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Over \$1 billion infused into Arizona's economy from research at Arizona's public universities last year

2012 research report details economic impact of research at ASU, NAU and UA

(Phoenix, Ariz.) – Last year, more than \$1 billion was infused into Arizona's economy as a result of research at Arizona's public universities, according to the recently released [Arizona Board of Regents 2012 research report](#). The report details research expenditures as well as the economic, social and scholarly impact that results from research in the Arizona University System, indicating a significant positive impact on the state through new jobs, knowledge and dollars reinvested in the community.

"Research at Arizona's public universities provides an enormous benefit to our community and the world around us," said Regent Rick Myers, chair of the Arizona Board of Regents. "Not only are millions of dollars reinvested annually into our economy, but the body of knowledge created by university research translates directly to inventions, patents and start-up companies, all of which fuel the private sector and translate into high-paying, high-skill jobs. For our students, the undergraduate learning experience is made richer through instruction and hands-on learning with elite faculty. Arizona is truly fortunate to be home to a highly successful university research enterprise."

Two years ago, the Arizona Board of Regents adopted several metrics by which it measures the growth of its research enterprise in the university system. In every metric, it continues to make steady progress. In 2012, Arizona's public universities brought in more than \$1 billion in research expenditures, dollars that drive purchases and employment within Arizona. Research activity also directly resulted in 15 different startup companies, nearly 400 invention disclosures, 47 U.S. patents issued, and public-private partnerships which will help fuel Arizona's economy going forward.

Research at Arizona's public universities leads to real innovations that translate into technologies and products that improve lives and stimulate our economy. These advances are the products of intense research and development. Much of the innovation that improves people's lives springs from university research and Arizona's public universities are critical incubators for such research and activity.

Following are a few samples to current research taking place at Arizona's public universities:

- [Geology technique could offer early detection of bone loss](#)
Scientists at **Arizona State University** and NASA are developing and applying a technique of detecting bone loss that originated in the Earth sciences. In a new study, this technique was more sensitive than the X-ray method used today, with less risk to patients. Eventually, it may find use in clinical settings, and could pave the way for additional innovative biosignatures to detect disease.
- [Science of placebos seen from alternative point of view](#)
As a scientist who is also trained in acupuncture, Northern Arizona University Associate Professor of Biology **Alison Adams** is uniquely qualified to explain why placebos may be misunderstood.

Dispelling the popular notion of a useless sugar pill, Adams reveals that a whole series of steps occurs physiologically when someone takes a placebo.

- [Oro Valley team uses technology to speed drug discovery](#)

A team of College of Pharmacy researchers in the **University of Arizona's** BIO5 Oro Valley facility is attempting to address the hurdles researchers face to discovering new and effective therapeutics for the treatment of disease. Their work involves utilizing new automated technologies and fast chemical methods to increase the rate at which new hypotheses in drug discovery can be effectively evaluated.

Funding research is a high priority for the Arizona university enterprise. In addition to major grants and other funding sources, cross-university collaboration, long-range strategic research planning, and the hiring of nationally-recognized faculty in specific areas will help the enterprise fund its research initiatives. In addition, research collaborations with industry and entrepreneurial companies will help to promote economic growth in the state.

Increasing the research capabilities and performance of the Arizona University System to a level of competitive prominence with peer rankings of top American research universities is a significant part of the regents' overarching goal to contribute to the vitality of Arizona's future.

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The Arizona Board of Regents is committed to ensuring access for qualified residents of Arizona to undergraduate and graduate instruction; promoting the discovery, application, and dissemination of new knowledge; extending the benefits of university activities to Arizona's citizens outside the university; and maximizing the benefits derived from the state's investment in education. For more information visit www.azregents.edu.