



Dean of Natural Sciences Arizona State University

Arizona State University invites applications and nominations for the next Dean of Natural Sciences in The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

As one of the nation's preeminent public research universities, a member of the American Association of Universities (AAU), and a recognized innovator, Arizona State University seeks a visionary, dynamic, and collaborative leader to serve as the Dean of Natural Sciences (Natural Sciences). As the leader of the largest division within The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (The College), the Dean of Natural Sciences has responsibility for a portfolio comprised of six transdisciplinary schools and departments, four research centers, and numerous undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Current student enrollment in Natural Sciences is over 19,400 majors and annual research expenditures are in excess of \$123M. The next Dean of Natural Sciences will provide academic and administrative leadership in the Natural Sciences by facilitating the enrollment growth and success of in person and online student populations at the undergraduate and graduate levels aligned with the ASU Charter; catalyzing interdisciplinary research initiatives and partnerships; and engaging federal, state, community partners, and alumni to grow resources in support of students and faculty.

The Dean of Natural Sciences reports to both the Executive Vice President and University Provost and the Senior Vice Provost and Dean of The College and is a member of the Provost's Deans Council. The successful candidate will be an academic innovator with the ability to engage faculty, students, staff, and the wider community in envisioning 21st century models of natural sciences education, research and engagement. The Dean will represent the Natural Sciences division inside and outside of ASU, working collaboratively with ASU and The College leadership to advance institutional goals.




Arizona State University

Arizona State University has developed a new model for the American research university, creating an institution committed to excellence, access and impact – the New American University: A comprehensive public research university, measured not by whom it excludes, but by whom it includes and how they succeed; advancing research and discovery of public value; and assuming fundamental responsibility for the economic, social, cultural and overall health of the communities it serves. [Nine design aspirations](#) guide the ongoing evolution of ASU. These institutional objectives are integrated in innovative ways throughout the university to achieve excellence, access and impact.

Year after year, ASU ranks at or near the top of the list in areas that matter. Consistently recognized by U.S. News & World Report as the country's most innovative school, ASU also takes the top spot in the nation for sustainability (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System) and global impact (Times Higher Education). The ASU faculty is at the forefront nationally in advancing research and discovery. The university's 5,300 faculty members inspire new ways of thinking, innovating and solving problems socially, culturally and economically in our region and in the international community. Reporting over \$905 million in research expenditures in FY23 (13% growth from FY22), ASU is among the fastest-growing top research institutions in the nation.





About The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences educates the next generation in the power of language, culture and society, critical thinking, scientific exploration and discovery. Through first-of-their-kind degree programs, world-class research and innovative learning experiences, The College is committed to improving communities on a local, national and global scale, while supporting the largest and highly diverse student population within ASU.

Over 90% of all ASU undergraduates (immersion and online) take at least one course in The College, and over 50% of all undergraduate and graduate students are enrolled in at least one course in The College, known as the academic heart of ASU. The College also sends more students to medical school and law school than any other college at ASU. Its degree programs and research centers are organized within three divisions: humanities, natural sciences and social sciences. With over 100 undergraduate programs and 150 graduate programs, students of all ages and backgrounds graduate as socially and globally aware citizens with critical writing and thinking skills that prepare them for successful careers.

100+
undergraduate majors

150+
graduate programs

21
schools and
departments

50+
research centers and
institutes

31,468
Total enrollment
(fall 2023)

15,082
On-campus students
(fall 2023)

16,386
Online students
(fall 2023)

27,532
Undergraduates
(campus and online)
(fall 2023)

3,936
Graduates (campus
and online)
(fall 2023)

1,300
Total faculty
(fall 2023)

751
Tenured and
tenure-track
faculty
(fall 2023)

549
Career-track
faculty (non-
tenure faculty)
(fall 2023)

12:1
Student-to-
faculty ratio
(fall 2023)

31%
First-generation
students
(fall 2023)

63%
Female students
(fall 2023)

31%
Historically
underrepresented
minority students
(fall 2023)

About the Natural Sciences

Grounded in a commitment to real-world impact, the natural sciences division in The College engages fundamental science disciplines – including biology, molecular science, earth and space science, physics, mathematics, psychology and more – to be a global leader in scientific education and the engine for research and innovation at Arizona State University.

With an exploratory, interdisciplinary and collaborative approach, the division fosters first-of-their-kind learning opportunities and groundbreaking discoveries that lead to impactful solutions for challenges in our community, local and global environments and outer space. For example:

- The Department of Physics is home to one of the largest Biophysics groups in the country, and has globally acclaimed faculty members

engaged in researching the use of diamonds in electronics.

- The Department of Psychology's REACH (Research and Education Advancing Children's Health) Institute is a pioneering service center at the forefront of family-based interdisciplinary prevention research.
- The School of Earth and Space Exploration is home to the ASU-led Psyche Mission, the first NASA mission to explore a metal asteroid.
- The School of Life Sciences is trailblazing the use of virtual reality labs using Dreamscape Learn, a collaborative venture between Dreamscape Immersive and ASU, as a new approach to teaching undergraduate biology.
- The School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences offers innovative undergraduate programs (both on campus and online) in Data Science,

with nearly 1,500 students enrolled in Fall 2024.

- The School of Molecular Science offers the first of its kind online undergraduate biochemistry degree that includes hands-on experience.

The natural sciences division is at the forefront of scientific excellence, and has a long history of significant partnerships with organizations like NASA, the National Institutes of Health and the Mayo Clinic, among others. Its research rankings include being No. 1 in transdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and other sciences by the National Science Foundation, and its many award-winning faculty include 15 National Academy of Sciences members and two Nobel Prize winners.

Reporting enrollment growth of 5.3% from FY22 to FY23 and \$130 million in research expenditures in FY23 (a 5% increase from FY20), the Natural Sciences has tremendous momentum.

6
schools and
departments

Department of Physics
Department of Psychology
School of Earth and Space
Exploration
School of Life Sciences
School of Mathematical
and Statistical Sciences
School of Molecular
Sciences

2,971
Total degrees awarded
(2022–23)

16,598
Total enrollment
(fall 2023)

9,524
On-campus students
(fall 2023)

7,074
Online students
(fall 2023)

15,250
Undergraduates
(fall 2023)

1,348
Graduates
(fall 2023)

537
Total faculty
(fall 2023)

348
Tenured and
tenure-track
faculty
(fall 2023)

189
Career-track
faculty (non-
tenure faculty)
(fall 2023)

19:1
Student-to-
faculty ratio
(fall 2023)

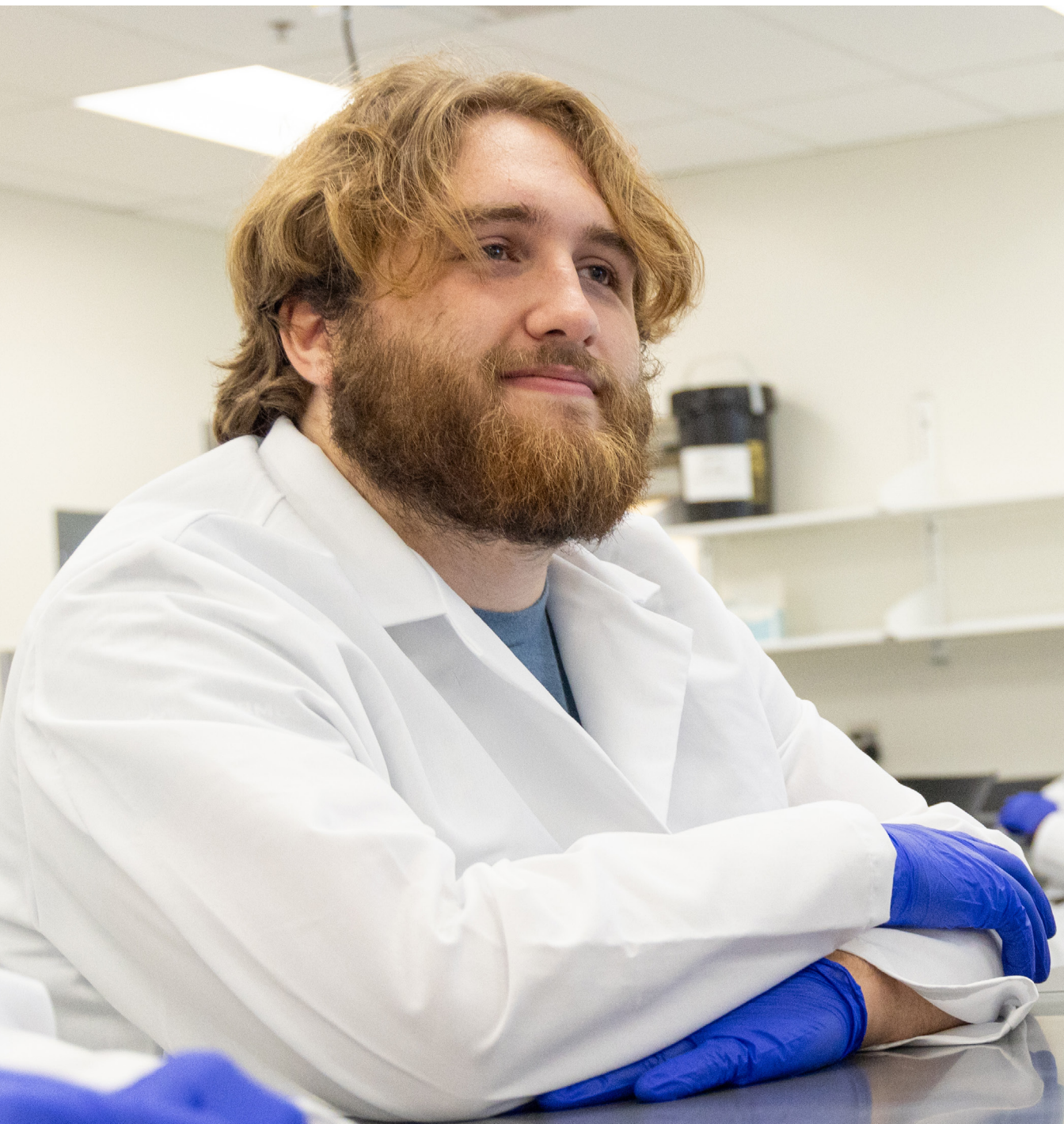
31%
First-generation
students
(fall 2023)

64%
Female students
(fall 2023)

30%
Historically
underrepresented
minority students
(fall 2023)

Role of the Dean of Natural Sciences

The Dean will provide strategic direction, promote academic excellence, and foster an inclusive and innovative environment that continues to strengthen research, teaching, and community engagement across the Natural Sciences. They will be committed to working collaboratively with the University Provost, the Dean of The College, the Deans of Humanities and Social Sciences, other university deans and administrators, and the Natural Sciences Department Chairs and School Directors and their faculty and staff, to achieve goals for excellence in scholarship, research and external funding; education and enrollment growth that increasingly emphasize online degree programs; and a strong and explicit commitment to the ASU Charter.



Leadership

- Partner with the other two divisional deans and the Senior Vice Provost and Dean of The College to provide direction for and management of The College.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive vision and strategic plan for the Natural Sciences division that aligns with The College's and ASU's mission, goals and New American University model.
- Promote a culture of academic excellence and research innovation in the Natural Sciences.
- Advocate for the Natural Sciences' needs and priorities within the broader college and university context, with and on behalf of the Natural Sciences Department Chairs and School Directors.
- Effectively represent the Natural Sciences locally, regionally, nationally and internationally to further enhance its visibility and reputation.
- Partner with other ASU colleges and deans to advance interdisciplinary education and research initiatives.

Research and Scholarship

- Collaborate with Natural Sciences Department Chairs and School Directors to enhance and grow the Natural Sciences research profile through strategic initiatives, partnerships, and securing external funding.
- Foster interdisciplinary collaboration across the Natural Sciences disciplines and other academic units to leverage and maximize innovative interdisciplinary research opportunities.
- Oversee the Natural Sciences research centers.

Academic Affairs

- Coordinate with school directors, department chairs, and program directors to support Natural Sciences curriculum development and innovation, including online programs.

- Facilitate, support and guide faculty recruitment, retention, development, and evaluation processes.

Student Success

- Champion student success initiatives, including recruitment, retention, persistence, and graduation efforts.
- Promote an inclusive environment that supports student engagement and achievement.

Community and Industry Engagement

- Foster relationships with industry partners, government agencies, and community organizations to enhance research opportunities, student internships, and career pathways.

Fundraising

- Engage in efforts to secure philanthropic support for the Natural Sciences aligned with the division's and The College's strategic priorities.

Collaboration and Communication

- Partner with Natural Sciences Department Chairs and School Directors to foster a collegial and collaborative atmosphere among faculty, staff, and students, developing and maintaining effective channels of communication within the Natural Sciences to ensure that the community is informed and engaged.
- Ensure that the Natural Sciences policies and practices support an inclusive and welcoming environment for all.

Budget and Management

- Oversee the Natural Sciences budget and the effective allocation of resources within the Natural Sciences units.
- Ensure that administrative processes and systems are efficient and useful.



Leadership opportunities

Create a Vision and Strategic Direction for the Natural Sciences

In collaboration with other members of The College leadership team, Natural Sciences Department Chairs and School Directors, and their faculty and staff, the Dean will develop a collective vision and implement a strategic direction that cultivates academic and research growth and is aligned with The College and University priorities. The Dean will understand the opportunities, challenges and priorities of each of the Natural Sciences units and ensure that the vision and strategic plan reflects the uniqueness of each of the academic disciplines while also fostering a comprehensive pathway forward.

Grow Opportunities in Support of Educational Access and Excellence

The Dean will promote efforts in the Natural Sciences to enhance student access, improve student experiences and career preparedness, and elevate student success. They will oversee the operation and management portfolio-wide of undergraduate and graduate academic programs and support the identification of new areas of opportunity and innovation for curriculum and program development, both in person and online. The Dean will support course development that broadens access to new audiences and embraces new modes of delivery, working in partnership with other leaders in pedagogical design, Ed tech and innovation at ASU.

Achieve Enrollment Goals

As ASU continues to expand access in higher education in Arizona, nationally and globally, the Dean will be creative in thinking about how to meet enrollment goals for the Natural Sciences, including on campus, online, international students, and specific programs. As the Natural Sciences continues to grow, the Dean will work with the school and department leadership to develop strategic and tactical strategies to ensure resources and infrastructure are aligned.

Facilitate the Growth of Research in the Natural Sciences

Working with the Natural Sciences Research Development and Advancement team and the Department Chairs and School Directors, the Dean will seek and create opportunities to catalyze the formation of collaborative interdisciplinary teams of researchers within and beyond the College around key issues to enhance and extend research activity within Natural Sciences, including the development

of center-level initiatives. The Dean will ensure that the Natural Sciences schools and departments have the requisite infrastructure to support faculty in their pursuit of research funding and execution of grants. The Dean also will work with Knowledge Enterprise to facilitate enhanced research and innovation efforts.

Drive Institutional Strategic Initiatives Relevant to Natural Sciences

Units within the Natural Sciences portfolio and faculty play key roles in the success of various ASU units, centers and institutes, and initiatives. The Dean will embrace opportunities to work collaboratively and partner with ASU entities including the Biodesign Institute, School of Medicine and Advanced Medical Engineering, School of Technology for Public Health, Global Futures Laboratory, and the ASU Bermuda Institute of Ocean Science. In addition, the Dean will be integrally involved in partnerships with ASU collaborators including Dreamscape Learn, Arizona Science Center, and others.

Community Engagement and Partnerships

The Dean will foster engagement and build relationships with internal and external community stakeholders to maximize visibility and impact for initiatives in the Natural Sciences. This includes catalyzing the growth of world-class research by building networks that forge and strengthen alliances within the Natural Sciences, across ASU, and with industry and government partners. The Dean will also seek to connect the Natural Sciences with communities through the dissemination of knowledge and mutually beneficial partnerships.

Increase Philanthropy in Support of the Natural Sciences

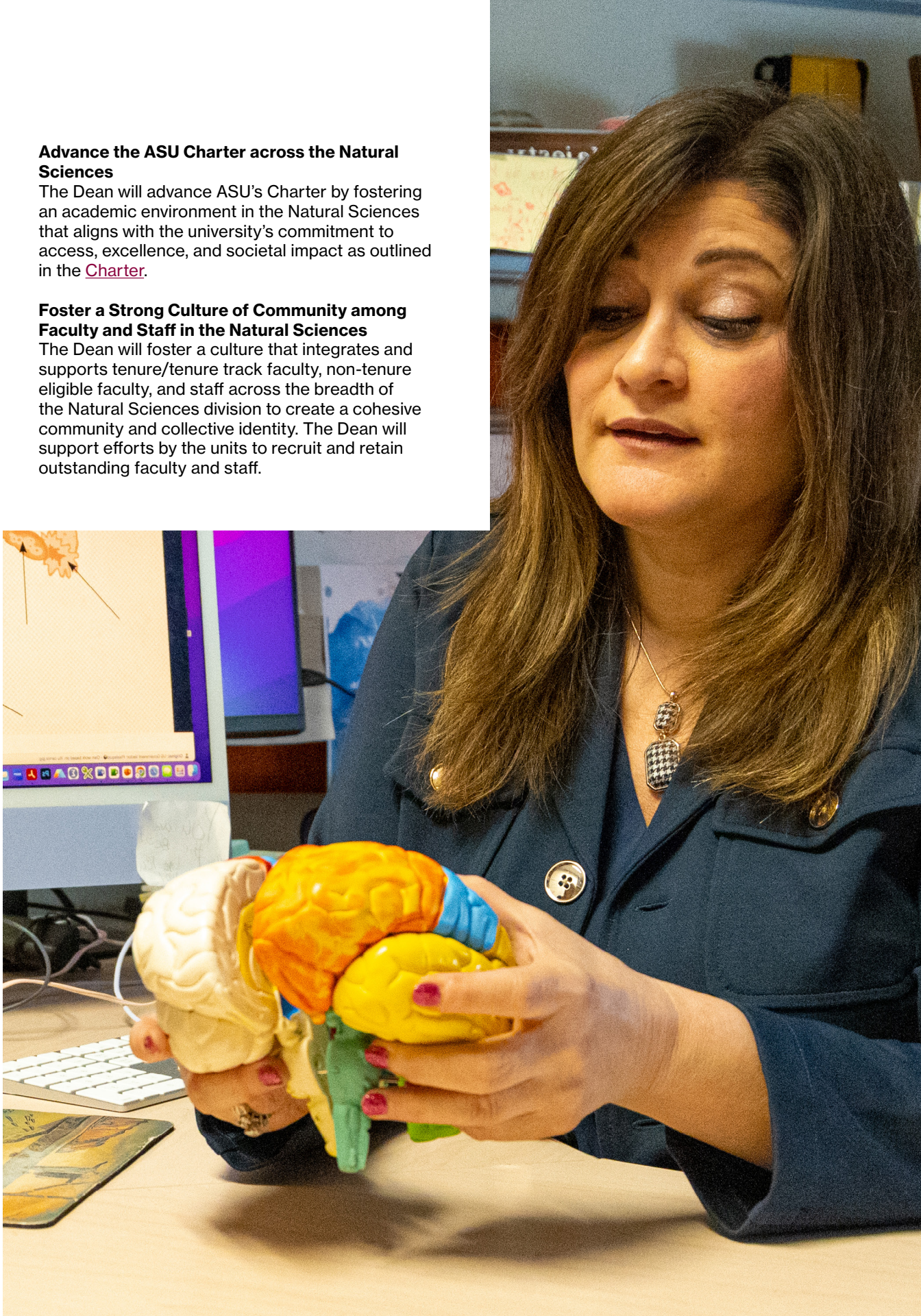
With support from the ASU Foundation, the Dean will seek to increase philanthropy for the Natural Sciences by articulating a compelling vision that aligns with the division's strategic priorities while resonating with prospects and donors. The Dean will cultivate strong relationships with alumni, friends, corporations, and foundations to secure financial support for the Natural Sciences, highlighting the transformative impact of contributions on the division's continued excellence and innovation. The excitement surrounding ASU's comprehensive campaign, currently in its quiet phase, presents a unique opportunity to amplify these efforts.

Advance the ASU Charter across the Natural Sciences

The Dean will advance ASU's Charter by fostering an academic environment in the Natural Sciences that aligns with the university's commitment to access, excellence, and societal impact as outlined in the [Charter](#).

Foster a Strong Culture of Community among Faculty and Staff in the Natural Sciences

The Dean will foster a culture that integrates and supports tenure/tenure track faculty, non-tenure eligible faculty, and staff across the breadth of the Natural Sciences division to create a cohesive community and collective identity. The Dean will support efforts by the units to recruit and retain outstanding faculty and staff.





Qualifications and preferred attributes

Required Qualifications

- An earned doctorate in a Natural Sciences discipline.
- A record of distinguished scholarly research and professional accomplishments that merits appointment as a full professor with tenure.
- Administrative leadership experience in an academic environment, including strategic planning, personnel management, and budgeting.

Desired Qualifications

- Broad understanding of and appreciation for the Natural Sciences disciplines.
- Experience in visioning and implementing a strategic plan that was successful and resulted in academic and research excellence and growth.
- Bold and innovative thinker with a demonstrated ability to adapt to change and pivot effectively in dynamic environments.
- Demonstrated commitment to fostering academic excellence and growth in a fast-paced, complex, and innovative university environment.
- Demonstrated commitment to promoting a quality learning environment at all levels

with experience serving the needs of a diverse student population and multiple modes of learning and program delivery.

- An established record of research funding and knowledge of funding sources (federal, state, local government programs, industry and private philanthropy) to advance basic science, applied, clinical and community research activities across the Natural Sciences.
- Experience fostering a robust research environment including identifying center level opportunities in the Natural Sciences and facilitating the collaboration of cross disciplinary teams.
- Commitment to the ideals of ASU's mission and Charter: access, excellence, and impact.
- Collaborative and collegial leadership style that works across disciplines, both within the university and with external partners.
- A relationship builder with demonstrated success in fundraising and advancement activities.
- Ability to serve as a connector and conduit for information and communication between university leadership and the

Natural Sciences, including advocating for Natural Sciences priorities.

- Experience with hiring, retaining and supporting diverse faculty and staff, including faculty promotion and tenure, career track faculty, staff career development, and mentoring.
- Demonstrated commitment to student success with a focus on access, retention and graduation metrics across the Natural Sciences.
- An active listener and strong communicator who leads with integrity, honesty and transparency.
- Able to function as an effective and compelling spokesperson and advocate for the Natural Sciences in both internal and external environments.
- A creative, bold and innovative thinker with a natural predisposition to interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research and learning.
- Exceptional leadership and interpersonal skills, with the ability to inspire and motivate faculty, staff, students, and other stakeholders and partners.

Greater Phoenix

Phoenix offers the diverse amenities of a major metropolitan region. As the fifth largest state in the U.S. and one of the most dynamic and rapidly growing regions in the nation.

Climate

Enjoy 300 days of sunshine a year.

Arts and Culture

Greater Phoenix is a rich arts and culture environment with diverse museums, theater, concert halls, and cultural centers, such as the renowned Heard Museum, Phoenix Art Museum, Arizona Science Center, Phoenix Symphony, Arizona Opera, Ballet Arizona and the Arizona Theatre Company.

Outdoors

Phoenix has a number of lakes just a short drive away offering opportunities for boating, sailing, windsurfing, water and jet skiing, fishing and more. The area is home to dozens of parks and preserves – both in and around the city – with hundreds of miles of multiuse trails for hiking and biking. The state is home to three national parks, including the Grand Canyon, thirteen national monuments, and other popular destination spots like Sedona.

Sports

All three of Arizona's major professional sports teams – Arizona Cardinals (NFL), Phoenix Suns (NBA) and Arizona Diamondbacks (MLB) – call the metro Phoenix area home, as do the Phoenix Mercury (WNBA), Arizona Rattlers (IFL) and Phoenix Rising FC (USL). The area has over 170 golf courses.

Cost of Living

Greater Phoenix offers the diverse amenities of a major metropolitan region without the high cost of living. As the fifth largest state in the U.S. and one of the most dynamic and rapidly growing regions in the nation, living and working here is both exciting and affordable.

Low Tax Position

Low personal income taxes and low effective property tax rates offer affordability and opportunities for everyone to thrive.

Business and Industry

Arizona is home to a surging industrial ecosystem, early stage entrepreneurs, and tech-savvy millennial talent who are breaking new ground across a wide range of industry growth sectors. What's more, Arizona offers a robust portfolio of programs and resources supporting both large and emerging tech companies. The state's rich startup culture continues to thrive and is a preferred choice for technology companies seeking growth. Leading startups have collectively taken advantage of Arizona's high-skills talent base. Arizona's solid reputation and assertive stance on innovation led Fast Company to rank Arizona No. 1 in the country for "entrepreneurial activity."



Search timeline

Semifinalist interviews (via Zoom): Week of November 4th
Finalist campus visits: Weeks of November 18th and
December 2nd
Start date: To be negotiated but no later than July 1, 2025

Applications, inquiries and nominations

AGB Search is pleased to assist Arizona State University with this leadership search.

To apply for the Dean of Natural Sciences position, candidates are requested to submit the following:

- A curriculum vitae
- A letter of interest that addresses the leadership opportunities and your experience relative to the minimum qualifications and preferred attributes in the profile
- Contact information for five references (to be contacted with candidate's permission at a later date)

Candidates are requested to send their application materials (in Word or PDF) to [ASU Dean of Natural Sciences](#) by October 9, 2024 for best consideration.

Nominations and expressions of interest in the Dean of Natural Sciences opportunity are encouraged. Please direct them to the AGB search consultants listed below or to ASUDeanNS@agbsearch.com.

Kimberly Templeton, JD, Principal
kimberly.templeton@agbsearch.com
C: 540.761.9494

Nancy Targett, PhD, Executive Search Consultant
nancy.targett@agbsearch.com
C: 302.233.5202

Anne Hoffman, Executive Search Associate
anne.hoffman@agbsearch.com
C: 805.490.9161

thecollege.asu.edu/natural-sciences

Arizona State University is a VEVRAA Federal Contractor and an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will be considered without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or any other basis.



Division of Natural Sciences
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Arizona State University
PO Box 872501
Tempe, AZ 85287-2501

