

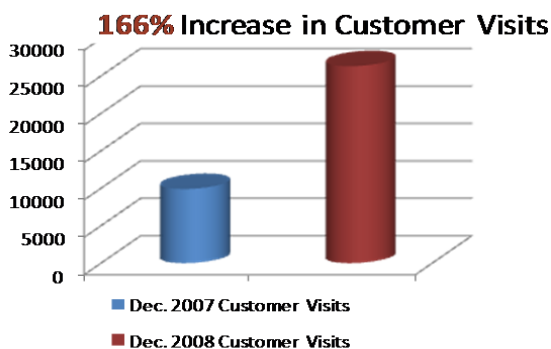
ITEMS OF NOTE -- February 2009

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FACTS & FIGURES

Combined Maricopa and Phoenix Workforce Connection One-Stop Career Centers experienced a **51%** increase in the number of customer visits during calendar year 2008 and experienced a **166%** increase in the number of customer visits in December 2008 alone.



NEWS & MEDIA

The Arizona Republic Highlights Local Workforce Situation —

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Excerpt from the January 21, 2009 edition written by Chad Graham.

“State workforce officials said the job losses of the past year have been among the worst they've ever seen. They're trying to help job seekers who've applied for dozens and dozens of positions only to find few interviews and even fewer offers.

Adding to the stress: Arizona ranks 48th in terms of weekly unemployment pay among states: a maximum of \$240 per week. Only Alabama and Mississippi pay less.

Patrick Burkhart, assistant director of workforce development for Maricopa County Human Services Department, said job seekers should have hope, but they also need to take action.

"People need to make it their goal to persist and find re-employment because those are the individuals who are eventually going to have success," he said.

This article is available online at: <http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/business/articles/2009/01/20/20090120biz-inauguration0121.html>

KPNX Features MWC Workshop *Where the Jobs Are* — *Where the Jobs Are*, a mini workshop for employment-ready job seekers, facilitated by the MWC Business Services Unit, launched in December and has been met with rave reviews from participants. This one hour workshop provides tips on how to apply for jobs, what's hot and what's not, and provides local job leads. This segment is available online at <http://www.azcentral.com/video/> search for the video titled "Job Search" tagged as "If you've been laid off and



Submitted by:

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Maricopa Workforce Connection's mission is to promote and facilitate strategic alliances among public and private stakeholders within the Maricopa County area to ensure workforce excellence and contribute to the economic vitality for area employers, incumbent workers and future workers. Funding for MWC services to local businesses and job seekers is primarily from WIA federal pass through dollars.

(more)

NEWS & MEDIA continued

KPNX & KNXV TV Feature Customizing Resumes to Meet Employer Needs — MWC Trainer, Layne Owens and one of her workshop participants were featured in a “Job Search Tuesday” feature on KPNX’s evening newscast on February 2, 2009. Discussions centered around how to customize resumes to demonstrate qualifications for available employment opportunities to garner an interview with a potential employer.



MWC and  were also featured in an ABC 15/KNXV-TV segment on the same topic which also aired the evening of February 2. The ABC segment is available online at <http://www.abc15.com/mediacenter/local.aspx?videoid=19295@knxv.dayport.com&navCatId=3>



MWC Featured on Jobing.com — On January 8, 2009, Maricopa Workforce Connections was the featured “Video of the Day” on Jobing.com, the 2nd most visited site in Arizona. The video featured all the job search resources available for local job seekers including youth and veterans. The video also highlighted the availability of the on-site accessibility lab for those with disabilities.



PARTNER ITEMS

Green Collar Career and Job Fair Expo 2009 — The Green Collar Career and Job Fair Expo 2009, held at the Travis L. Williams Family Service Center on January 7, registered 29 employers and attracted 350 job seekers. The event, “What is Green,” integrated “Green” employers and others recruiting for available openings. In addition to the opportunity to meet with employers with job openings, attendees could also have their resume critiqued. The line for critiquing was long and continuous throughout the event.



The Youth Breakout Session was managed by presenters from Mesa Community College, ASU, Green Mechanical Council, Gateway Community College, and Estrella Mountain Community College. Each presenter was given 10 minutes to talk about what Green educational certifications, degrees, training, etc. were offered.

Attendee Steve Temple, Vice President from TEAMS – Transitional Employment and Mentoring Services for ex-offenders was pleased with the willingness of the participating employers to consider potential applicants with felonies for employment.

UPS united with the Green theme. Alexander Cortez, UPS Human Resource Recruiter, delivered a Hybrid vehicle for attendees to see.

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES


Banner Releases 300+ Employees—Reverse Job Fairs Planned — Maricopa Workforce Connections and Phoenix Workforce Connection have partnered with more than 30 employers to assist 300+ soon-to-be dislocated Banner employees by coordinating job fairs scheduled for February 17 and 18. The Job Fairs will be held at both MWC One-Stop Career Centers for 4 hours on each day. The first two hours will be reserved for Banner employees and the latter two will be open for all One-Stop customers.

Come See Us in Action — Please call to schedule a visit of our Career Centers to engage with local job seekers and businesses, or join the MWC advisory board during a regularly scheduled bi-monthly meeting. Contact Patrick Burkhart, Assistant Director, Maricopa County Human Services Department (Phone: 602-506-4146 or e-mail: burkhartp@mail.maricopa.gov) to schedule an appointment or tour.

Upcoming Workforce Development events in Maricopa County include:

- Feb. 11 — Jobing.com Job Fair *MWC will provide resume review services during this event*
- Feb. 12 — MCCC Chandler-Gilbert Career Fair
- Feb. 17 — SHRM Advocacy Day
- Feb. 23 — Monster/DES mini-Career Fair *Healthcare*
- Feb. 23 — Monster Career Fair *Military/Veteran*

Details on these events and others are available online at: <http://www.maricopaworkforceconnection.com/careerseeker/jobfair.asp>



WIA Funding Fuels Grassroots Economic Growth

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Please visit the valley’s 2 MWC Career Centers. We’d enjoy showing you what we do!