



# The Flinn Foundation

## History:

The Flinn Foundation was established in 1965 as a privately endowed grantmaking organization to improve the quality of life in Arizona for future generations. Robert S. Flinn, a cardiologist and one of Arizona's leading medical practitioners, and Irene Flinn, a woman of considerable wealth and generous philanthropy, created the Foundation to perpetuate their personal goodness and humanity to benefit the residents of Arizona.

In the mid-1980s, the Foundation expanded its focus beyond health care and medical research to create the Flinn Scholars Program and fund arts and culture in Arizona. In 2001, the Foundation narrowed its health-care focus to the advancement of the biosciences in Arizona. In 2011, the Foundation launched the Arizona Center for Civic Leadership to strengthen civic leadership in Arizona.

## Program Areas:

In the biosciences, the Foundation awards targeted grants and advances Arizona's Bioscience Roadmap, a strategic plan launched in 2002 that runs through 2025. The Flinn Scholars Program, partnering with Arizona's public universities, each year awards about 20 comprehensive scholarships to Arizona's top high-school seniors; Scholars' enriched educational experience includes international travel and personal mentorship by faculty and alumni Scholars. In arts and culture, the Foundation helps organizations improve stability by integrating creative programming and long-term fiscal planning. The Arizona Center for Civic Leadership enhances civic life in Arizona through civic education, engagement, and leadership programs—including the Flinn-Brown Fellowship, Arizona Civic Exchange, Civic Leadership Collaborative, and Arizona Civic Life Partnership.

## Grants:

In the biosciences, the Foundation's preeminent area, grants strengthen Arizona's biomedical-research and commercialization infrastructure. The Foundation does not award grants for ongoing support, for a specific disease or discipline, or for a single investigator's interests. Flinn Scholarship funds are awarded to students through grants to the universities. Arts-and-culture grants primarily target the state's largest organizations.

## Conference Center:

The Foundation's facility near downtown Phoenix features a conference center available for use at no cost to Arizona nonprofit organizations in health care, education, arts and culture, and civic leadership. Nonprofits may reserve space for strategic-planning and training meetings.

**The Flinn Foundation** includes a board of directors drawn from Arizona's medical, law, business, and education communities. The board is chaired by **David J. Gullen, M.D.**, a retired internal-medicine practitioner at Mayo Clinic and professor in the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine. The Foundation's president and CEO is **Tammy McLeod, Ph.D.**, a broadly accomplished executive and community leader.

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