

REPORT TO FACULTY SENATE

FROM: President Robert Robbins <http://president.arizona.edu/>

DATE: April 4, 2022

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Breaking Ground on new [Andrew Weil Center for Integrative Medicine](#)

- In mid-March we broke ground on construction for the new Andrew Weil Center for Integrative Medicine. Our university is home to the first program in integrative medicine, and it is fitting that we are giving this program a permanent home where it can grow and expand.
- With this new center, our university will continue to be the epicenter of integrative medicine under Dr. Weil's leadership. We know that as the average human lifespan gets longer, learning and sharing ways to sustain quality of life will become increasingly important.

South by Southwest Conference: [Wonder House Exhibition](#)

- South by Southwest (SXSW) is an internationally recognized conference known for the convergence of tech, film, music, education, and culture. This year, UArizona hosted the Wonder House exhibition which festival organizers described as the most interesting, unexpected, and engaging experience offered at the conference.
- Over three days, more than 9,000 attendees engaged with the Wonder House which offered more than 20 expert discussion panels on topics including climate change, arts and architecture, health and medtech, and much more.
- In addition to a robust speaker series that brought the unique scholarship of our university to the forefront of an international conference, the Wonder House also featured the Starscape premiere, an immersive multimedia experience, virtual reality peeks into the Andrée Expedition 360 Opera house, multiple UArizona telescopes, and several experiential art installations.
- The Wonder House exceeded our goals of creating connections and highlighting the University of Arizona as a place for innovation and creativity. We look forward to returning to the renowned conference in 2023.

Deepening our Relationship with Diné College

- The University of Arizona signed an MOU with Diné College with the goal of continuing to expand a framework of collaboration between our institutions in the areas of grants management, research administration, and training. I am grateful to SVP Levi Esquerra for continuing to deepen our collaborative relationships with tribal institutions.

Continuing to Grow the Research Enterprise

- In collaboration with Government and Community Relations, Research, Innovation and Impact has secured more than \$250M in Congressional appropriations to advance the University's research interests. In particular, the efforts of Amy Mainzer, Principal Investigator for the [NEO Surveyor Mission](#), and her team will benefit from an appropriation of over \$143M.
- We have broken ground at the UA Tech Park at The Bridges on the new "Mission Integration Laboratory" to expand our capacity for stratospheric sensing and payload/systems integration. The building should be open for occupancy in October 2022.
- The National Institute for Civil Discourse (NICD) received a \$500k grant from the Hewlett Foundation to support bipartisan efforts focused on voting legislation.