

ITEMS OF NOTE -- January 2009

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#### FACTS & FIGURES

**Adequate Workforce Funding Needed/WIA Support** — Excerpts from a 10/31/08 letter from leading National Workforce Organizations to Senators Reid, Durbin, Byrd, Harkin, Kennedy and Murray ([http://www.nawdp.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Celebrate\\_Workforce\\_Development\\_Professionals\\_Month](http://www.nawdp.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Celebrate_Workforce_Development_Professionals_Month), view the letter by selecting the link provided in the 10/31/08 entry.)

— “Over 14 million workers annually receive assistance from our nation’s workforce system and these numbers are continuing to rise as the recession deepens. Unfortunately, our ability to assist those in need is limited by our funding constraints. Since FY 2001 funding for training and employment services has been cut by over \$1.7 billion, when adjusted for inflation, yet there are 4 million more workers unemployed today than in 2001.

“The Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Population Survey indicates that 2.5 million more American workers are unemployed today than at the beginning of this year. Along with those unemployed, 6.7 million workers can only find part time work when they would prefer to be employed full time, an increase of 2.3 million over the past year. In addition, the latest economic forecasts project unemployment will substantially worsen in the coming months.”

A 11/13/08 National Governors Association report *Economic Recovery: A Federal-State Partnership*, available online at <http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0811ECONOMICRECOVERY.PDF>, states, in part: “...To help stimulate our economy and get American back to work, workers must have access to training and education to secure family wage jobs in emerging and high-growth occupations. Congress could provide \$1.5 billion through the Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth Programs and Wagner-Peyser Act to help up-skill workers and provide employment services and supports that will increase worker employability and earning power. This countercyclical investment would immediately put training dollars into workforce systems, community and technical colleges and other training providers thereby lessening the need for institutional cut-backs and tax increases.

To ensure that enrollment in training is not impeded or delayed by rigid program eligibility criteria, Congress could remove sequence of service requirements in the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. Additionally, to ensure that federal funds are rapidly dispersed in states, Congress could repeal Section 191(A) of the Workforce Investment Act to give governors clear authority to quickly allocate federal funds as states economic conditions warrant. This would cost about \$1.5 billion.

#### 2008 MWC FACTS

MWC projects, based on current monthly data, more than 120,000 customer visits during FY 08-09

MWC aided 50 businesses with layoffs — more than 7,500 jobs eliminated

MWC helped over 200 businesses hire new staff

MWC lost \$3 million in federal funding -- the State of Arizona lost \$10 million due to a federal rescission and budget cuts.

MWC Operating Budget for FY08-09 = \$9.876 million

Average Benefit per MWC Customer Visit (assuming 120,000 visits) = \$82.30

(more)

[www.maricopaworkforceconnection.com](http://www.maricopaworkforceconnection.com)

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#### MISSION STATEMENT

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.

**Phoenix Business Journal Publisher Addresses MWC Board**

Don Henninger, Publisher of the *Phoenix Business Journal*, addressed the MWC Board on December 18, 2008. Mr. Henninger discussed the plight of the economy and how the business community reacted during the previous recession; the development of the Greater Phoenix Economic Council. He noted during times of crisis people and organizations tend to come together to meet goals collaborate for survival. However, after the crisis passes, lines are redrawn in the sand. It is the intention of MWC to strengthen partnerships and collaborate with public and private sectors to help Maricopa County rebound and sustain stability from this tough economic time. It, with the firm support and dedication from its board, does not intend to fade away when the economy stabilizes. MWC will maintain momentum and premier workforce development/economic development partner in the region.

**NBC Phone Bank and Streaming Resume Instruction Workshop** — Staff from Maricopa and Phoenix Workforce Connection teamed to answer calls from more than 125 job seekers during a KPNX Job Seeker Phone Bank conducted at the television studio. A business leader called, upon learning about the recruiting services these organizations provide and requested assistance finding candidates for 5 positions.



Following the phone bank, with the assistance of 12 News, MWC offered its first streaming workshop. MWC Trainer, Layne Owens, shared her expertise in developing a resume for today's employers. During the hour-long workshop she answered questions submitted via a KPNX coordinated chat area. The workshop is still available on-demand online at : <http://www.azcentral.com/12news/news/articles/2008/12/08/20081208workshop12082008-CR.html>.

**PARTNER ITEMS**

**Phoenix Workforce Connections' Celebrates 25 New Pharmacy Technicians** — A Youth Pharmacy Technician Completion Ceremony took place at Phoenix College on December 5, 2008. Twenty-five youth completed the program and approximately 120 guests were in attendance. The program, which is a partnership between Phoenix Workforce Connection, CVS Pharmacy, and Phoenix College, gives youth the opportunity to attend community college two days a week and work at CVS for three days. All youth attained the Pharmacy Technician Trainee License while employed at CVS Pharmacy. Approximately 12 youth have retained employment within the industry. The youth who have completed the program will take the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) test later this month.

**One-Stop Collaboration Expands One-Stop Employment Reach Through Faith- and Community-Based Organizations**

Phoenix Workforce Connection and Maricopa Workforce Connections are developing Shared Network Access Points (SNAPS). These nonfinancial partnerships with Faith- and Community-Based Organizations (FBCOs) are designed to help individuals obtain economic stability by providing opportunity, education and employment. By being a point of connectivity through SNAPS, MWC and PWC will expand the reach of services provided at local One-Stop Career Centers, and aid in the provision of access to a computer and an individual trained by the One-Stop Career Centers. These tools will aid job seekers in conducting a successful self-directed job search. The City of Phoenix's Workforce Connection Division is developing 10 SNAPS locations within the City of Phoenix; MWC has initiated more than 15 potential access points. February is the target for offering services to this initial group of FBCOs.

**EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES****Meet with Maricopa Workforce Connections' Leadership and Frontline Teams** —

Please be on the lookout for an invitation to a networking session after the first of the new year. MWC Board members, community partners and team members will host events at both MWC Career Centers so State legislators and legislative staff may become familiar with our program, our customers and the ways the community benefits from our services.

**Upcoming Workforce Development events in Maricopa County include:**

- Feb. 11 — Jobing.com Career Expo
- Feb. 23 — Mesa DES Employment Service/*East Valley Tribune* Mini Career Fair
- Feb. 23 — Monster Career Fair for Military/Veterans



**Gilbert Career Center**  
735 N. Gilbert Road, Ste. 134  
Gilbert, AZ 85234  
Tel: 480/497-0350  
TTY: 480/632-1910

**West Valley Career Center**  
1840 N. 95th Ave., Ste. 160  
Phoenix, AZ 85037  
Tel: 602/372-4200  
TTY: 602/372-4261

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

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