

# SkySong providing tangible benefits to Scottsdale

I wanted to provide an update on SkySong, the ASU Scottsdale Innovation Center, and our progress in turning the project into an economic engine for Scottsdale and the entire region.

Despite difficult economic conditions, SkySong is beating the odds when it comes to attracting new companies — and it brought the corner of Scottsdale and McDowell roads back to life.

To date, a total of 300,000 square feet of commercial space has been built at the site, with new tenants moving in at a steady pace despite the economic downturn. As a result, more than 50 companies and organizations

from 10 countries around the world now reside at SkySong, providing hundreds of high-paying, high-quality jobs.

The Greater Phoenix Economic Council conducted an analysis of SkySong's economic impact and found it is creating \$62.8 million in economic output each year for Scottsdale, and \$73.3 million in economic impact each

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year for the Valley as a whole. Over the course of 30 years, its economic impact could be as much as \$10.2 billion for the Phoenix area.

SkySong also has enhanced the Scottsdale community by replacing a sea of asphalt with an environmentally sustainable project that has earned LEED silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council and an Award of Merit from Valley Forward Association for



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the site design and landscaping.

The project's iconic shade structure soon will host community events including a monthly farmer's market, and SkySong's Global Conference Center has become an important hub for community meetings. As more and more people begin working at SkySong, it will become an increasingly important part of the community and a catalyst for business in the surrounding area.

The companies based at SkySong are thriving because of the spirit of innovation and collaboration at the site. For example, American Solar Electric just expanded

its space at SkySong. Sean Seitz, president of American Solar, says they did so for a reason: "The facility is exceptional, and ASU has offered us many opportunities to engage with their internal resources as well as our peers in the solar industry."

So we are very pleased that SkySong is having a significantly positive economic impact on Scottsdale and the Valley, despite the significant downturn in economic conditions that took place almost simultaneously with the project's opening.

We are very proud of what SkySong is becoming, and the positive impact it is having on the surrounding community and the Valley's economic development. Despite these difficult economic times, the project continues to be a magnet for businesses that focus on innovation and technology. We all hope that improved economic conditions will make the impact SkySong has on our community even greater as the years go by.

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