

ITEMS OF NOTE -- October 2008

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### FACTS AND FIGURES

**Number of Job Seekers Seeking MWC Assistance Doubles** — Maricopa Workforce Connections Career Centers are seeing twice (2x) the number of job seeking customers on a monthly basis than were seen just one year ago.

In July and August alone there were 25,745 visits to MWC Career Centers. During program Year 2007-08 (July 1, 2007 to June 31, 2008), 8,843 new customers visited the Career Centers. In the first 60 days of PY 08-09 more than 2,060 new customers came to MWC Career Centers seeking employment assistance.

MWC services are designed to assist all job seekers, with an emphasis on: low-income families and youth; persons with disabilities; homeless persons; mature workers and veterans (including spouses).

**Study Shows Job Seekers Outnumber Openings by Almost 3-to-1** — There are more than six million more job seekers than job openings nationwide — an average of 2.9 unemployed workers per available job — according to researchers at the Economic Policy Institute in Washington, D.C.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics released data Tuesday showing there were 3.3 million job openings nationwide in August, well below the number of unemployed workers, which stood at 9.4 million. *Excerpt from: Sacramento Business Journal, <http://sanjose.bizjournals.com/sacramento/stories/2008/10/06/daily36.html>*

### NEWS & MEDIA

**NBC 12 News Job Seeker Phone Bank** — Maricopa Workforce Connections staff answered state-wide job seeker questions during a 2 hour phone bank hosted by the local NBC affiliate on Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2008. Approximately 180 calls were answered during the 2-hour period. MWC staff was interviewed about Center Services for job seekers and services specific to our veteran population.



[View an online segment at: http://www.azcentral.com/12news/](http://www.azcentral.com/12news/); search for "Hot spots for tech talent." A second interview, featuring veterans services, which aired during the following 6 a.m. hour, was not posted on 12 News' Website.

**2008 East Valley Career Expo** — Local broadcast outlets effectively informed job seekers of the opportunity posed by the 2008 East Valley Career Expo. The Expo was coordinated by Maricopa Workforce Connections in collaboration with the Arizona Employer's Advisory Council and Jobing.com. More than 3,300 job seekers attended the Expo to sell their skills, abilities and talents to 100+ on-site employers.

(more)

#### Submitted by:

Greta Suda, Chair, MWC Advocacy Task Force  
Assistant General Manager, Jobing.com

#### On behalf of:

Katharine Levandowsky  
Co-chair, MWC Advocacy Task Force  
Administrator, Arizona Dept. of Economic Security  
Rehabilitation Administration

Vania Black, Vice President  
Organization Development Televerde

John Garza, Manager  
AA/EEO Compliance Programs  
Arizona Public Service Company

Trish Georgelf, Acting Director,  
Human Services Department, Maricopa County

Tina Huff, Executive Director  
Human Resources, Pro's Ranch Markets

Karen Poole, Associate Director  
Center for Workforce Development  
Maricopa Community Colleges



#### 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.

**NEWS & MEDIA continued**

**East Valley Career Expo continued**

Youth volunteers from Arizona Project ChalleNGe and Phoenix Job Corps facilitated parking, set up, teardown and other assignments during the day's events.



**PARTNER ITEMS**

**Local Workforce Investment Groups Held Private Industry Networking Event**



Board members and staff leadership from Maricopa Workforce Connections and Phoenix Workforce Connection were joined by business professionals for a networking event on September 30. During the 2-hour event, Board Chairs and senior leadership highlighted the plight of the current economic system and its affect on the local economy, encouraged businesses to engage with the local workforce system and explained the vital WIA funded services available to assist them in finding qualified employees. Collaboration between private industry and government was featured as a strategy to making it through this difficult time.

Leaders and human resource professionals representing diverse segments of the business community were in attendance. Industries represented included, but are not limited to, the aircraft, healthcare, janitorial, electrical and publishing industries. Community-based organizations were also in attendance. Following presentations from leadership, attendees had an opportunity to talk one-on-one with area workforce professionals about concrete ways to partner to achieve success in employing qualified talent and reducing the number of people receiving federal assistance.

**Job Fair for Veterans**— Maricopa Workforce Connections partnered with Recruit Military, during its Oct. 2, 2008 job fair at



the University of Phoenix Stadium, to inform veterans of the comprehensive veterans services available at the MWC Elijah Wong Veterans Services Center. MWC representatives informed veterans of the assistance available to access many state and federal programs available to veterans, links to housing and other immediate transitional services and the one-on-one vocational assistance provided. More than 500 area veterans and

transitioning personnel attended this event.



**EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES**

**An Invitation** — Our doors are open: you are invited to engage with residents and local businesses at upcoming job fairs and the MWC advisory board during regularly scheduled bi-monthly meetings. Please contact Patrick Burkhardt, 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:**

- Oct. 15 — Jobing.com Job Fair
- Oct. 16 — Monster.com Job Fair
- Oct. 20 — Arizona Workforce Connection & East Valley Tribune Job Fair
- Oct. 24 — All Professions Cultural Diversity Job Fair-Arizona Black Expo
- Oct. 24 — Youth Job Fair-Goodwill of Central Arizona and Valley of the Sun United Way
- Nov. 6 — Jobing.com Healthcare Expo



**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  
 TTY: 602/372-4261

*Please visit the valley's 2 MWC Career Centers. We'd enjoy showing you what we do!*