

Arizona's Bioscience Roadmap

Overview:

Arizona's Bioscience Roadmap, the state's long-term strategy to advance its bioscience sector, has a goal of Arizona becoming globally competitive and a national leader in select areas of the biosciences by 2025 in the fields of precision medicine, cancer, neuroscience, bioengineering, diagnostics, and agricultural biotechnology.

The Biosciences:

The biosciences develop treatments for disease, design diagnostics to assess and prevent illness, strengthen our food supply, develop alternative fuels, and more. From research to commercialization, the biosciences are an economic driver with high-paying jobs and flourishing companies. The biosciences include:

- Agricultural Feedstock and Industrial Biosciences
- Bioscience-Related Distribution
- Drugs, Pharmaceuticals, and Diagnostics
- Hospitals
- Medical Devices and Equipment
- Research, Testing, and Medical Labs

The Roadmap:

The plan, developed by national experts and commissioned by the Flinn Foundation, launched in 2002. Over the next decade, Arizona emerged as one of the fastest-growing states in the biosciences, with expanding jobs and firms, new university research facilities and major private research institutions, and creation of incubators and accelerators to help startup companies. The Roadmap was updated in 2014 to run through 2025.

Roadmap Focus:

The Roadmap emphasizes improving health outcomes and advancing the biosciences through commercialization, entrepreneurship, creating a critical mass of firms, and the development of talent, fueled by building up the state's research infrastructure and increasing annual research revenues.

Roadmap Leaders:

The Roadmap's recommendations are guided by Arizona's Bioscience Roadmap Steering Committee—some 100 statewide bioscience champions from the public and private sectors in science, health care, business, academia, and policy. This committee is chaired by Mark Slater, Vice President for Research at HonorHealth. The vice chair is Eve Ross, retired Vice President for W.L. Gore & Associates.

The Flinn Foundation (www.flinn.org) is a Phoenix-based, private, nonprofit philanthropic endowment established in 1965 that aims to improve the quality of life in Arizona to benefit future generations. The Foundation supports the advancement of the biosciences in Arizona, a merit-based college scholarship program, arts and culture, and a program to develop future state-level leaders.

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