

## **DEER VALLEY ROCK ART CENTER Press Release**

November 23, 2011

*Free Lecture: A Public Program for The Arizona Scitech Festival*

**PHOENIX – Saturday, February 4, 2012 from 1 – 2 p.m.**

*Ceramic Analysis and the Ancient Hohokam Economy* by Dr. David Abbott

The prehistoric Hohokam of the Phoenix basin are best known for their impressive irrigation infrastructure along the lower Salt and middle Gila Rivers. Intensive archaeological analysis of their hydraulic works has revealed much about the Hohokam economy, but less well known is the role that ceramic research is playing in reconstructing the Hohokam past. The lower Salt River valley is characterized by a geological terrain that may be the best on the planet for ceramic sourcing studies, allowing the movement of clay containers between producers and consumers to be traced over distances as short as 5 km. Pottery transactions were common in Hohokam society, and, with this level of spatial precision, their study is revealing much about the ancient Hohokam economy.

David R. Abbott is Associate Professor of Anthropology at Arizona State University. He has designed and is conducting a long-term research program focused on the ancient pottery of the Sonoran Desert. He combines pottery studies with geological, petrographic, and chemical analyses to determine the organization of ceramic production and distribution in southern and central Arizona. This work is dedicated to modeling the exchange and social networks that composed the Hohokam regional system, investigating the impact of large-scale irrigation on sociocultural evolution, and developing the unique contribution that ceramic research can make to the study of prehistoric communities.

Seating is limited.

This event is a public celebration for The Arizona Scitech Festival. The Arizona Scitech Festival showcases Arizona as a national leader in science, technology and innovation through a series of events taking place during the month of February 2012. Spearheaded by the Arizona Technology Council Foundation in partnership with Arizona State University and Arizona Science Center, the Arizona SciTech Festival is a grass roots collaboration of over 200 organizations in industry, academia, arts, community and K-12, geared to excite and inform Arizonans ages three to 103 about how science, technology and innovation will drive our state for the next 100 years.

Science festivals are public celebrations that offer a wide range of science, technology, engineering and math-related activities: creative exhibitions, demonstrations, performances, tours, debates, workshops and concerts, over a period of several days or weeks, in a variety of locations. More information about the Arizona SciTech Festival can be found at: <http://azscitechfest.asu.edu/azscitechfest>

The Deer Valley Rock Art Center has the largest concentration of Native American petroglyphs in the Phoenix Valley. Visitors hike a quarter-mile trail to view over 1,500 petroglyphs made between 500 and 7,000 years ago. The museum aims to promote preservation, connection and respect for the site and we are a destination for families to learn about archaeology in their own backyard. The Center is managed by one of the top archaeology programs in the country – the

School of Human Evolution and Social Change, in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Arizona State University.

More information is available at <http://dvrac.asu.edu> or call (623) 582-8007

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