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FACTS & FIGURES

\$1.1 Million for Youthbuild Phoenix

Phoenix Workforce Connection was awarded \$1.1 million from the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration to continue the YouthBuild Phoenix Partnership. This award will cover a 2-year period beginning July 1, 2011. The young people who join YouthBuild Phoenix come from different neighborhoods, families and cultures vary tremendously but they have one thing in common, a desire to make a better life for themselves, their families and their communities. The opportunity to be part of YouthBuild and construct an energy efficient home with Habitat for Humanity of Central Arizona has helped many participants gain a new perspective on life. The hope is that by finishing something Youthbuilders will gain the confidence and pride that will help them complete their other goals such as obtaining a GED, entering secondary education or employment. Self confidence and community support is often times the key for youth to reach their goals.

Submitted by Harley Armstrong, PWC Board Member



NEWS & MEDIA

KPNX “Back to Work” with Bram Resnick (06/07/11) — Sherene McLemore, Phoenix Workforce Connections, shares information on new career opportunities in the valley.

Our View: Lawmakers just playing politics with the vulnerable

East Valley Tribune (6/22/11) — Excerpt: “MWC certainly has had its share of success stories, but [Justin] Jones said there just aren’t enough employment opportunities out there for the people who have the skills to fill those positions.”



THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Arizona's unemployment benefits continue to erode

Deeper aid cuts loom: state slashing services by Jahna Berry *The Arizona Republic* (6/15/11) Excerpt: “The bottom line is we are not slowing down in terms of the people who we are serving,” said Patrick Burkhart, who helps oversee the Maricopa County program.”

Submitted by:

Greta Suda, Chair, MWC Advocacy Task Force
Director of Talent
Alliance Residential Company

On behalf of: MWC Board Members

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Human Resources, Pro's Ranch Markets

Rodney Pack, Program Manager
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Private Sector Representative

Patrick Burkhart, Assistant Director
Maricopa County Human Services Department
Workforce Development Division

On Behalf of PWC Board Members

Brad Taft, Owner
Taft Resource Group

Joel Millman, Coordinator
AZDES, Mature Worker Program

Traci Gruenberger, Vice President for
Development and Operations
Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest

Cynthia Spell-Tweh, Deputy Director
Community and Economic Development
Department, City of Phoenix

Collaboratively providing workforce solutions to businesses and individuals throughout Maricopa County.



Partners in Job Placement by Linda Obele, *The Phoenix Business Journal* (07/01/11) This article is currently only available online with a subscription to the *Phoenix Business Journal*. Phoenix and Maricopa Workforce Connections are highlighted in this news item. Stan Flowers, workforce development supervisor for the city of Phoenix and Patrick Burkhart, assistant director of the Maricopa County Human Services Department are quoted. Excerpt: "The world has changed since the recession," he [Flowers] said. "As employers were downsizing, they reengineered many positions. We try to help unemployed people fill the gap through additional training, honing up their resumes and helping with some of those soft skills, like interviewing skills."

High U.S. jobless rate may persist *StarTribune/McClatchy News Service* (06/11/11)



Photo and caption by Matt York, Associated Press — "Unemployed workers fill out online resume's at the Maricopa County Workforce Connections job fair Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2010 in Phoenix. The 9.1 percent unemployment rate reported in May remains high by post-World War II standards long after the economy resumed growth following the worst recession in 70 years. It's prompting economists to rethink

basic assumptions about the U.S. labor market."



PARTNER ITEMS

Breaking Barriers, a re-entry program, was piloted by MWC and Fresh Start Community Services Inc. in May. The program consists of an accelerated 4-week job search and readiness program facilitated by MWC and Fresh Start. Eleven graduates received Certificates of Completion, signifying their successful completion of the Breaking Barriers program, during an event on June 16, 2011.

The final phase of the Breaking Barriers program is a Job Fair featuring employment opportunities from employers able to hire persons with prior offenses. The first 2 hours of the Job Fair are for Breaking Barriers 'graduates' and the last 2 are for other job seekers, primarily MWC and its Partner agency customers.

As a testament to the success of the Breaking Barriers curriculum; 4 of the 11 graduates obtained employment prior to the Job Fair!

Youth Provider Success Stories:

Arizona Call-a-Teen, Youth Resources, Inc. — Jose Elias, who was a 2009 Summer Healthcare Participant, called me yesterday to update us on his college journey. Ever since he participated in the program he said he can't imagine himself working anywhere else than a hospital. Last summer he applied for a healthcare program at U of A and was accepted for the summer. This past year he applied for the Quest Bridge Scholarship Fund. Over 196,000 students applied and only 200 were selected- Jose was one of them!!! He won \$250,000 to University of Southern California. He starts this fall and will be studying neuroscience, he'd like to become a surgeon! I am so proud of him. I asked him to keep us posted, I love success stories!



Don't Stop Believing the story of an Aspire/JAG program customer — Alex Rodriguez is a work in progress. The details of this 17 year-old runaway and high school drop-out's personal story could fill several books. Although the beginning chapters reveal an unfair, cruel and lonely situation, her future – just like her tale –keeps getting brighter and better. Read on to learn how this program helped Alex to find herself, graduate early, begin college and begin to "pay it forward" within her community.



EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES



In an effort to assist employers seeking talent for their green/sustainable industry, Maricopa Workforce Connections conducted a Solar Job Fair on June 13, 2011. More than 250 job seekers attended the West Valley event to meet with 6 employers! An employer satisfaction survey indicated excellent or above average ratings of exhibitors in 8 areas including the quality of attending job seekers.

Gilbert Career Center
735 N. Gilbert Road, Ste. 134
Gilbert, AZ 85234
Tel: 602/372-9700
TTY: 602/372-9792

West Valley Career Center
1840 N. 95th Ave., Ste. 160
Phoenix, AZ 85037
Tel: 602/372-4200
TTY: 602/372-4261

www.maricopaworkforceconnection.com

North Career Center
9801 N. Seventh St.
Phoenix, AZ 85020
Tel: 602/861-0208

West Career Center
3406 N. 51st Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85031
Tel: 623/247-3304
TTY: 602/534-5500

South Career Center
4732 S. Central Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85040
Tel: 623/534-4732

www.phoenix.gov/PHXWIN/