

ITEMS OF NOTE -- April 2009

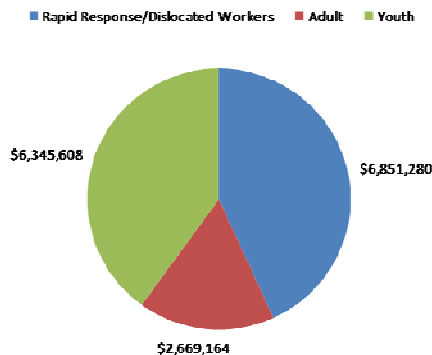
Beginning with this edition, this publication will be provided jointly from the WIA Local Workforce Investment Boards representing Maricopa County and the City of Phoenix.

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FACTS & FIGURES

MWC and PWC to Receive ARRA Funds — Combined, MWC and PWC expect to receive \$15,866,052 in ARRA Stimulus Funds. Meetings with the Department of Labor will be taking place later this month. Plans, aligned to regional economic development focus areas (renewable energy and healthcare), are being finalized. Highlights of WIA stimulus funding include: a large scale Summer Youth Employment Program for those 14-24 years of age, and preparing to serve a significantly higher number of WIA eligible customers.



Maricopa Human Capital Collaborative Formed — A group of workforce development entities in the Greater Phoenix Area have joined to form the Maricopa Human Capital Collaborative. The main purpose of this group is to leverage support for workforce development initiatives and to team to compete for \$750 million in available competitive grants. To date 7 groups are participating in the Collaborative: MWC, PWC, Arizona Call-A-Teen Youth Resources, Valley of the Sun United Way, Chicanos por la Causa, Inc., Friendly House and the Arizona Opportunities Industrialization Center.

Shortening Wait Time to See Career Guidance Specialists — As previously reported, MWC worked with the local Manufacturing Extension Project to map the front-end process at the County's One-Stop Career Centers. The goal was to identify ways to provide timely services to job seeking customers with current staff and resources. The resulting Front End Triage process is in effect in both County One-Stops and going smoothly. Even with the 120% increase in the number of customer visits over this time last year, Center staff has successfully cut several weeks of wait time for dislocated workers to less than one week — frequently the same day.

NEWS & MEDIA

April *Impact Magazine* Features Local ARRA Allocation — An excerpt: "One of the purposes of the stimulus package is to train workers for new jobs. Maricopa Workforce Connections (MWC) collaborates with state and community partners to develop local talent to meet the needs of local businesses. The organization is expected to receive \$7 million in stimulus funds, according to Patrick Burkhart, assistant director of [Maricopa County] Human Services in the Workforce Development Division." Burkhart is later quoted, "There is a heavy emphasis on providing clients with training opportunities and supporting related payments to they can get through the training." Read this entire article online at <http://www.phoenixchamber.com/Impact%20Magazine/pdf/April2009.pdf#page=8>



Submitted by:

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On behalf of: MWC Board Members

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On Behalf of PWC Board Members

Fred Lockhart, Executive Director,
 AZ Private School Assoc.

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

(more)

NEWS & MEDIA continued

MWC Joins Discussion of Financial Survival in Today's Economy — On March 23, 2009, KAET aired a panel discussion with financial experts to address today's important personal finance issues, including unemployment, debt and mortgage trouble. Panelists included: Patrick Burkhart, Maricopa County Human Services [MWC]; Jennifer Quillan, Assistant Director, Arizona Saves, a non-profit organization that provides money management education and assistance, and John Fisher, Chief Executive Officer, Take Charge America, a non-profit credit counseling and debt management agency. Visit <http://www.azpbs.org/arizonaexpert/financial.htm> to view this segment online.

KTAZ-TV/Telemundo Features GED Attainment as Key to Re-Employment — A local Job Seeker on was interviewed at the Gilbert One-Stop Career Center for an April 1, 2009 segment on the importance of earning a GED to compete in today's job market. The customer is not only taking GED classes at the Career Center, but taking advantage of other training and job search instruction as well. *This segment is not viewable online.*

PARTNER ITEMS

Phlebotomy Technicians in Training with Support from WIA — Phoenix College held a Phlebotomy Technician program orientation on March 2, 2009. Fourteen Phoenix Workforce Connections candidates were approved for participation. Training sessions started in march and are scheduled to be complete by June 30, 2009. The effort between PWC and Phoenix College was joined by the Greater Valley Arizona Healthcare Education Committee (GVAHEC) who coordinated and funded the fingerprinting of the candidates.



Training for In-Demand Sustainability and Green Technology — For the purpose of occupational program planning at Maricopa County Community College District

(MCCCD), green careers can be organized by broader, local industry segments that have been or will be most impacted by green initiatives. Those industries include: renewable energy; construction/building/ transportation and environmental services. As industries and jobs adjust to reflect a greater emphasis on sustainability, some will change very little, while others will be transformed completely. Many of today's existing workforce development programs already teach the majority of skills needed in the respective area and may only need to be modified to address new skill sets.

MCCCD is a key component of the Greater Phoenix workforce development system and is committed to providing the employer community with a supply of labor that facilitates economic growth. MCCCD currently offers many occupational programs that support sustainability and green technologies industry segments. These programs are continuously reviewed and modified to ensure relevancy to rapidly changing industry demands. The Maricopa system has a long history of providing a rapid response to emerging industry needs by marshaling the resources necessary for new program development, once sufficient employment demand is established. Visit <http://mcli.maricopa.edu/sustainability> to learn more about the MCCCD sustainability initiative.

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Change to Local Workforce Events — The large number of individuals needing employment and the limited numbers of opportunities available at these events has prompted a change in venue. Local job/career fairs are starting to change focus from employment opportunities to workforce development services, similar to those offered at One-Stop Career Centers. Though employers with opportunities will be a draw for job seekers MWC and PWC are working with local event coordinators to provide on-site workshops and other services of value to job seekers on a larger scale.

Upcoming Workforce Development events in Maricopa County include:

- April — On-site Recruitments are scheduled at MWC One-Stops.
Positions range from sales/administration to correctional officer.
- April 9 — Air Conditioning Contractors of America-AZ Chapter Tradeshow & Career Fair
- April 16 — Jobing.com Healthcare Job Fair
- April 20—Mesa DES Employment Service and East Valley Tribune (Law Enforcement)
- April 27—Phoenix Career Fair *Sponsored by National Career Fairs*
- April 27—PWC Dislocated Worker Workshop, South One-Stop Office (8:30 am 12:30 pm)


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





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