

ITEMS OF NOTE -- March 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

Elimination of ABE & GED Testing will hurt AZ's future workforce

Submitted by:

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Arizona Governor Brewer has recommended that funding for adult education including GED testing be eliminated, effective January 2010. This has resounding ramifications to students in Maricopa County and across Arizona. This would mean that:

- If state funding for Adult Education and GED testing is eliminated, Arizona will also lose all federal funding for Adult Education— an additional **11 million dollars**.
- Although the cost for GED testing is partially supported by testing fees, the elimination of state funding would mean the end of GED testing. **About one in five of all high school diplomas issued in Arizona in 2008 was a GED diploma.**
- During program year 2008/9, over **42,000 adults** were served by Adult Education Programs and GED testing.
- There are currently about 800,000 adults in Arizona without a high school credential, which makes it nearly impossible to get a job or receive further training.
- The 5,556 individuals aged 16-21 enrolled last year in Adult Education Programs would have cost **\$36,114,000** (based on \$6,500 per student in high school enrollment), had they been enrolled in high school.
- Individuals with a high school diploma earn on average **\$8,000 more per year than those without a diploma**. This translates into millions of dollars in revenue which goes immediately to our state.
- Annually, **only 2% of our nation's workforce comes out of the K-12 system**; the remaining 98% are adults. Thus, the greatest immediate impact on our workforce comes from adult learners.
- The average high school dropout in Arizona (18-64) received \$352 more in the form of government transfer benefits and costs than they paid, while a **high school/GED diploma holder contributed \$5,173 more to the budgets of state, federal, and local governments.** (Continued on page 2)

Submitted by:

Greta Suda, Chair, MWC Advocacy Task Force
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On behalf of: MWC Board Members

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On Behalf of PWC Board Members

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

FACTS & FIGURES — Elimination of ABE & GED testing will hurt AZ's future workforce, cont.

These facts highlight the huge need for adult education programs and GED testing in the state of Arizona, as well as some of the benefits. Individuals benefiting from these services represent the most vulnerable and hardest to serve population in the state. They already experience extreme difficulty in obtaining employment, even if they do have a GED diploma. Imagine how much that will be magnified if they lose this educational opportunity.

Arizona is one of the states hardest hit by the recession, as represented by loss of jobs, unemployment rate and home foreclosures. The elimination of basic educational opportunities for adults will hinder many residents in Maricopa County and throughout Arizona in their effort to obtain self-sufficiency for themselves and their families.

NEWS & MEDIA

Jobs 911: Is Legislature doing enough? — MWC's Justin Jones, presenting the job search workshop "Job Search in the 21st Century", is pictured and Josh Johnson, one of his workshop attendees provides, a moving comment about his job loss situation. View this informative segment at <http://www.azcentral.com/video/#/Jobs%20911%3A%20Is%20Legislature%20doing%20enough%3F/66210590001>



Phoenix green-jobs training program touted

by Scott Wong, Feb. 17, 2010, The Arizona Republic

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Excerpt: U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis on Wednesday pointed to a green-jobs training program in Phoenix as evidence that the federal stimulus program is putting people back to work while improving the environment.

She also defended Arizona congressional Democrats for voting for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which President Barack Obama signed into law a year ago. "If it wasn't for their vote for the stimulus act, you wouldn't see programs like these," Solis said at a central Phoenix construction site where about 20 troubled youths were renovating an office project. View this article in its entirety online at: <http://www.azcentral.com/community/ahwatukee/articles/2010/02/17/20100217labor-secretary-in-phoenix.html>

Labor Secretary Solis visits Valley

by Catherine Holland, Feb. 17, 2010



PHOENIX -- On this, the anniversary of the passage of the federal stimulus bill, U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda L. Solis visited Phoenix. Bruce Haffner stopped by Labor's Community Service Agency, where YouthBuild students in Phoenix are using green construction skills to retrofit the building. This news segment is available online at: <http://www.azfamily.com/home/related/Labor-Secretary-Solis-visits-Valley-84609512.html>



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PARTNER ITEMS

New on-site partner in MWC's West Valley Career Center —

The Arizona Center for Responsible Fatherhood is becoming a partner at the West Valley Career center. ACRF promotes good parenting practices and encourages fathers and expectant fathers to become actively involved in their children's lives. ACRF provides Responsible Parenting and Economic Stability sessions and assists fathers in establishing paternity, modifying child support orders, and obtaining and retaining employment. Services are provided at no cost to fathers.



EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Gilbert One-Stop hosts McCain Staffer —

Senator McCain's aid, Brandon Ashley (on the left in accompanying picture with Patrick Burkhardt), visited the Maricopa Workforce Connections' Gilbert Career Center on February 16. Brandon inquired about issues encountered working within WIA and operating One-Stop Career Centers. Senator McCain sits on the subcommittee charged with determining WIA reauthorization. Those present provided Brandon with a wealth of information regarding the program, differences in urban and rural settings, performance measures, funding limitations and leveraging of regional partnerships.



Brandon stated that in his research regarding One-Stop Centers, Maricopa County had been given as an outstanding example to lead by and that was one of the reasons he was interested in visiting the Center. Brandon also visited a DES/City of Phoenix One-Stop that afternoon.



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www.phoenix.gov/PHXWIN/

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