



Mission

Drive innovation-based economic prosperity that is shared and sustainable and continuously improves quality of life in the region. Innovation Frontier Arizona is a regional effort that brings together government, the private sector, the P-20 education system, economic development strategies and financial resources to drive the described vision and mission through a series of well-defined goals and related strategies and tactics.

Goals

1 TALENT

Create a home-grown talent pipeline for emerging and existing high-technology industries.

2 ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Develop entrepreneurial culture, infrastructure, and pipelines to foster innovation and diversify the regional economy and career opportunities.

3 COLLABORATION

Establish a regional knowledge exchange, maximizing learning, assets, and transformation capacity across all four counties.

Guiding Principles

Innovation Frontier Arizona initiatives are:

Transformative—a new way of doing business or responding to a critical problem.

Scalable—augmenting the entire region or at least a substantial part with potential for broader dissemination.

Inclusive—engaging multiple regional stakeholders as engaged partners.

Relevant—relating to or supporting an identified regional growth sector, occupational cluster, or key strategic priority.

Integrated—add up to a coherent whole—the programs are a reasonable, interconnected response to the “region’s story.”

Sustainable—realistic, doable with high potential institutionalization or other sustaining support.

Measurable—likely to yield measurable outcomes.

Sharable—can be shared as part of the Regional Knowledge Exchange for edification of all partners and the community.

Vision

Innovation Frontier Arizona envisions the region as a center of excellence for Homeland Security and advanced technology, capitalizing on its border proximity and the shared economic strength of one of the nation’s premier aerospace/defense clusters. A home-grown talent base meets the demands of the aerospace-defense sector and supports the emergence of other advanced industries. This vision has emerged through a WIRED initiative selected for ETA funding in June 2007 and is supported by recent strategic planning efforts that identified key economic opportunities for the region.

Strategies

TALENT Strategies

- ▶ Common curriculum and training for certification and associates degrees in engineering and info technology.
- ▶ Regional professional development center for K-12 teachers in STEM education and contextual learning.
- ▶ Border Professional Preparedness Program (BP³) to foster 21st Century digital literacy and other skills.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP Strategies

- ▶ Share common curriculum principles and modularized/segmented training.
- ▶ Network and align system stakeholders to provide technical expertise and direction to current and aspiring entrepreneurs.
- ▶ Raise awareness of entrepreneurship at all community levels by promoting success stories and hands-on learning.

COLLABORATION Strategy

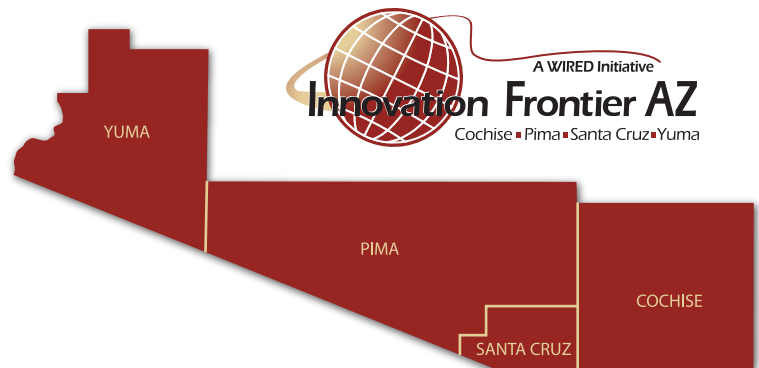
- ▶ Create an exchange system that will be in charge of: convening partners; learning communities; communication (internal); public relations (external); asset inventories; BusinessLinc

Committees

Border professionals preparedness program (BP³)
Business Engagement
Entrepreneurship
High-tech career ladders
Regional Knowledge Exchange
STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math education)

PARTNERS

Aerospace, Manufacturing, and Information Technology cluster (AMIT)
Arizona Department of Commerce
Arizona State University
Arizona Western College
Cochise Community College
Cochise County Workforce Development Corporation for a Skilled Workforce
Douglas Unified School District
ECIII
Economic Blueprint Committee
ETA/U.S. Department of Labor
Evergreen Air Center
General Dynamics
Governor's Council on Workforce Policy
Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation
Joint Alliance of Companies Managing Education for Technology (JACMET)
Loyola Associates
ManTech Telecommunications and Information Systems Corp.
Northern Arizona University
Northrop Grumman
Pima Community College
Pima County Board of Supervisors
Pima County Joint Technological Education District
Pima County ONESTOP Career Center
Pima County Workforce Investment Board
Raytheon
Santa Cruz County
Santa Cruz County One Stop
Sheila Murphy Associates
Sierra Vista Economic Development Foundation
Sierra Vista Public Schools
Southern Arizona Leadership Council
Southern Arizona Logistics Education Organization
Tucson Regional Economic Opportunities
Tucson Unified School District
U.S. Border Patrol
University of Arizona
Yuma County School Superintendent
Yuma Private Industry Council



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