

ITEMS OF NOTE -- November 2008

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**FACTS AND FIGURES**

**IONs Now Available Online** — <http://www.maricopaworkforceconnection.com/mwcboard/ION%20Home%20Page%202008.asp>

**WESTMARC Labor Market Study** – Fifteen west valley communities representing 35% of Maricopa County and 3 of the 10 most populated cities in Arizona, formed a consortium, WESTMARC, to better understand their region and to promote its growth and development. WESTMARC engaged ERISS Corp. and Advanced Workforce Systems to prepare a comprehensive labor market analysis of the region. The analysis, conducted in October 2008, involved more than 1,000 west valley businesses with 20 or more employees and a detailed review of available government information. Findings include:

- Most industries expect employment growth over the next 12 months
- High-quality new employees are general easy to find
- Changing labor market puts high value on training and higher education
- Growth seen in health services, transportation/utilities, construction and non-store retailing

A WESTMARC news release with additional information is available online at <http://www.westmarc.org/files/pressrelease/WESTMARC-Work-Force-Labor-Market-Press-Release-11-06-08.pdf>.

**NEWS & MEDIA**

**Getting Back Into the Workforce** — Maricopa Workforce Connections again provided job search assistance to those seeking employment in today's tough economy, especially those returning to the workforce from retirement or victims of reductions in force. View this NBC segment online at: <http://www.azcentral.com/video/>, search for "Re-entering the Workforce".



**Job Fair Offers Hope to Youth** — By Melissa Gonzalo, 12 News - Oct. 29, 2008



02:21 PM — Hundreds of youth, ages 16 to 24, showed up at Job Corps in downtown Phoenix to look for a job Wednesday afternoon. Che Collins [MWC Board Member] with Job Corps organized the job fair. It was a larger turnout than expected. She said 25 employers showed up, 19 of which, were hiring. Collins said it's difficult for these young people to find jobs in today's workforce. They're competing with older, more experienced candidates who have been recently laid off from their jobs. But Shannon Smith of Maricopa Workforce Connections said young people, at the same time, are at an advantage because they don't demand as much pay as someone with more experience and a degree. View this video online <http://www.azcentral.com/12news/news/articles/2008/10/29/20081029teenjobfair10292008-CR.html>

**Submitted by:**

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

Maricopa Workforce Connection's mission is to promote and facilitate strategic alliances among public and private stakeholders within the Maricopa County area to ensure workforce excellence and contribute to the economic vitality for area employers, incumbent workers and future workers. Funding for MWC services to local businesses and job seekers is primarily from WIA federal pass through dollars.

(more)

**PARTNER ITEMS**

**Rotary Scholarships Helping Many WIA Participants** — To date eight (8) Workforce Investment Act participants have benefitted from MWC's partnership with The Rotary Vocational Fund of Arizona (TRVFA) since its establishment only 3 months ago. This non-profit organization has contributed more than \$15,738 to vocational training in three industries: medical, dental and technology. In addition, TRVFA increased the maximum Fund scholarship amount from \$2,000 to \$3,000 since August.

WIA participant, Rachele May, recently received \$2,000 towards dental assistant training at Pima Medical Institute.



Rotary representative, Jim Patemos with Rachele May.



May family and MWC's Janis Mueller.

**WIA Youth Partner Celebrates 1st GED Graduates** — Las Artes is a YMCA program which operates in partnership with PSA Art Awakenings and Maricopa Workforce Connections. Las Artes' is designed to assist WIA eligible out of school youth ages 16-21. Its target participants are high school dropouts or are involved in the criminal just system. This unique program includes a variety of options for individuals to improve their education level, skill competencies and to obtain connections to potential employers. Overall instruction incorporates life skill training, career exploration and money management. The program started in Nov. 2007 with 3 students and now totals 61.



Thirty (30) students received GEDs during Las Artes de Maricopa Graduation Ceremony October 17, 2008 at the YMCA Early Care and Education Center, the old Maryvale Library. Maricopa . Class Valedictorian, Garrett Trego, earned a perfect one of his GED tests.



County Supervisor, Mary Rose Wilcox, delivered the Commencement Address.

Las Artes de Maricopa youth participants create mosaic art projects such as memorials and road signs for government departments and private sector contractors generating revenue for the program.

This mosaic mural, is Las Artes' first commissioned piece. It is on display at the Maryvale YMCA (4380 N. 51st Ave., Phoenix, AZ).



**How to Pay for College?** — Beginning this month, Maricopa Community Colleges will facilitate weekly workshops at MWC Career Centers featuring ways to pay for a college education. The workshop will educate participants on the differences between loans, grants and scholarships as well as an overview of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the process to apply will be provided.



**EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES**

**Where the Jobs Are** — A new job seeker workshop, "Where the Jobs Are" will be facilitated 3 times weekly, at MWC Career Centers, by MWC Business Account Coordinators, beginning in November. This workshop will to provide specific information to job seekers on what industries are growing, available positions and how to apply.

**Come See Us in Action** — You are welcome to visit our Career Centers to engage with residents and local businesses or join us at upcoming job fairs and the MWC advisory board during a regularly scheduled bi-monthly meetings. Please contact Patrick Burkhart, Assistant Director, Maricopa County Human Services Department (Phone: 602-506-4146 or e-mail: burkhartp@mail.maricopa.gov) to schedule a visit.

**Upcoming Workforce Development events in Maricopa County include:**

- Nov. 6 — Jobing.com Healthcare Job Fair
- Nov. 12-25 — Virtual Career Fair, *East Valley Tribune.com* and *Monster.com*
- Nov. 15 — Law Enforcement Job Fair, *Arizona Workforce Connection* & *East Valley Tribune*
- Dec. 8 — General Job Fair, *Arizona Workforce Connection* and *East Valley Tribune*
- Dec. 11 — Recruit Military Career Fair

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



**Gilbert Career Center**  
 735 N. Gilbert Road, Ste. 134  
 Gilbert, AZ 85234  
 Tel: 480/497-0350  
 TTY: 480/632-1910

**West Valley Career Center**  
 1840 N. 95th Ave., Ste. 160  
 Phoenix, AZ 85037  
 Tel: 602/372-4200  
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*Please visit the valley's 2 MWC Career Centers. We'd enjoy showing you what we do!*