



2007 Public Policy Agenda

Advocacy Objectives – Arizona Technology Council Priority Initiatives

- Strengthen and continue funding the 21st Century Competitive Initiative Fund
 - a. Continue the 21st Century Competitive Initiative funding stream.
 - b. Strengthen the Fund to include technology commercialization activities.
 - c. Clarify governance and accountability over funding.
- Improve public education by adopting and funding the eSATS initiatives begun in 2006 (teacher training, digital curriculum, computers and infrastructure, and broadband access in schools).
- Improve public education by funding strategies to educate, train, recruit and retain highly-qualified and master-degree teachers in mathematics and sciences. Provide incentives through universities (*e.g.*, scholarships) and school districts (*e.g.*, hiring bonuses, higher pay).
- Reform, streamline and reauthorize the Arizona Job Training Program, improving accountability, clarifying eligibility and matching requirements, and making the application and record-keeping processes less burdensome.
- Increase funding to implement Arizona technology initiatives, from \$250,000 to \$2.5 million, for: help for smaller companies commercialize technologies; tech talent repository; and other projects to advance Arizona technology industries.
- Enhance the R&D Tax Credit for all businesses.

Advisory Objectives – Support Initiatives Led by Other Organizations

- Improve public education by adopting and funding the 21st Century Readiness recommendations of the P20 Council, such as 8th grade algebra, increasing math and science graduation requirements, dropout prevention and 21st century skills.
- Improve public education by reforming funding streams to school districts and K-12 schools.
- Adopt and fund strategies to attract more teams of top-level teaching and research talent to the State universities and K-12 schools.
- Support initiatives to provide broadband high-speed access to serve rural Arizona including Native American interests while keeping broadband unregulated and not taxing citizens. The broadband high speed access should focus on spurring education (e-learning), medical and emergency services, economic development, fire and police services, homeland security, etc. Support formation of a State Developmental Authority to facilitate completion of broadband “middle mile” while leaving “last mile” to private enterprise.

Watch List: Issues to Monitor

- Technology transfer: commercializing technologies developed in State university labs.
- Investment capital formation: Fund of Funds, and CAPCO.
- E-health initiatives.