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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Employment Services for Maricopa Residents**

*Maricopa Workforce Connection centers offer free job-seeker workshops.*

Phoenix, Ariz. – Maricopa Workforce Connections career centers offer free workshops to help local residents prepare for their next job or career. These top-notch career centers have the trained professionals, resources, and state-of-the-art equipment available to help everyone, regardless of educational level or career experience, successfully execute their next career move.

Daily workshops are provided as a service to the community and range in topics from masterful application completion, basic computer skills, resume writing and professional communication. Center staff approach job seekers holistically; identifying immediate needs and mapping steps needed to meet long-term career goals. Regardless of job type or chosen career path, employment specialists at Maricopa Workforce Connections sites are available (Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) to explain the myriad of free services available.

“We are in the talent cultivation business,” said Patrick Burkhart, assistant director, Maricopa County Human Services Department, the county department coordinating the offering of MWC services to the community. “Doing our jobs well means Maricopa County will have a strong workforce in years to come. It is important for people to have jobs; it is equally if not more important, that local businesses are able to attract and keep quality skilled employees. The teams at the centers specialize in providing information and skill development tools to job seekers while simultaneously working with the business community to determine its needs.”

In addition to the provision of employment readiness services to the general public the west valley career center offers population specific services to young adults (aged 16-21 years) and veterans and their families.

The west valley MWC Youth Services team, joined by specialists from several area partners, offers a broad range of on-site services specific to Maricopa’s youth. Career counseling and exploration; GED preparation, and work readiness programs offered at the Youth Center are specifically designed to assist young adults in becoming self-sufficient in the workforce.

Veterans seeking information or assistance at the Elijah Wong Veterans Service Center, operating out of the MWC west valley career center, will have a personal guide to help access many state and federal programs designed to assist veterans and their families; direct links to housing and other immediate transitional services; and one-on-one vocational assistance.

Bringing employers and employees, and the resources they each need under one roof exemplifies the true desire of the Human Services Department to lead and be fiscally responsible in the provision of necessary public services. Services provided by MWC are directed by a Workforce Investment Board; a policy and oversight board partnered with the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors to deliver employment and training services to county residents. Funding is provided by federal tax dollars through the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

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