first year, the Sun Devils women's triathlon team [wins the national championship](#).



An ASU student team [joins NASA's Microgravity University](#) to test space exploration challenges.



The first-of-its-kind [Center for Gender Equity in Science and Technology](#) supports minority women pursuing STEM careers.



**Capturing carbon dioxide from the air**  
ASU's [Center for Negative Carbon Emissions](#) is developing technology that is 1,000 times more effective than trees, per unit of biomass. Researchers predict the new technology will remove carbon dioxide from the air for about \$100 a ton.



**Affordable tiny satellites can be launched into space**  
An ASU professor and team of students have created tiny satellites called [SunCube FemtoSats](#) that can be launched into space for as little as \$3,000, making the price of conducting space missions radically less expensive.

ASU is one of the top 100 most prestigious universities in the world, as recognized by [Times Higher Education](#).



ASU joins the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's prestigious [International Circular Economy 100](#) as a Pioneer University.



Sun Devil Athletics wins the national [USG NACDA Sustainability Award](#).

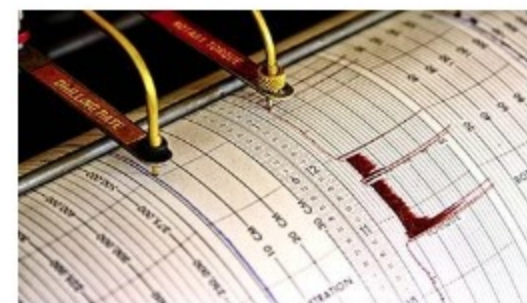


**Students tackle global water crisis with 33 Buckets**  
Student innovators at ASU have created a [water purification system](#) and distribution model that have helped thousands of people in developing nations on three continents.



**Legal, learning, outreach center opens downtown**  
The [Beus Center for Law and Society](#) opens in downtown Phoenix. It houses the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law and connects the community with the nation's first teaching law firm, a public law library and other public services.

Twenty-seven current and former Sun Devils [compete in 2016 Summer Olympics](#).



**Mayo Clinic ASU Alliance transforms health sciences education and research**

The [Mayo Clinic and Arizona State University Alliance for Health Care](#) forges a comprehensive new model to transform health sciences education and research. The pairing between the world leader in patient care and research and the nation's most innovative university brings together the brightest minds to improve health outcomes at the individual, community and national levels.



**Slowing Alzheimer's: ASU early cell-change research offers promise**  
Research by scientists at ASU's Biodesign Institute offers the promise of a reliable marker appearing earlier in the course of Alzheimer's that suggests a viable strategy for blunting the disease's [progression](#).



**Top 10: ASU a leader for graduate employability**  
ASU is ranked in the top 10 in the nation for [graduate employability](#), according to recruiters and managing directors. The Global University Employability Survey 2016 ranks ASU ninth for preparing graduates for jobs, ahead of MIT, Columbia and UCLA.



**Tri-continental partnership tackles global challenges**  
ASU teams up with King's College London and the University of New South Wales in Australia to [forge the PLUS Alliance](#) to help find research-led solutions to global challenges and expand access to world-class learning.



**Next-generation science education courseware for NASA**  
NASA has chosen ASU to help [develop digital learning experiences](#) that incorporate science content from the agency. Faculty in ASU's School of Earth and Space Exploration are leading the effort.



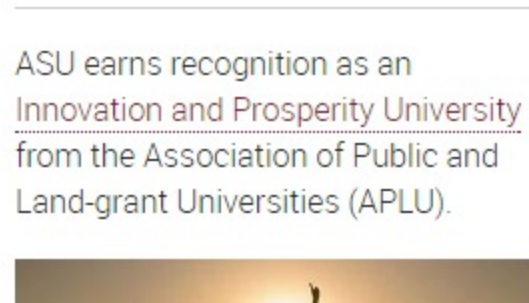
ASU researchers help develop a rapid, low-cost test for [Zika](#) that could stop a potential pandemic.



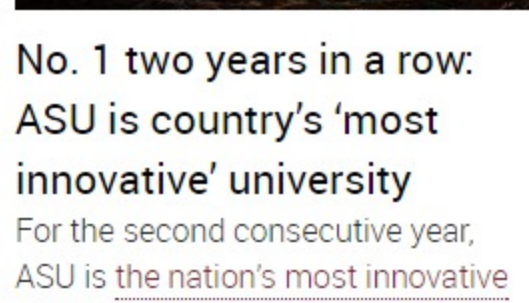
The White House appoints [Beatriz Rendón](#) to the President's Advisory Commission on Academic Excellence for Hispanics.



**ASU researcher creates system to control robots with the brain**  
Funded by the U.S. Department of Defense and Air Force, a team of ASU researchers develops [groundbreaking new technology](#) that makes it possible to control multiple robot drones with the human mind.



ASU earns recognition as an [Innovation and Prosperity University](#) from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU).



**No. 1 two years in a row: ASU is country's 'most innovative' university**  
For the second consecutive year, ASU is the [nation's most innovative school](#), according to U.S. News & World Report rankings, based on a survey of college presidents, provosts and admissions deans around the nation.



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The Devils' record-breaking All-American [Zane Gonzalez](#) is the [Groza Award](#) winner as the best kicker in collegiate football.

## By the numbers

### Academic programs and student outcomes

**A top knowledge engine**  
Through a rich diversity of highly ranked programs, led by the world's top minds, ASU is a powerful knowledge engine that is producing master learners who are in high demand.

**Hundreds of prestigious faculty** are members and fellows in the most elite academies and have earned the world's highest awards, including:

- 5 Nobel laureates
- 3 Pulitzer Prize winners
- 3 MacArthur fellows

**71 percent increase** in number of degrees awarded from 2005–2016

**Top 25 in U.S.**  
U.S. News & World Report ranks 36 ASU programs — including journalism; Barrett, The Honors College; public affairs; law; engineering; business; science; education; arts; and health — among the country's top 25.

**#1 in Fulbright faculty scholars**  
ASU is the nation's top producer of Fulbright faculty scholars and fifth in the nation for students in 2016, ahead of Columbia University and Princeton. — 2016 Chronicle of Higher Education

**Gold standard for honors programs**  
Barrett, The Honors College outperforms Harvard, Brown and Yale in Fulbright Scholars success rates, while also producing prestigious Marshall and Rhodes scholars.

**A top-10 university for graduate employability**  
ahead of MIT, Columbia and UCLA — Global University Employability Survey 2016

**A half-million ASU alumni** have positively impacted our global community, excelling and achieving after graduation.

**Record-breaking freshman class**  
ASU's incoming 2016 freshman class establishes record-breaking marks for academic achievement, diversity and international representation.

**#1 public university for international students**  
ahead of University of Illinois, UCLA and Purdue — 2015, 2016 Open Doors Report, International Education Exchange

**Best and brightest**  
Two-thirds of the prestigious 2016 Flinn Scholars choose to attend ASU over UA and NAU.

### University of excellence

**#1 in Arizona "Best for Vets"**  
— 2016 Military Times

**A "Best College Value"**  
— 2016 Forbes Personal Finance

**A top international university**  
Top one-half of 1 percent in world — 2016 Center for World University Rankings

**A top undergraduate university**  
— 2016 The Princeton Review

**A top graduate university**  
— 2016 U.S. News & World Report

### Research

**Fastest-growing research university**  
Over the last 10 years, ASU has emerged as the country's fastest-growing research university among those with \$100 million+ in annual research expenditures—ahead of Harvard, Yale, Duke and others.

**#10 in U.S.**  
for total research expenditures among institutions without a medical school, alongside MIT and UC Berkeley

**#4 in U.S.**  
for interdisciplinary science total research expenditures, ahead of Harvard, UC Berkeley and Johns Hopkins University

**#10 in U.S.**  
Department of Health and Human Services funding among all U.S. institutions without a medical school, ahead of Princeton, Georgia Tech and Carnegie Mellon University

**#11 in U.S.**  
for NASA-funded research expenditures, ahead of Stanford, Georgia Tech and UCLA

### Support

In 2016 the ASU Foundation for A New American University generated record-breaking contributions from all sectors.

**100k+ foundation donors** including individuals, corporate donors and alumni advancing ASU excellence

**4 stars highest rating** possible from Charity Navigator for the fifth year in succession

**\$42+ million in philanthropy** committed to student need-based and merit-based scholarships

**\$215+ million philanthropic commitments** to excellence at ASU

**8,400+ master learners** benefiting from philanthropic support

### Sun Devil Athletics

**Best of the field**  
Among the top 2016 awards: #1 amateur in the world: Jon Rahm, men's golf; #1 in the country: Women's triathlon; #1 placekicker in the country: Zane Gonzalez; Pac-12 Coach of the Century — Linda Vollstedt, women's golf; Pac-12 Coach of the Year — Charli Turner Thorne, women's basketball

**Growing opportunities**  
Men's tennis returns to ASU, giving the Sun Devils 26 NCAA varsity sports.

**Graduating with success**  
ASU ranks No. 2 in the Pac-12 for student-athlete graduation success rate, second only to Stanford.

