

ITEMS OF NOTE -- September 2008

Submitted by: Greta Suda, Chair, Maricopa Workforce Connections Advocacy Task Force
Assistant General Manager, Jobing.com

On behalf of:

Katharine Levandowsky, co-chair
Administrator, Arizona Dept. of Economic Security Rehabilitation Administration
Tina Huff, Executive Director Human Resources, Pro's Ranch Markets
Karen Poole, Associate Director, Center for Workforce Development, Maricopa Community Colleges

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

- More than 1,500 veterans received job search assistance
- Maricopa Workforce Connections services and Career Expo on local newscasts
- Local Workforce Investment Groups Hold Joint Strategic Meeting
- New Workshop Added to Job Seeker Curriculum

FACTS AND FIGURES

More than 1,500 veterans received job search assistance from Maricopa Workforce Connections — The newly opened Elijah Wong Veterans Center located in the Maricopa Workforce Connections' West Valley Career Center served 1,505 veterans from October 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. During the same time period MWC's Gilbert Career Center served 65 veterans. MWC is currently forming partnerships with RecruitMilitary, Luke Air Force Base, the Arizona National Guard, Maricopa County Public Defender's Office, Carl T. Hayden Veterans Affairs Medical Center and the Governor's Office of Military Affairs. MWC plans to expand veteran services by opening a Veterans Services Center in the Gilbert Career Center within the next calendar year.



ABOUT SGT. ELIJAH WONG

In addition to serving his community as a probation officer, Wong served his country as an Arizona National Guardsman. He died in action on February 9, 2004, serving his country in Iraq. Posthumously, Sgt. Wong was awarded a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. His name appears on The Maricopa County Pillar of Sacrifice, a monolith displaying engraved names of county employees who died in the line of duty while on the job or while serving active military duty. Sgt. Wong is survived by his wife and three children.

NEWS & MEDIA

Maricopa Workforce Connections is lead coordinator for the 2008 East Valley Career Expo. In collaboration with the Arizona Employer's Advisory Council and Jobing.com, MWC will host more than 100 employers seeking to fill entry- to professional-level positions in high tech, aerospace, finance, armed forces, retail, health care, law enforcement and government. The Expo will be held at the Mesa Convention Center on September 24, 2008 from 12-5 p.m. (News Release is online at: <http://www.maricopaworkforceconnection.com/Press%20Releases/2008/090308%20East%20Valley%20Career%20Expo%20Resume%20Review%20Fridays.pdf>)

Local NBC Station (Phoenix Channel 12) Features Maricopa Workforce Connections Services — Demonstrating How WIA dollars are used to help area job seekers.

1. **Tips for resume building in changing economic times** — This news piece highlights what employers expect from today's resumes. It was conducted, September 5, during the first of 3 Friday's preceding the September 24, 2008 East Valley Career Expo where MWC workforce professionals are reviewing job seekers' resumes <http://www.azcentral.com/12news/news/articles/2008/09/05/20080905resumebuilding09052008-CR.html>
2. **Job fair in the Valley** — Patrick Burkhart, Assistant Director, Maricopa County Human Services Department, Workforce Development Division, discusses the upcoming Career Expo and the help MWC offers job seekers. <http://www.azcentral.com/video/>

(more)

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.

PARTNER ITEMS

Local Workforce Investment Groups Hold Joint Strategic Meeting —



Approximately 80 workforce professionals from the City of Phoenix and Maricopa County gathered on August 22, 2008 for a day-long meeting to discuss common barriers, synergies and ways to collaborate to better serve Workforce Investment Act (WIA) customers.

The local workforce movement has been toward regionalism. Serving the largest county in the state, Maricopa Workforce Connections is frequently looked to for direction and leadership. The day was filled with optimism and a definite willingness to merge ideas where appropriate and leverage all resources to positively impact our community.

Participating MWC and PWC Board members and staff broke into 3 groups to discuss how to best meet goals in the areas of advocacy, youth initiatives and business services.



EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Be Our Guest — You are invited to address local businesses at upcoming job fairs and the MWC advisory board during a regularly scheduled bi-monthly meeting. Please contact Patrick Burkhart, Assistant Director, Maricopa County Human Services Department (Phone: 602-506-4146 or burkhartp@mail.maricopa.gov) to discuss opportunities to engage with residents and business leaders in Maricopa County.

New Job Seeker Workshop Added to Career Center Trainings — In adherence to MWC's goal of enlightening the job seeker through the provision of cutting edge information, the Training Unit of the Maricopa County Workforce Development Division implemented a new workshop: "JOB SEARCH IN THE 21ST CENTURY".



Since the turn of the 21st century the nature of job search has changed significantly. From the researching of companies and employers to the electronic application to resume submission, the applicant is inextricably bound to the computer and online activity. This workshop was recently added to the MWC standard schedule of workshops.

MWC participates in local job fairs by helping to recruit businesses with openings and reviewing resumes for job seekers. Upcoming workforce Development events in Maricopa County include:

September 24 — East Valley Career Expo (www.azjobfair.com) in partnership with Arizona Employer's Advisory Council and Jobing.com

October 2 — Recruit Military Job Fair

October 15 — Jobing.com Job Fair



WIA Funding Fuels Grassroots Economic Growth

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!