

ITEMS OF NOTE -- December 2009

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

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FACTS & FIGURES

Healthcare Incentive Funds Change Lives in Maricopa County — Maricopa Workforce Connections and Phoenix Workforce Connections (PWC) have again sponsored several students in Medical Assisting training at Phoenix College. Six of the thirteen students that graduated were sponsored by MWC and the remaining seven were sponsored by PWC. This is the 2nd Medical Assisting cohort, made possible by the Health Care Incentive dollars the County and City of Phoenix received again this program year. The cohort has successfully graduated 100% of the students that registered. The graduation ceremony was held at Phoenix College on November 24th and District 14 Senator Debbie McCune-Davis gave a brief keynote followed by a reception sponsored by GVAHEC (Greater Valley Area Health Education Center). The MA program required a 53 week commitment to classes, homework and study. The students are employees of four valley healthcare organizations (Clinica Adelante, Mountain Park Health, Maricopa Integrated Health Systems, and Native Health) who attended the program part-time while they worked full-time.



Each graduate had several family members in attendance at the graduation highlighting the need for family support in achieving this accomplishment. Funding for the students' tuition, books, and other expenses was shared by several partners including Maricopa Workforce Connections, Phoenix Workforce Connection, Greater Valley Area Health Education Center, and the students' employers.

Submitted by:

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On behalf of: MWC Board Members

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Department, City of Phoenix

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Assistant to the City Manager
Hope VI Project, City of Phoenix

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

NEWS & MEDIA

Job centers want more federal money — (Excerpt from Nov. 19, 2009 azcentral.com article) "Overwhelmed by the number of unemployed, local job center managers say they will need more federal stimulus funding. Maricopa County "One-Stop" Workforce Centers estimate they'll serve 160,000 job seekers this year. That's double the traffic they had just two years ago. The centers' budgets have also doubled with the injection of nearly \$8 million in federal stimulus money this summer. More than \$40 million was distributed statewide. However, workforce managers say the funding will run out long before the need for job placement help. ..."We spent our entire summer writing grant proposals, and we are very very hopeful that in the next couple of months that we've won the grant proposals," said Burkhart [assistant director of human services for Maricopa County Workforce Development].



This article and is available online at <http://www.azcentral.com/12news/news/articles/2009/11/19/20091119stimulusworkforce11192009-CR.html>, a link to the video segment is provided.

(more)

Free county program aids job seekers — Every Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m., The Arizona Republic conducts a live jobs chat at money.azcentral.com. Here is part one of excerpts from last week's event with Patrick Burkhart, administrator of the Maricopa County Workforce Connections Program. <http://www.azcentral.com/business/articles/2009/11/24/20091124career-chat1125.html>

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

PARTNER ITEMS

Women's job help organization swamped with requests — A November 10, 2009 article in *The Arizona Republic* highlighted the overwhelming number of customers requesting assistance from Arizona Women's Education and Employment (AWEE). So far this year AWEE has received requests from 12,000 people for assistance compared to 8,000 last year. Journalist Betty Beard wrote:



"For more than 28 years the organization has been helping women and men prepare for the workforce, particularly homemakers, ex offenders and veterans. "If we can get people focused and engaged and committed to turn looking into a fulltime job, a job, they can find a job. I can guarantee it," said Marie Sullivan, president and CEO of AWEE. She said the organization is not only seeing its traditional clientele, such as homeless people who talk of looking for the right bush to sleep under so they feel safe, but more older people and others who are "out of the box." This article is available online at <http://www.azcentral.com/business/news/articles/2009/11/10/20091110biz-awee1111.html>

MWC Welcomes New Youth Council Chair and Members — As the new Chair for MWC's Youth Council, Tony Maldonado lead his first official meeting November 19, 2009. He welcomed 2 new members – a former WIA participant, Kaci McCutchen and her mother, Sheryl McCutchen. At the age of 14 Kaci was a WIA beneficiary of WIA services sponsored by the Arizona Governor's Council. She was also involved in the first Producing Leaders of Tomorrow (PLOT) camp. Keri continues active volunteerism. Her mother, Sheryl has supported her in her endeavors and is personally involved in programs such as AWEE. PLOT is a County operated program which may cease operation in 2010 due to lack of available funding.

MWC Advocacy Task Force Expands — Rodney Pack, Program Manager, Arizona Pipe Trades Joint Apprenticeship; Benjamin Serio, Senior Human Resource Business Partner, Amazon.com; and Rick McCartney, President, Media Publishers Group joined the MWC Advocacy Task Force to share their expertise with the group and to become more involved in informing the business community and legislative entities about MWC/WIA activities and initiatives.

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Greenbuild Job Fair with City of Phoenix—MWC Trainer, Justin Jones presented Resume Instruction to job seekers attending the Greenbuild Job Fair at the Phoenix Convention Center on November 10, 2009. Hundreds of job seekers attended this national event which was tied to several days of green information and awareness presentations and community events.



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

MWC and Maricopa County Library District Partner to Help Mutual Customers

MWC and the Maricopa County Library District partner to bring *Sizzling Resumes: How to Hook the Employer* to additional job seekers. The Sun City Branch Library and the Ed Robson Branch Library (Sun Lakes) will each host a workshop on December 4, 2009 from 10 a.m.—noon.

The news release quotes MWC Training and Assessment Supervisor, "Attendees will learn how to prepare a distinctive, effective resume that lays the foundation for job interview and about the variety of employment resources offered through local Workforce Connections.. There are many people out there looking for employment who need an edge toward getting their foot in the door. We can help them get started."



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

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