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Letter to the Editor

"Arizona Can Lead Way on Global Warming"

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To the editor:

A serious discussion of the role of Arizona universities in addressing the issue of climate change, featuring the three university presidents, deserves coverage beyond the headlines of "global warming ignorance" (Nov. 27).

At the conference, presentations by internationally recognized experts in climate change -- faculty from the three Arizona campuses -- explained why Arizona is both compelled and situated to take a leading role in responding to the challenges and opportunities presented by climate change.

Global warming will be manifested differently in different places, depending on the regional climate. Because of its location athwart finicky storm tracks and because of its precarious water supply, Arizona is particularly vulnerable to the effects of global warming. Arizonans therefore have more to gain when the active research facilitated by their universities takes another step toward a better understanding of climate change and its impacts, whether on ecosystems or societies, or when a student learns the skills that will help develop new technologies or promote new policies to reduce carbon emissions in the future.

I applaud the vision of the Arizona Water Institute and other sponsors for bringing the three universities together to discuss a defining issue of the current generation. Coping with climate change will require new understandings and ways of thinking, and universities will be a source of these new ideas and the actions they spawn.

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