Rapid COVID Response

The School of Life Sciences joined with others across the university to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. With incredible donor support, ASU developed the nation’s first FDA-approved saliva tests, and the ASU BioDesign Clinical Testing Laboratory was formed. Carolyn Compton led the transition and now serves as the institution’s medical director, which has tested more than 360,000 community members in Arizona since May of 2020.

Transforming digital education

We continue to serve as an agent of change as ASU transcends boundaries and sets new standards for innovation in learning. Michael Angilletta is stepping into a new role as associate director of learning innovation for Dreamscape Learn, a new partnership between ASU and the world’s leading virtual reality company. He will lead the development of the next generation of immersive, experiential curriculum, beginning with a series of introductory biology courses.

Commitment to diversity and inclusion

Responding to perspectives and recommendations from our students, faculty, and staff, we have established a committee for Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, to examine needs and develop strategies for meaningful change. Proposals led by Committee Chair Sharon Hall were awarded JEDI Seed Grants from the division of natural sciences in The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Our new Research for Inclusive STEM Education Center hosted a RISE Up for Racial Justice series attended by hundreds of ASU community members. Cofounder Sara Brownell and postdoctoral scholar Supriya were awarded the 2020 Catalyst Award by the Arizona State University Committee for Campus Inclusion in recognition of their impact.