

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 by 2025 in select areas of the biosciences, such as precision medicine, cancer, neuroscience, bioengineering, diagnostics, and agricultural biotechnology.

The Biosciences:

The biosciences develop treatments for disease, create diagnostics to assess illness, strengthen our food supply, engineer devices to repair our bodies, and more. From research to commercialization, the biosciences are an economic driver with high-paying jobs and flourishing companies. The biosciences include:

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

The Roadmap:

The plan, developed by national experts and commissioned by the Flinn Foundation, launched in 2002. Arizona has emerged as one of the fastest-growing states in the biosciences, with new university and private research institutions, plus incubators and accelerators to help startup companies. Performance data released in 2024 show record highs in research funding, university R&D, jobs, and wages.

Roadmap Focus:

The Roadmap emphasizes improving health outcomes and advancing the [biosciences](#) in Arizona through commercialization, entrepreneurship, a critical mass of firms, and talent development, fueled by stronger research infrastructure and increasing annual research revenues.

Roadmap Leaders:

The Roadmap's recommendations are guided by Arizona's Bioscience Roadmap Steering Committee—some 125 bioscience champions in science, health care, business, academia, and policy. The committee is led by chair Heather Carter, senior vice chancellor of external affairs at Maricopa Community Colleges and a former state legislator, and vice chair Jennifer Barton, professor and director of the BIO5 Institute at the University of Arizona.

The Flinn Foundation is a private, nonprofit philanthropic endowment established in 1965 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 the Arizona Center for Civic Leadership.

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