



2011 Year End Report

The Arizona Chamber Foundation enjoyed a successful year in FY 2011. This past fiscal year was the second year during which the Foundation was fully operational. The Foundation continued to establish itself as a public policy resource for legislators, business leaders and members of the media by producing high quality educational research reports on issues that impact Arizona businesses.

Research Activities

This year the Arizona Chamber Foundation issued three policy briefs and numerous fact sheets. Additionally, the Foundation entered into a new partnership with St. Luke's Health Initiatives.

Policy briefs from the Arizona Chamber Foundation were instrumental in the passage of two major pieces of legislation during the 2011 session. *Pension Tension* shed light on the underfunding of Arizona's public retirement system and helped spark the public debate that ultimately led to the passage of the historic pension reform package, S.B. 1609.

Released in January 2011, *Bonds. Appeal Bonds* found that defendants in the Arizona legal system may not have adequate access to a full and fair appeal process. The legislature responded by enacting S.B. 1212, which placed a monetary cap on the size of an appeal bond. This important reform improves the business climate by protecting the due process rights of defendants in Arizona courts.

The policy brief *Online Permitting and Licensing: Arizona's Competitive Edge* by Mike Hull was released in August 2010 and paved the way for the state to become a leader in using technology to assist businesses in attaining the permits they need from various levels of government.

St. Luke's Health Initiatives, Phoenix-based public foundation focused on Arizona health policy, commissioned the Arizona Chamber Foundation and the Greater Valley Health Education Center to jointly conduct a research project on Arizona's health care workforce. This project focused on three roundtable focus groups comprised of experts from health care practitioners, universities and colleges,



tribal representatives, policy makers, behavioral health providers and more. The final report will be issued later this year and will provide a recommended actions and policy changes aimed at ensuring that Arizona has the health care workforce in place to meet its future needs. We anticipate that this will be just the beginning of a long and productive relationship with St. Luke's.

Media

Research from the Arizona Chamber Foundation was featured in various media outlets during the past year, including the Arizona Republic, Phoenix Business Journal, Arizona Capitol Times, East Valley Tribune and several other regional newspapers. The defense and aerospace industry and pension reform are two topics that have been especially popular in terms of media attention. Many months after releasing an analysis of Arizona's defense and aerospace industry in March of 2010, articles in the *Arizona Republic* continued to cite content from the Foundation's policy brief. Additionally, *Pension Tension* was a primary source for an influential *Arizona Republic* series on Arizona's public pension system.

Governance

Six new directors joined the Foundation board in April and two more will join at the July board meeting. The full Board of Directors for the Foundation is:

- Rick DeGraw, SCF Arizona – Chairman
- Reginald M. Ballantyne III, Vanguard Health Systems
- Greg Ensell, Cox Communications
- Dick Foreman, Southwest Gas
- Stephanie Gorman, CIGNA HealthCare of Arizona
- Alan Heywood, Amagine Communications
- Dave Howell, Wells Fargo
- Steve Macias, Pivot Manufacturing
- Jessica Pacheco, Arizona Public Service (APS)
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Plans for FY 2012

For FY 2012, the Foundation will continue to produce high quality research reports on policy issues that are important to the Arizona business community. Potential research topics include AHCCCS funding, tax reform, commercial aviation opportunities, tort reform, election reform, and teacher performance-based compensation, among others. Over the summer, staff will further refine recommended topics of study. Additionally, the Foundation anticipates conducted the next phase of research for St. Luke's Health Initiatives on the future health care workforce.