

ITEMS OF NOTE -- January 2010

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

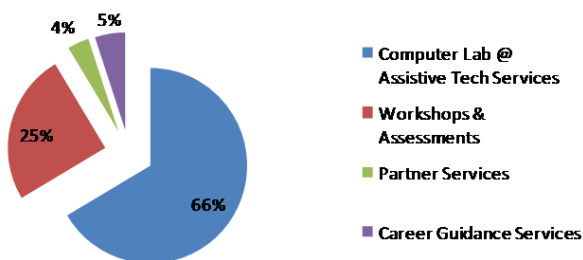
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FACTS & FIGURES

Job Seeker WIA Utilization — The Workforce Investment Act provides a myriad of job seeker services to the growing number of unemployed in Greater Phoenix. The computer lab and assistive technology services are most highly used (66%). The workshops and assessments are tapped by 25 percent of career seeking customers. The percentage of individuals receiving case managed assistance via MWC Career Guidance Specialists or Partner organizations is representative of only 11% of utilization; however, this percentage represents more than 5,000 individuals receiving one-on-one job search/readiness assistance!

WIA Utilization July through Dec. 2009



Submitted by:

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On behalf of: MWC Board Members

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On Behalf of PWC Board Members

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AZ Private School Assoc.

Cynthia Spell, Deputy Director
Community and Economic Development
Department, City of Phoenix

Dee Wheeler-Cronin,
Assistant to the City Manager
Hope VI Project, City of Phoenix

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

NEWS & MEDIA

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

How 'one stop' career centers work

by Chad Graham—Nov. 29, 2009, *The Arizona Republic*

What are the popular questions of MWC customers? *The Arizona Republic* prepared a Q & A format article designed to answer MWC job seeker questions about accessing ARRA/WIA training dollars and One-Stop services: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2009/11/29/20091129stim-biz-jobdevelopment1129qanda.html>

Unemployed adults, youths are helped

by Chad Graham and Alex Bloom—Nov. 29, 2009, *The Arizona Republic*

Excerpt: "This spring, officials scrambled to devise a plan to quickly spend federal stimulus funds given to help jobless Arizonans, particularly those who were low-income and had limited professional skills. The state received nearly \$43 million through the U.S. Department of Labor. In Maricopa County, Maricopa Workforce Connections and Phoenix Workforce Connection got almost \$16 million of that.

The job agencies earmarked the money to help adult job seekers and pay for summer jobs for workers ages 14 to 24. More than 1,600 young people were helped in both summer and year-round programs. By fall, more than 700 adults had finished or were enrolled in training in fields such as health care, information technology or green technology.

"Ultimately, direct aid will go only to a few thousand people. Thousands more will benefit from the agencies' continuing programs, many supported by stimulus dollars." Thomas O'Hayer a Baby Boomer from Mesa tells his story about being laid off and how MWC is helping him regain hope and strategize his job search.

<http://www.azcentral.com/business/news/articles/2009/11/29/20091129stim-biz-jobdevelopment1129intro.html>

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC **Avondale forum produces ideas on economic recovery** Cash flow needed, participants say; report will go to White House

by David Madrid—Dec. 12, 2009, *The Arizona Republic*

Excerpt: "A forum in Avondale designed to gather local input about job creation for President Barack Obama determined a lack of access to capital is the biggest problem facing businesses. Wednesday's forum at City Hall drew entrepreneurs and people in small business, higher education, social services and local government.

Kevin Berry, with Maricopa Workforce Connections, stressed the importance of education. He said potential employers look at the education system in the areas they consider locating in. Those employers are looking for educated employees and good schools, he said." <http://www.azcentral.com/community/swvalley/articles/2009/12/11/20091211swv-avonobamajobs1212.html>

Latino Perspectives magazine

Plan B: From Career to Hourly Job(s)

By Rosa Cays — January 2010, *Latino Perspectives Magazine*

This article highlights MWC customer Louis Lagunas' struggle with today's economy and limited employment opportunities. Excerpt: "Pamela Roberts, a training specialist with Workforce Connection[s], says people can easily get caught up in the mire of job searching and in turn get easily discouraged. "You really need to focus your efforts to not feel defeated," says Roberts, "and you waste less time this way."

Headhunters: rip-off or payoff? Employment agencies abound, but what's right for you?

By Rosa Cays— December 2009, *Latino Perspectives Magazine*

Excerpt: "...Privately owned employment agencies far outnumber the nonprofit agencies, but it's good to know they're out there. Arizonans can look for jobs or employees via the Department of Commerce's Arizona Workforce Connection, or by county at Maricopa Workforce Connection. The City of Phoenix offers employment services through Phoenix Workforce Connection (PWC), a nonprofit that works with job seekers as well as for-profit businesses at no cost to either.

"Placement agencies do just that: place permanent employees. A good one will take time to get to know you and not assume your skills and experience based on your last job title. Esther Atempa, site supervisor of Phoenix Workforce Connection says, "You should look for an agency that will take the time to assess all your skills, experience and education; these skills could match a job in another field you had no idea existed." <http://www.latinopm.com/Latino-Perspectives-Magazine/December-2009/Headhunters-rip-off-or-payoff/>



Loss of stimulus cash hurts jobless

COBRA health insurance getting more expensive for the unemployed.

Check out the segment online at: <http://www.azcentral.com/video/53307877001>



PARTNER ITEMS

Automation Technology Program Launches this Spring at Maricopa Colleges — The inter-relation of Automation, robotics, and manufacturing is often taught at the community colleges. However, in the Spring of 2010, Gateway Community College and Mesa Community College will begin offering Certificates of Completion and an Associate in Applied Sciences in Automation Technology. Why a program that focuses on Automation? "When we surveyed the employers in the valley, many of them were looking to find ways to automate their process, making them leaner and agile in a difficult economy," said Thomas Reyman of Mesa Community College.

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES



Phoenix Workforce Connection will be represented at the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) annual forum

by Community and Economic Development Director Donald L. Maxwell and the Board's Vice-Chair, Julie Armstrong. This year's theme is "Preparing a Competitive U.S. Workforce - Reflection, Reinvestment, Recovery." This annual forum provides workforce board members opportunities to engage in facilitated discussions in which peers share promising practices and innovative workforce solutions. The conference will be held in Washington, D.C. March 6-9, 2010.

JOB FAIR

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

2PM - 6PM

University of Phoenix Stadium

JOB SEEKERS: Learn More & Register Online
Top 5 Reasons to Attend
Workshops - Employers Attending

EMPLOYERS: Learn More & Register

Job Career Expo



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



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