

This publication is provided jointly from the WIA Local Workforce Investment Boards representing Maricopa County and the City of Phoenix. Previous editions of *Items of Note* are available online [here](#).

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#### *One Voice: Arizona WIB chairs on vital workforce development funding*

Arizona Workforce Connection is under threat of drastic cuts in federal funding. Such cuts would severely cripple Arizona's economic recovery and would render virtually meaningless all of the efforts undertaken by the governor and the State Legislature to induce companies to grow within and relocate to the state.

Without a sustained and well resourced program like Arizona Workforce Connection, the qualified and certified talent base, so vitally needed to fuel Arizona's growth, will simply fail to materialize.

As Workforce Investment Board chairpersons from across the state of Arizona, we acknowledge the difficult choices that Congress must make in the coming weeks. We urge the members of Congress not to sacrifice the seed corn of economic recovery that Workforce Investment Act programs provide businesses across the state and throughout the nation. Select this hyperlink to read the entire editorial: [Vital to protect worker training](#) March 16, 2010

#### FACTS & FIGURES

WIA success stories included on national Website: [WorkforceInvestmentWorks](#) MWC and PWC successfully assisted Power-One, Home Depot, D-One, and a small mail and print shop...among others; matching the employers with qualified job seekers. The diverse employer needs ranged from sales professionals to a human resource director (who recruited for hundreds of other positions through the One-Stop system).

#### WIA in a community hit hard (2010): MWC stats

- 147,000 customer visits to 2 Career Centers and satellite offices
- 2,500 adults and youth were assisted in discovering aptitudes, vocational interests, work values and transferrable skills through in-depth assessments
- 22,000+ job seekers attended more than 1,200 offered workshops from job search tips to interviewing techniques
- Nearly 4,000 youth and adults were provided with case management services (job coaching, guidance and encouragement)
- 1,600+ individuals received financial support for education and training to re-career or upgrade their skills to be more competitive in the job market
- More than 40 on-site recruitments by local employers seeking talent
- Assisting employers in filling more than 950 positions, including more than 300 seasonal jobs

#### NEWS & MEDIA includes PARTNER ITEMS

[Good Jobs With...Global connections](#) By David Profitt (03/27/11) — Excerpt: For local economies, an emphasis on exporting goods and services also creates more jobs as smaller firms spring up to supply products and services for larger companies. Their workers also support local businesses. "Those are the kinds of things that are going to provide long-term, sustainable growth... (and) build wealth within the region," says Patrick Burkhart, director of Maricopa County's Workforce Connections jobs program. ...Many government programs also exist to help people identify and pay for training that will help candidates prepare for and land a new job, Burkhart says. The key is to develop a plan that bridges the gap between your current skills and the job you want in the future, he adds.

[School could help job seekers](#) By Jahna Berry (03/27/11) — Excerpt: A little extra education, whether it's a management course or a certificate from a trade school, can help a job seeker land an interview or propel workers up the career ladder. ..."It's important to understand what your skills, aptitudes and interests are before making a decision about investing in training," said Patrick Burkhart, who helps oversee Maricopa County's Workforce Development Division. ...The statewide network of workforce-development programs, which include Maricopa Workforce Connections and Phoenix Workforce Connection, offer these assessments for free. The programs often have access to funds to help pay for training. ..."The goal...is not to leap onto training because it's the next best thing, but because it makes sense in where you want to go next," Wolf-Francis added [Mary Wolf-Francis is a PWC business liaison.]

#### Submitted by:

Greta Suda, Chair, MWC Advocacy Task Force  
Assistant Vice President, 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

Rodney Pack, Program Manager  
Arizona Pipe Trades Joint Apprenticeship

Benjamin Serio, Human Resources Manager  
Amazon.com

Shelie Frey  
Private Sector Representative

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

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

**THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC**

**Green-industry training for job seekers offered — Grant lets agencies prep workers for energy**

**field** By Michelle Ye Hee Lee, *The Arizona Republic* (03/13/11) — Excerpt: Three agencies in central Arizona received about half of a \$6 million federal grant the state was awarded to run the State Energy Sector Partnership program. The goal of the program is twofold: to provide job opportunities for Arizonans and to help expand the state's energy industry. Maricopa Workforce Connections also is looking for green employers to participate in the program. ..."One of the bright spots in terms of near-term economic recovery for Arizona is in the manufacturing sector, and a very significant subset of that manufacturing is going to be in the solar arena," said Patrick Burkhart, assistant director for Maricopa Workforce Connections, one of three agencies running the program in central Arizona.



*Maricopa Workforce Connections worked with Chandler City staff to coordinate an event for Mayor Tibshraeny. The Friday before the job fair MWC staff reviewed resumes for more than 140 residents planning to attend the event. Resume reviews took place at an MWC Access Point, the Chandler City Library. During the event MWC staff provided WIA and One-Stop information to attendees. Justin Jones, MWC Trainer, presented a workshop on conducting a job search in today's competitive market.*



**Chandler schedules first-ever job fair** By Edythe Jensen, *The Arizona Republic* (03/12/11) — Excerpt: "The mayor has recognized a fundamental need in his community, and the steps that he is taking are unique," said Curtis Shaw, program manager for Maricopa Workforce Connection[s] in Phoenix.



**Chandler recruits companies searching for workers** By Edythe Jensen, *The Arizona Republic* (03/25/11) — This article highlighted the upcoming job fair and the pre-event resume reviews which took place at the Chandler Public Library, a MWC Access Point.



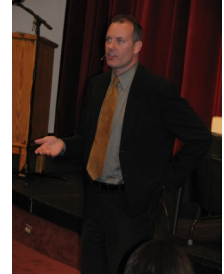
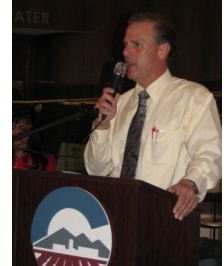
**Chandler recruits companies searching for workers. Mayor is confident employers will have openings for workers.** By Edythe Jensen, *The Arizona Republic* (03/25/11) — Excerpt: The first city-sponsored job fair in Chandler history has grown beyond planners' expectations. About 60 companies, government agencies and non-profits signed up for Tuesday's event - nearly as many as attended the regional Career Expo at the Arizona state fairgrounds in Phoenix earlier this week. Called Chandler Career Connect, the 4 to 9 p.m. free job fair is at Chandler Center for the Arts, 250 N. Arizona Ave. Mayor Jay Tibshraeny is touting the event as his response to residents' needs and a sign more companies are hiring. ...The evening job fair is co-hosted by the Maricopa Workforce Connection[s] and the Arizona Department of Economic Security. No city money was spent on the event, which is funded by 21 corporate sponsors, Tibshraeny said. *Ms. Jenson prepared a wrap-up article regarding the event: [Job-seekers swarm to Chandler's inaugural job fair](#), noting the success of the effort.*



**Chandler hosting Valleywide job fair** *East Valley Tribune* (3/24/11) — Excerpt: Chandler is hosting a Valleywide job fair Tuesday, along with a Friday resume review to prepare job-seekers in advance of the main event. ...volunteers from the Maricopa Workforce Connections will review resumes from noon to 4 p.m. at the Downtown Chandler Library, 22. S. Delaware. Experts will give tips on how job-seekers can improve their chances and help ready people for on-the-spot interviews at the job fair.



**Chandler brings employers, job seekers together** *City of Chandler Insider* (03/19/11) —Submitted by the Communications and Public Affairs Department. This article highlights MWC's involvement in sponsoring the March job fair and the resume review assistance preceding the event. A summary of "Job search Boot Camp: Job Seeking Skills Needed in Today's Job Market," a workshop offered at the event by MWC's Trainer, Justin Jones, was featured along with his photo. *This article does not appear online.*





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**EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES**

**Congress staffer visits PWC One-Stop** — Mr. James Ashley from Congressman Quayle's office visited the Phoenix Workforce Connection north office on March 10, 2011. Phoenix Workforce Connection Board Chair Michael Fisher, One-Stop Supervisor Esther Atempa, and One-Stop Coordinator Stan Flowers provided a tour and information regarding how U.S. Department of Labor Workforce Investment Act funds are helping our business and job seeker communities to connect with one another.

**National Workforce Day of Action** — PWC sent letters to the Arizona Congressional Delegation with local offices inviting them to tour our One-Stop offices. MWC Board members were provided information on the current state of workforce issues and were encouraged to independently contact their Congressional Delegation.

*MWC and PWC focus on increasing the wealth of individuals, businesses, and the community by identifying labor market needs to develop effective, innovative responses to meet the ever changing industry demands.*



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