Donald V. Budinger

Don Budinger is one of the founders and the former President of Rodel, Inc. - a garage start up that grew to become the world's largest manufacturer of the surface finishing chemicals used to make computer chips, rigid memory disks and specialty optics.

When Rodel was sold in 1999, a significant portion of the proceeds was contributed to create The Rodel Foundations. The purpose of the Rodel Foundations is to improve the pre-kindergarten through 12th grade public education systems in Delaware and Arizona so that they will be widely recognized as two of the best in the nation.

Currently, Don is Chairman and Founding Director of the Rodel Foundations, Chairman and Founding Director of Science Foundation Arizona, Board Member and Founding Chairman of the Arizona College Scholarship Foundation, Board Member of Tucson Values Teachers, The Morrison Institute, Greater Phoenix Economic Council and Greater Phoenix Leadership. In addition, Don serves on the Bioscience Roadmap Steering Committee, the Southern Arizona Leadership Council and the O'Connor House Advisory Group.

Don has been the recipient of several awards including the 2010 O'Connor House Community Leadership Award; the "Techanthropic Award" from a coalition of The Arizona Technology Council, Microsoft Corp. and NPower; the "Science of Early Learning Award" from New Directions Institute; the "Horace Steele Child Advocacy Award" from Children's Action Alliance, the "Outstanding Achievement in Higher Education" award from the Arizona Board of Regents; the "Homeroom Heroes" award from Teach for America and the "Distinguished Service" award from the University of Arizona College of Engineering.

Mr. Budinger graduated from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1964. In 2010 he received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Northern Arizona University. Don and his wife Leslie have four children and two grandchildren.