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Valley Veterans Invited to MWC/Troops to Teachers Career Transition Seminar

Helping veterans move into new careers as K-12 teachers.

Phoenix, Ariz. – Maricopa Workforce Connections will host a Troops to Teachers (TTT) informational seminar for veterans on June 16, 2008 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at its Gilbert Career Center (735 N. Gilbert Road, Suite 134). Veterans interested in learning about a teaching career are encouraged to attend. Spouses of active duty, Military Reserve and National Guard members are also invited.

This no-cost seminar will explain Arizona teaching requirements, *Troops to Teachers* and *Spouses to Teachers* programs, and pave the way for dialogue with representatives from local school districts currently hiring. One-on-one consultations with those interested in pursuing teaching careers with TTT will follow the presentation from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Troops to Teachers, a U.S. Department of Education and Department of Defense program, is administered locally through the Arizona Department of Veterans Services. This innovative program helps eligible military personnel begin new careers as teachers in public schools where their skills, knowledge and experience are most needed. TTT provides referral assistance and placement services to military personnel interested in beginning a second career in public education as a teacher. Program participants may also be eligible for financial assistance in the form of a \$5,000 stipend to reimburse costs associated with becoming certified or a \$10,000 bonus for teaching three years in a high needs school. TTT staff will help applicants identify teacher certification requirements, programs leading to certification and employment opportunities.

“Our teachers meet the stated needs of the educational system by producing more teachers willing to work in high demand subject areas,” said John Scheuer, program manager, Troops to Teachers Arizona Office, “*Troops* teachers are meeting the demand for teachers in mathematics, science and special education in significantly higher proportions than teachers traditionally trained. In addition, *Troops* teachers feel competent in their ability to motivate students, manage time, discipline students and work with the administrative hierarchy. Veteran participants report the discipline, problem solving, leadership opportunities and professionalism gained from their military experience as being very valuable to them as they make the transition to a career in teaching.”

An Arizona TTT representative is available to answer questions by calling 602/372-4269 or visiting their office within the Elijah Wong Veterans Services Center, 1840 N. 95th Avenue, Suite 160, Phoenix (95th Avenue and McDowell).

Please RSVP for this event, call 800-830-2134 or e-mail jluna@azdvs.gov. For more information on Troops to Teachers and/or to determine your eligibility, visit www.proudtoserveagain.com, or call John at 602/372-4269.

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About MWC

Maricopa Workforce Connections (MWC) promotes and facilitates strategic alliances among public and private stakeholders within Maricopa County to ensure workforce excellence and contribute to the economic vitality for area employers, incumbent and future workers. MWC is a division of the Maricopa County Human Services Department.

Services are made possible via funding through the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998. Most services are provided to the community free of charge.

About Arizona Department of Veterans Services

Arizona Department of Veterans Services aids veterans statewide by providing specialized services and administering rightful benefits as provided for by state and federal law. Its programs include, but are not limited to: the Military Family Relief Fund, Veteran Business Advocate Group and the Troops to Teachers Program. Detailed information about AZDVS and its focused programs and initiatives is available online at www.azdvs.gov.