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ASU expanding Mayo partnership, eyeing Goodyear

Phoenix Business Journal - by [Angela Gonzales and Mike Sunnucks](#)

A year after threatening to close some of its campuses because of budget cuts, **Arizona State University** is moving forward with expansion plans throughout the state.

Plans range from a significantly ramped-up partnership between ASU and **Mayo Clinic**, to a multimillion-dollar research facility at ASU Main in Tempe, to building a new campus in Goodyear focusing on solar power and aerospace.

"We are planning a very expansive and significant relationship with the Mayo Clinic across dozens of areas. We're thinking about how ASU and Mayo can work together to engage the broader public relative to their health," said ASU President Michael Crow. "We're taking ASU as a science and engineering enterprise, a teaching enterprise, a business enterprise, a nursing enterprise, and plugging all that in to Mayo at every level."

Crow said the talks are in the preliminary stages, building on a six-year relationship that includes jointly funded research projects and laboratories as well as joint faculty appointments. ASU also runs a nursing program at Mayo's hospital in Phoenix.

The \$160 million research facility at ASU's Tempe campus is being financed with research revenue, not tuition or state funding, Crow said. It is expected to open in spring 2012.

Maintaining a connection

ASU's expanded partnership with Mayo came to light after the university announced last week it was severing ties with the **University of Arizona** College of Medicine-Phoenix to save \$3.5 million a year.

While ASU is pulling out of its financial commitment to the UA medical school, the two state universities will continue to work together on the formation of the Health Transformation Institute, a nonprofit organization to improve health outcomes and the way patient care is delivered. They are working with Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong, executive chairman of Los Angeles-based Abraxis BioScience Inc., to create HTI.

Dr. Denis Cortese — former president and CEO of Mayo Clinic, who now is leading ASU's Health Care Delivery and Policy Program — is likely to become president of HTI.

Crow said Cortese's work at HTI will overlap with what ASU is doing with Mayo.

Dr. William Crist, UA's vice president for health affairs and a former department chair at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., said he has no doubt HTI will have interactions with the Mayo system.

"What those are is unclear at the moment," he said. "That is yet to be established."

Ernest Calderon, president of the Arizona Board of Regents, which oversees the three state universities, said he applauds ASU for its continued community outreach.

"Just because they're not part of the medical school doesn't mean they still don't want to have an input into the better health of our community," he said.

Michael Yardley, chairman of the public affairs division at Mayo Clinic, said Mayo has enjoyed a good collaboration with ASU for several years and continues to talk to the university "across a broad spectrum of issues."

Goodyear Mayor Jim Cavanaugh also wants to jump-start plans to bring a campus and research center to the West Valley suburb.

"I want them here," said Cavanaugh.

ASU and Goodyear officials talked in 2009 regarding such a possibility, but movement on that effort was stalled by state and local budget shortfalls.

"ASU is still interested in Goodyear, but only if the finances are suitable," said university spokeswoman Julie Newberg.

Cavanaugh said ASU wants Goodyear or a private entity to fund a large portion of a southwest Valley campus. He said a sales tax increase

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is not likely, but he is looking at a possible financing plan of \$5 million to \$6 million over five years to build a campus.

John Boyd, vice president of New Jersey-based site selection firm **Boyd Co.**, said ASU and Goodyear want to develop a presence for the university focused on the city's solar energy and aerospace sectors.

Defense contracting giant Lockheed Martin Corp. has a flight operations center in Goodyear, and Chinese solar manufacturer SunTech Holdings is locating an assembly plant in the West Valley city. Boyd said that could be a substantial economic driver and development tool for Goodyear.

A new study by the Boyd Co. lists Goodyear as a top Western business location for data centers and industrial operations. Goodyear is No. 5 on that list. Quincy, Wash., is No. 1.

ASU also is working with **Lake Havasu City** to develop a campus in fall 2011. ASU and Lake Havasu City officials signed a memorandum of understanding in March to explore the feasibility of offering certain ASU undergraduate degree programs there.

Mark Nexsen, mayor of Lake Havasu City, said the City Council unanimously approved the deal, and ASU is beginning its feasibility study.

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