Air Force Research Laboratory New Mexico & University of Arizona Sign Collaborative Agreement

ALBUQUERQUE (August 4, 2015) - Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) New Mexico this week signed a collaboration agreement with the University of Arizona (UA) that will be used to facilitate collaborative research opportunities, develop and improve career opportunities for students, advance technological development in the state of Arizona and expand STEM education outreach initiatives throughout the Arizona educational system.

UA is only the fifth school in the country – and only one in Arizona - to have a signed Strategic Educational Partnership Agreement with AFRL New Mexico.

“We are excited about the opportunities that this agreement creates, and look forward to working with the University of Arizona to further our science and technology advancement,” Dr. Robert Peterkin, Chief Scientist for Directed Energy at AFRL, said.

AFRL New Mexico, located in Albuquerque, is comprised of two technical directorates—Directed Energy and Space Vehicles. Scientists and engineers from both directorates will collaborate with UA students and faculty under the agreement.

In addition to encouraging joint research and development projects, the agreement gives UA students and faculty increased access to AFRL personnel, specialized test facilities and surplus AFRL equipment that can be used for research and education.

“The University of Arizona is pleased to partner with AFRL in service of our nation’s defense and security,” Dr. Kimberly Andrews Espy, University of Arizona’s Senior Vice President for Research said. “The alignment between the University of Arizona’s long standing strengths in optics, space science, physical sciences and engineering, and AFRL’s program’s is remarkable, making this partnership a natural.”

Benefits to AFRL and the Air Force include creating a forum for exchange of ideas and information in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields along with enhancing AFRL scientists, engineers and managers career development by conducting joint research and development projects in conjunction with world-class scientists and practicing academic professionals.
Benefits to UA, its students and the State of Arizona include opportunities for students to gain skills, increasing employment opportunities, expansion of a skilled workforce making Arizona a more attractive business climate in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The agreement will also create additional opportunities for further collaboration between UA and AFRL on various technology transfer projects that will strengthen overall United States competitiveness as well as improve economic development through the application of AFRL technologies to commercial industrial problems.

About The Office for Research & Discovery:
The Office for Research & Discovery supports world-class research and discovery by University of Arizona faculty, staff, and students with particular attention to our land-grant mission of service to the State of Arizona. We enable the research success of our faculty through supporting university research centers, institutes, museums and core facilities; providing research development, compliance and safety services; and securing strategic external partnerships. As Arizona’s premier research university, the Tucson-based University of Arizona is ranked among the top 20 of public research universities nationwide and is a member of the prestigious Association for American Universities (AAU).