

ITEMS OF NOTE -- February 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

Arizona Economic & Job Recovery Bill

Excerpt from Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce e-newsletter:
 “On January 14th, the Arizona Speaker of the House Kirk Adams, with 37 House and Senate lawmakers, introduced HB 2250 the Arizona Economic and Job Recovery bill. The measure strives to create a more employer-friendly climate, attract and retain base industries, create jobs with good pay and benefits, and provide needed tax relief to Arizona’s employers, employees and citizens at-large.

“To see the Speaker’s presentation, click here http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=hb2250”

NEWS & MEDIA

Learning the art of the job interview

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

by J. Craig Anderson—Jan. 16, 2010, *The Arizona Republic*
 Excerpt: “It’s not about what you did somewhere else,” said Justin Jones, a trainer at Maricopa Workforce Connections, part of the Maricopa County Department of Human Services. “It’s about what you can do, specifically, for them.” ...”Hiring managers all want someone who will lower costs, boost revenue, save time, and attract and retain customers, Jones said.’ The answer to nearly every question should speak to one of those specific issues, he said. ‘When an employer says, ‘Tell me about yourself,’ what they’re really saying is, ‘Tell me what you can do for me,’ he said.”

This entire article is available online at: <http://www.azcentral.com/business/articles/2010/01/16/20100116career-interviewing0117.html>



The curse of status anxiety. Don't let your job—or lack of one—wreck your mental health

By Rosa Cays, February *Latino Perspectives Magazine*

Excerpt: “I’m supposed to be the man of the house,” says Herrera, whose wife Lupita doesn’t necessarily see it that way; she’s encouraged Herrera to “not let it get to him.” At the age of 40, he’s going back to school to take classes in criminal justice, veering his career 180 degrees. Now Lupita’s working full time, switching roles with Herrera as the active provider for their family. It was their intention when they first married that Herrera would work while Lupita went to school, then they would trade places; they didn’t expect it to be forced on them by economic need.

Herrera is grateful to have the moral support of his wife and four sons. He’s been on a psychological rollercoaster ride, enduring sleepless nights, bouts of anxiety and despondency. He says that it’s really helped him to be able to talk about his frustrations. “It’s been rough, but I’m determined,” says Herrera, “and hopeful.” (Mr. Herrera is a MWC customer.)

Go to <http://www.latinopm.com/Latino-Perspectives-Magazine/February-2010/The-curse-of-status-anxiety/> to read this article in its entirety.

(more)

Submitted by:

Greta Suda, Chair, MWC Advocacy Task Force
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Josie Martinez
 PWC Board Governance Task Force

On behalf of: MWC Board Members

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

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

Rodney Pack, Program Manager
 Arizona Pipe Trades Joint Apprenticeship

Benjamin Serio, Human Resources Manager
 Amazon.com

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Fred Lockhart, Executive Director
 AZ Private School Assoc.

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

Dee Wheeler-Cronin,
 Assistant Housing Director
 Hope VI Project, City of Phoenix

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

The stimulus: One year later Is it working?By David Lucas, February *Impact Magazine*

Excerpt: "Maricopa County has not had a summer program in years," Burkhardt says. "We're using some of the stimulus funds to serve an additional 200 clients over our normal year-round program. We will have sufficient funds in the youth program left over to do a summer youth experience next summer. It will be several hundred, so that's an enormous benefit."

"A lot of jobs that have disappeared in this recession probably will not come back," Burkhardt asserts. "One-third of the jobs lost in the state were construction jobs. A lot of that talent needs to be repositioned so we can have a workforce prepared for whatever a recovered economy is going to look like. That means people are going to need higher levels of skills if we're going to be competitive in the national and international economy."

"The recession also has dramatically increased MWC's job placement client visits to 14,000 per month, so the additional funding helped the organization absorb increased operating costs as well as add four new staff positions."

This article appears on pages 7 and 8 of *the Phoenix Chamber's Website* at <http://phoenixchamber.com/Impact%20Magazine/magazine/index.html>

**PARTNER ITEMS**
College Goal Sunday
GILBERT


Maricopa Workforce Connections
 (MWC) Career Center
 735 North Gilbert Road
 Gilbert, AZ 85234

In partnership With the Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education: On Saturday, January 30, 2010, the Gilbert One-Stop Career Center participated in College Goal Sunday. This is the fourth year in a row the Center opened its doors on the weekend to assist customers in applying for financial aid. More than 130 customers attended the event; taking advantage of a financial aid workshop and using the computer lab to submit financial aid applications on line.

"Green" Work Experience for WIA Youth

JAG, Jobs for Arizona's Graduates, a member of the Aspire Collaborative, secured a great part-time work experience for area youth. WIA youth hired to work with Gro-Well Brands will gain experience working at The Home Depot stores near their homes. Upon hire youth will receive training on Gro-Well's environmentally friendly soil and gardening products as well as ways to properly assist customers.

Applicants must attend an orientation/interview sessions and be available to work Mid February through Mid April (and possibly longer). Weekend work will be required; however, total hours per week will vary from an 8 hr. minimum to 20 hour maximum.

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

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES**Upcoming Job Fairs —**

Paradise Valley Community College
 Saturday, February 20th
 9AM - 12PM
<http://johnshadegg.house.gov/jobfair>

South Mountain Community College
 Wednesday, March 3rd
 10AM - 12PM
<http://students.southmountaincc.edu/Services/CareerServices/Employers/>

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



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