

This publication is provided jointly from the WIA Local Workforce Investment Boards representing Maricopa County and the City of Phoenix. Previous editions of Items of Note are available online [here](#).

INSIDE THIS EDITION

- Increasing Career Opportunities
- Maricopa Now: Helping unemployed residents...
- Older workers have tough time finding jobs
- Maricopa County program helps long-term jobless
- Unemployment rate in Ariz. drops to 9%
- MWC Youth Services Provider in the News
- Lumina Foundation gives grant for education
- Sustainability Network Forum
- Young adult career center opens at Mesa Library
- East Valley MWC Young Adult Career Center
- MWC attends Arizona National Guard "Boss Lift"

FACTS & FIGURES

Increasing Career Opportunities — Arizona's Virtual One-Stop, the state's online job board and WIA tracking system, shows a significant increase in the number of jobs posted in the greater Phoenix area from July 1 to October 31, 2011 over the same period last year.

There are a number of possible reasons for these outcomes:

- Increased employer activity at One-Stop Career Centers
- LWIA involvement in local and regional job fair events
- Large scale new locates to the area
- Expansion of operations by local employers
- Cooperative efforts by the Regional Business Services Team and local economic development entities.

NEWS & MEDIA

Maricopa Now (October 2011) — Excerpt: "Helping unemployed residents with the job search, Estrella Mountain Community College hosts *Laid Off Camp*." This segment includes footage from MWC's WVCC and interviews with a couple of customers. *Note: After launching the October edition, and the segment loads, advance to 11:46 for the segment including footage from MWC.*



Older workers have tough time finding jobs

By Lindsey Reiser, KPHO (October 21, 2011) — Excerpt: "There are also resources out there for people like Brest. Locher tells her clients to go to www.aaaphx.org for information or call 602-264-HELP. Also go to www.azmatureworker.com and check with the Phoenix Workforce Connection and Maricopa Workforce Connections for assistance."



Maricopa County program helps long-term jobless Program offers classes, fairs to those unemployed for longer period

By Michelle Ye Hee Lee, *The Arizona Republic* (12/4/11) Excerpt: "It is difficult to find a job these days, especially for the long-term unemployed, but one Maricopa County program is trying to make the hunt more fruitful for those coming through its doors.

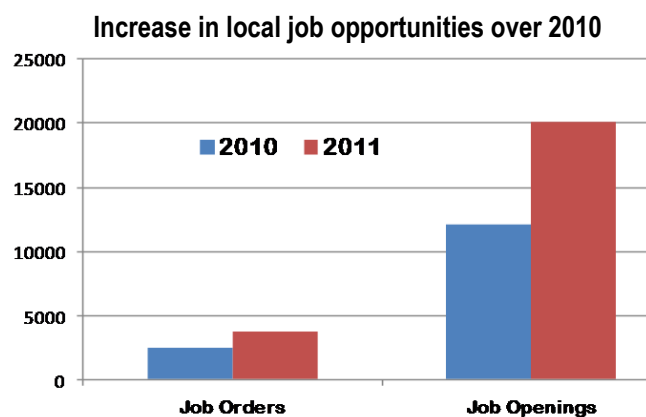
The program, Maricopa Workforce Connections, has been seeing increasingly familiar faces at its one-stop career centers, where the county offers free job-search and training services ranging from resume-writing classes to job fairs.

Patrick Burkhart, assistant director for Maricopa Workforce Connections, said he last estimated in the spring that about a third of people looking for services at his one-stop career centers were out of work for more than year.

Justin Jones, who teaches job-search-skills workshops at the county's career centers, said he has seen people take temporary jobs for a few months, then return to his classes.

Jones' advice to long-term job seekers: Network, market yourself and keep your skills fresh.

"The (employment) gap is not as negative as it used to be," he said. "Is it positive? No. Is it neutral? No. It's still negative." But he said potential employers still want to know, "What else have you been doing (since you became unemployed)?"



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

Unemployment rate in Ariz. drops to 9%**Economist: Rate down since August, but pace of job gains slowing**

By Jahna Berry, *The Arizona Republic* (11/17/11) — MWC facilitated interviews with business customers and job seekers for this article. Excerpt: "Nelsonia Yazzie, 24, moved to Phoenix from the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico to go to school to be a medical assistant. When she graduated from the program last year, she could not find a job in her field. She recently landed a second interview with UPS for a seasonal job assisting delivery drivers. "I need to go after what I can find," said Yazzie, who has two daughters, ages 4 and 6. Yazzie still dreams of becoming a nurse one day, but she also hopes the UPS job leads to a permanent job. Yazzie said she thinks the job market is improving. She also volunteers at Maricopa Workforce Connections, a organization that offers computer access, workshops and other resources for job seekers.

MWC Youth Services Provider in the News: Las Artes de Maricopa help at-risk youths mature**Phoenix, Glendale programs a second chance for students**

By Michelle Ye Hee Lee, *The Arizona Republic* (11/25/11) — Excerpts: "...The program began four years ago to give second chances to students who did not make it through the traditional school system for a variety of reasons -- often teen pregnancy, gang involvement or drug abuse. Each student between 16 and 21 years old has a case manager and goes through a preparatory program for a GED diploma. Staff members help students build resumes, fill out financial forms to apply for college, prepare for job interviews and track the students' progress for one year after they have graduated from the program.

But the arts component, program coordinators say, is the unique aspect that teaches students creative problem-solving and helps them develop a sense of accomplishment. ...Maricopa County's Human Services Department and the Maricopa Workforce Connections uses federal Workforce Investment Act funding to pay for the program, which cost \$930,000 in fiscal 2012."

Lumina Foundation gives grant for education

By Maria Polletta, *The Arizona Republic* (11/27/11) — Excerpts: "The Lumina Foundation has awarded a \$600,000 grant to a partnership including Phoenix College, Phoenix Union High School District and the city of Phoenix to help Hispanic students transition from high school to college to the workforce.

"The city will primarily participate through its "College Depot" program, a free college-planning resource, and its Workforce Investment Act program, which will serve low-income Hispanic students ages 14 to 21."

PARTNER ITEMS

Sustainability Network Forum (11/09/11) — The State Energy Sector Partnership Grant held a Sustainability Network Forum that was hosted by DIRTT on November 9, 2011. The networking forum was designed to bring in industry leaders to discuss employment outlook in the sustainability arena and to increase job seeker awareness in their job search activities. The audience was individuals who had taken part in the State Energy Sector Partnership (SESP) grant training activities and were actively job seeking. There were just over 20 people in the audience taking advantage of the information being shared.



The three industry leaders were: Mary Wolf-Francis, Community Outreach Coordinator for DIRTT, Philip Beere, Founder of G Street and Marlo Newman, Mortgage Banker for Starboard Financial Management. The audience also had the opportunity to hear from Mogens Smed, founder of DIRTT, who happened to be at the Green Learning Center for other meetings.



The panelists discussed what was occurring within their own company along with happenings occurring in the Phoenix-metro area and the State of Arizona. The audience had time to ask questions and share ideas were the group was innovative and forward thinking in creating new opportunities. Attendees toured DIRTT's manufacturing plant and Green Learning Center.

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES**East Valley MWC Young Adult Career Center**

Mesa News Release (10/18/11) — EXCERPT: "Maricopa Workforce Connections has an outstanding reputation for helping at-risk young adults obtain their career and educational goals and the career center they will operate here in Mesa will continue their track record," Maricopa County District 2 Supervisor Don Stapley said."

**Young adult career center opens at Mesa Library** *News from the City of Mesa* (10/18/11) —

Maricopa Workforce Connections Young Adult Career Center is now open at Mesa Public Library, Main Branch, 64 E. 1st St. The career center will offer job seeking skills to young adults. It will be open Mon-Fri 1pm-5pm.

MWC attends Arizona National Guard "Boss Lift" exercise along with 27 employers of Guardsmen and the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR).

MWC and PWC focus on increasing the wealth of individuals, businesses, and the community by identifying labor market needs to develop effective, innovative responses to meet the ever changing industry demands.



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