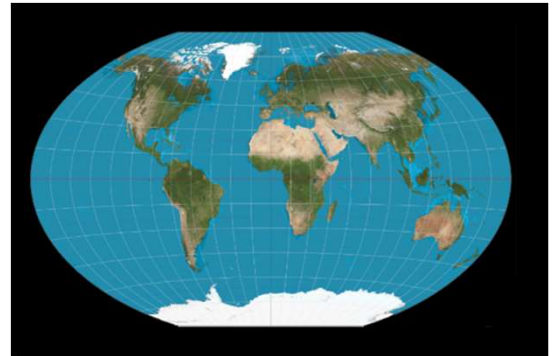


# Does The International Dark Sky Discovery Center Benefit the State of Arizona? **Yes!** Here's Why.

## First Facility of Its Kind In The World

The IDSDC combines a unique set of components that are not present in any other museum or science center. The synergy and STEM educational connections enabled by the combination of the Observatory, Planetarium, Theater, Outdoor Observing Patio, Einstein Exploration Station and Night Sky Experience Zone will provide visitors with an unparalleled opportunity to expand their horizons, gain new knowledge, and reinvigorate their feelings of stewardship of the Earth like no other facility can do.



## Provides State-wide Economic Boost

A significant number of jobs are created in Arizona through spending by out-of-state visitors who are attracted to observatories and universities. This spending along with local taxes provides an economic boost to cities and towns. As the reputation of the IDSDC grows over time, it will attract increasing numbers of visitors from around the USA and the world. Their spending will flow through our local economies in myriad ways, benefitting all who work and reside here.



## Inspires Future Scientists and Engineers

The young people getting ready to enter college in scientific and engineering fields will be making the discoveries and inventions that will power our future. The IDSDC will inspire these young minds to think big and help create a future where the resources of the planet are used most efficiently, nocturnal animals are protected, damage to human health is avoided and our limited energy supplies are used most efficiently.



## Enables Remote Research Collaborations

The IDSDC's world-class Observatory with its 27.5-inch PlaneWave professional telescope and cameras will be equipped with appropriate hardware and software that will allow it to be used remotely by University and research institutions around the world during late-night hours. Graduate students from facilities around the state and the world will be able to do research that might not otherwise be possible.



## Reduces Risks to Arizona's Economy

“Ever-growing levels of unnecessary artificial light at night are degrading the State’s competitiveness as a site for ground-based optical astronomy.” (AASTA APPS report). Just the U of A’s activities alone generate an economic return over \$560 million yearly to the State, which rivals that of the Super Bowl. The IDSDC will inform visitors of this risk and encourage them to spread the message that protecting our dark skies will have immediate financial benefit to the State.



## Adds Opportunities for Tourism mid-State

Significant public observing opportunities in astronomy exist in the Tucson and Flagstaff areas, but not along the corridor between the two cities. The IDSDC can fill this gap and enable the completion of “Arizona’s Astronomy Tour” covering the entire state from north to south – a destination that will further attract visitors to spend more time in Arizona.



## Supports Valuable “Free Choice” Learning

A growing body of evidence indicates that “free choice” learning experiences at science centers contribute more significantly to the public’s scientific literacy than science coursework in high school or college. For children, experiences gained in science centers like the IDSDC are major predictors for future science inquiry skills and academic achievement.



## Bolsters Arizona’s Reputation as the “Astronomy State”

The combination of tourism, education and research creates an “ecosystem” that supports all sectors of the economy. A critical component of this ecosystem is the public outreach provided by facilities around the State like Lowell Observatory, Steward Observatory and the IDSDC. Visitors to the IDSDC will be encouraged to support local efforts in their communities to control light pollution, protect nocturnal animals and minimize the effects of artificial light at night on human health.



More information at [www.darkskycenter.org](http://www.darkskycenter.org)