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Terror worries, ID fraud likely to aid biometrics

BIO FILE

By David Wichner ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Biometrics, the technology of identification based on physical characteristics such as fingerprints, is expected to boom as a result of



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increased concerns over homeland security and identity fraud, the Tucson-based journal

OpticsReport said in its April issue.

The report cites projections by the International Biometric Group that current global biometrics revenues of \$601 million will reach \$4 billion by 2007.

Fingerprint scanning devices that control access to computer terminals have been around for years and now can be had for as little as \$60, OpticsReport Author Michael Stevenson said.

Stevenson's report details the history of biometrics and several sensor types including optical, electrical capacitance and radio-frequency sensors for fingerprint identification; and facial and eye-scan technologies. The report also identified 32 top companies in the field.

But although Breault Research Organization, which publishes OpticsReport, has done consulting work with biometric firms, Stevenson said he could find no Tucson companies and only one Arizona company - in Phoenix - that market biometrics products.

OpticsReport's biometrics article attracted the attention of "Radio Health Journal," which plans to feature Stevenson. KLPX (96.1-FM), KFMA (92.1-FM), KTKT (990-AM) and KCMT (101.9-FM) carry the syndicated program.

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For more information, visit OpticsReport Web site at www.opticsreport.com

Students needed

Pima Community College is still looking to fill a number of paid positions in three programs geared toward women and minority biology students:


The Postdoctoral Excellence in Research and Teaching program at the University of Arizona offers biology research internships for qualified PCC students.

Interns will work on ongoing research projects, which may include molecular genetics and DNA research. A stipend of up to \$2,880 and part-time work are available. While the program is aimed at minority students, all applicants will be considered.


The Futurebound program promotes women, especially women of color, in science, engineering and math. PCC students apply one or two semesters before transferring to the UA and are paired with a faculty mentor to assist with the application. At the UA, students are paid to work in the research laboratory of their choice.

The Arizona Biology Network summer research program is designed to help underrepresented minority students seeking degrees in the biomedical and behavioral sciences.

Funded by the National Institutes of Health, the program provides a paid, 10-week summer research experience in biomedical or behavioral research at the UA. Students and faculty are chosen from all 20 Arizona community colleges and San Juan College in New




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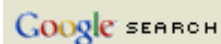


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For more information on any of these programs, call the PCC science and math department at 206-6763.

Bio on the Web

The Flinn Foundation of Phoenix recently launched a new Web site, www.flinn.org, that packs a lot of information about Arizona's biosciences industry.

The nonprofit group's site features news on statewide research and policy developments, an interactive directory of 1,200-plus Arizona-based bioscience and biotechnology organizations, an interactive calendar of statewide events, rotating features on the state's leaders in research and economic development, downloadable reports and links to key Arizona institutions.

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