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NEWS RELEASE

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County Agency Helps Maricopa Teens Gain Employment

Maricopa Workforce Connections provides employment and other assistive services to those 16 to 21 years.

Phoenix, Ariz. – Maricopa Workforce Connections career centers offer a broad range of on-site services specific to Maricopa’s youth. 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. MWC staff, joined by specialists from several area partners, provide career counseling and exploration, GED preparation, and work readiness programs specifically designed to assist young adults in becoming self-sufficient in the workforce.

Daily workshops are offered at both centers (1840 N. 95th Ave., Ste. 160, Phoenix, AZ 85037, and 735 N. Gilbert Road, Suite 134, Gilbert, AZ 85234) as a service to the community. Workshop topics range 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, workforce specialists at Maricopa Workforce Connections sites are available (Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) to explain the myriad of available services.

One way MWC helps match youth with opportunities is by conducting job fairs where candidates may meet face-to-face with employers. Youth are encouraged to attend an April 10, 2008 job fair from 3-6 p.m. at the Jerry & Helen Wistosky/Peoria Boys and Girls Club (11820 North 81st Ave., Peoria, AZ 85345, Phone: 623/979-3559).

“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.”

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