

This publication is provided jointly from the WIA Local Workforce Investment Boards representing Maricopa County and the City of Phoenix.

INSIDE THIS EDITION

- “To Learn and Earn: A Race to Good Jobs” a new report
- Phoenix offers aid for project management training
- Employers seek right mix in candidates
- ABC 15 Job Seeker phone bank
- KPNX special Labor Day edition of “Sunday Square Off”
- Community Dialogue and Partner Recognition event
- AWC a big hit with AzSHRM attendees

In response to being provided with 40+ qualified candidates:

“Thank you so much for lending a helping hand. It is greatly appreciated!” — Chuck Salas, Site Manager, Tolleson, AZ



FACTS & FIGURES

The Arizona Republic (09/05/10) Excerpt: “A new report from the Arizona Minority Education Policy Analysis Center and Morrison Institute for Public Policy at Arizona State University examines and helps explain the separation. “To Learn and Earn: A Race to Good Jobs” features firsthand accounts by employers, students, workers and educators across the state to underscore the intrinsic yet sometimes broken link between education and employment.”

This article was followed by comments from local workforce and education representatives:

The key: Attaining education and skills — The state's efforts to improve the capacity of its workforce have yielded only marginal results and have not kept pace with the aspirations of civic, business and policy leaders to enrich our quality of life and economic competitiveness.

In 2002, the percentage of adults over age 25 with educational attainment of a high-school diploma or less was 44.3 percent. In 2008, that number was 41.1 percent. Without dramatic, immediate and substantial improvement, tens of thousands - and the state itself - will be unable to compete in the eventual economic resurgence, driven primarily by knowledge and skills possessed by only a relatively few, well-educated young.

— Patrick J. Burkhart is assistant director for the Workforce Development Division of the Maricopa County Human Services Department. Its Workforce Connections is one of the largest federally funded workforce-service providers in the nation, recording nearly 150,000 customer visits in fiscal 2010.

Want to compete? Then get in the game — Arizona is in an ongoing competition with other states for new business opportunities. This competition demands that we have the right resources to deliver a competitive operating environment and the skilled talent necessary to support the emerging business needs of the state's current and future employers.

A comprehensive package needs to go beyond the traditional tax incentives that other states offer so that we are providing innovative solutions to align business, economic and workforce needs. By prioritizing the state's existing resources, we can develop the necessary skill sets of potential employees to match business needs.

— Sherman A. Jennings, human-resources-site leader at the Boeing Co. in Mesa, is chairman of the Governor's Council on Workforce Policy and an ex officio member of the board of directors of the newly created Arizona Commerce Authority.

Submitted by:

Greta Suda, Chair, MWC Advocacy Task Force
Assistant General Manager, Jobing.com, and

Josie Martinez
PWC Board Governance Task Force
HR Consultant/Owner Arizona HR Advisors

On behalf of: MWC Board Members

Tina Huff, Executive Director
Human Resources, Pro's Ranch Markets

Karen Poole, Ph.D., Associate Director
Center for Workforce Development
Maricopa Community Colleges

Rodney Pack, Program Manager
Arizona Pipe Trades Joint Apprenticeship

Benjamin Serio, Human Resources Manager
Amazon.com

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

Dee Wheeler-Cronin,
Assistant Housing Director
Hope VI Project, City of Phoenix

Karen Poole, Ph.D., Associate Director
Center for Workforce Development
Maricopa Community Colleges

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

Phoenix offers aid for project management training By Jahna Berry, *The Arizona Republic* (08/17/10) — Phoenix is offering scholarships to laid off workers hoping to earn project management certifications. Job seekers in several fields use the certifications to show employers they can lead a project from start to finish. ...The Phoenix scholarships are funded by federal stimulus money.

Employers seek right mix in candidates By Megan Neighbor, *The Arizona Republic* (09/18/10) — Excerpt follows: "Candidates also need to be innovative and show flexibility," said Stan Flowers, a workforce-development supervisor at the Phoenix Workforce Connection. ...About 35 percent of those who receive training grants through Phoenix Workforce Connection are between the ages of 45 and 54. Training is used to get potential employees "up to speed" when applying for jobs," Flowers said. "The organization offers up to \$4,000 in grants to those who have been laid off, are unemployed or not working full time," Flowers said. "It's really important for former employees to do a gap analysis and figure out their weaknesses," Flowers said. "Once you've discovered the gaps, enroll in a training program that will strengthen your skill set."

Patrick Burkhart, assistant director at the Maricopa County Human Services Department, was quoted saying, "The employer community is beginning to come back to us. There is reason for guarded optimism."

ABC15 Job Seeker Phone Bank — On Sept. 20 from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at ABC15's studio, MWC, PWC, Maricopa Community Colleges, DES and Jobing.com participated in a phone bank, answering job seekers' call-in questions via phone and e-mail.

KPNX special Labor Day edition of "Sunday Square Off" — A program focusing on the street-level view of Arizona's economy — where the new jobs are coming from, whether the Valley's largest industry will ever recover, and what job seekers need to know about the new rules for job hunting. MWC's Justin Jones, PWC's Mary Wolf-Francis were featured guests along with Mike Hayes from Momentum Staffing.

PARTNER ITEMS

Community Dialogue and Partner Recognition Event — On Sept. 15, 2010, an event was held to honor those who contributed to PWC's success. Tara Jackson, President of Arizona Town Hall, was keynote speaker. In her address she highlighted the results of the April, 2010 Arizona Town Hall on Building Arizona's Future; Jobs, Information, and Competitiveness. Special recognition was given to Dr. Roberta Jeffers from Phoenix College Downtown who was named in four of the projects recognized; Pharmacy Technician Training, Dialysis Technician Training, Work Readiness Training for the Youth Program, and the Fast Track LPN program. Others recognized included: Urman Enterprises, CVS Pharmacy, GateWay Community College, Arizona Call A Teen Youth Resources, Arizona Kidney Foundation, ASU Schools of Engineering, three Phoenix Workforce Connection Board members, and Mr. Roberto Franco, founder, and current president of Phoenix Community Development and investment Corporation.



Dialysis Training CoHort (ACYR, Phoenix College, AZ Kidney Foundation)



ASU Schools of Engineering



Dr. Roberta Jeffers, Phoenix College

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

AWC a Big Hit with AZSHRM — The Annual Arizona Society of Human Resource Management (AZSHRM) State Conference is the State's largest conference focused on human resources. The conference drew nearly 700 attendees and dozens of exhibitors to the event in Chandler (8/31—9/3/10). Arizona Workforce Connection's booth was staffed by MWC Business Services team members. Many attendees were aware of AWC's recruitment services and the Arizona Virtual One-Stop Website to post a job or look for available candidates for employment. However, most were not aware of the full menu of services available such as: Financial Incentives, Training Programs, Lay-off Aversion Resources and Transition Strategies — or that the system provides a network of One-Stop Career Centers operating in every county in Arizona and the 19 Native American communities. Several new contacts were made and scores of old relationships were nourished through involvement with this conference.



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

www.phoenix.gov/PHXWIN/

Please visit the valley's Comprehensive WIA One-Stop Career Centers. We'd enjoy showing you what we do!