

**TO:** UA Employees  
**FROM:** President Ann Weaver Hart  
**DATE:** Wednesday, July 13, 2016  
**SUBJECT:** Updates on Office for Research & Discovery

As you all know, the work of innovation and discovery takes a great deal of expertise, dedication, and care. This work is central to the University of Arizona's mission, and I am continually in awe of the creativity and accomplishments of our faculty, students, and staff. With this in mind, I am pleased to share news about important changes in the University's research and discovery strategies.

First, Dr. Joaquin Ruiz will be joining the Office for Research & Discovery in his role as Vice President of Innovation. Through this position, and in addition to his work as Dean of the College of Science, Dr. Ruiz helps to guide the innovation goals set out in the University's Never Settle strategic plan.

Bringing his work as VP of Innovation to the Office for Research & Discovery, led by Senior Vice President for Research, Dr. Kimberly Andrews Espy, he will help position the University as a driver of innovation, opportunity, and impact through more community involvement. In particular, Dr. Ruiz will serve as our innovation ambassador here in Tucson and throughout Arizona, advancing the important partnerships that help create some of the UA's greatest impact in our community.

Along with this move, Biosphere 2, which Dr. Ruiz oversees, will move from the College of Science to the Office for Research & Discovery. Biosphere 2 will serve as a premier hub of innovation, not only for the UA, but for our city and our state. There are countless opportunities for innovation at Biosphere 2 that make it the ideal site for such an endeavor, including its many landscapes and full-scale modeling opportunities, which are second to none. Similarly, industry partnerships hold tremendous potential due to the opportunities to test products and conduct innovative research at Biosphere 2.

The changes that are taking place at the Office for Research & Discovery reinforce our commitment to going after and solving the bigger questions that we have proclaimed as our targets. These changes will also enable the Office to pursue larger grants like the MacArthur Foundation's [100&Change](#) program, which will award a single \$100 million grant to solve <sup>3</sup>a critical problem affecting people, places, or the planet.<sup>2</sup> This scale of challenge - and the solutions that we must find for them - will shape the University of Arizona's mission and our success in the years to come.

I am very excited for the new possibilities that will emerge with these changes, as we continue to commit to discovering knowledge and innovating new ideas that help create a better future for our state and world. I hope you will all join in contributing to these new innovations as they shape our future.