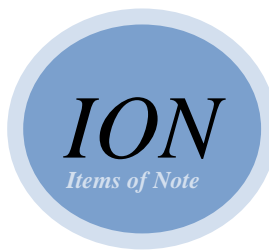




WIA Funding Fuels Grassroots Economic Growth



ITEMS OF NOTE -- May 2009

Beginning with this edition, this publication will be provided jointly from the WIA Local Workforce Investment Boards representing Maricopa County and the City of Phoenix.

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FACTS & FIGURES

ARRA Summer Youth Employment Program — The Summer Youth Employment Program is in full swing. As of May 1, 2009, MWC and PWC:

- Received more than 3,200 youth applications
Confirmed 563 worksites representing 1,226 employment positions

This is a wonderful response from our community to offer participating youth the opportunity to learn new work skills. Prior to the work experience, youth participants will be enrolled in a week-long Work Readiness class in which they will learn about career/ labor market trends, interviewing skills, resume development, team building, and budgeting basics.

PWC's Summer Youth Career Exploration/Internship Program — In addition to coordinating a Summer Youth Employment Program, Phoenix Workforce Connections, coordinates a Summer Youth Career Exploration and Internship program.

The Exploration program focuses on healthcare, robotics and entrepreneurial areas. This year PWC received 160 youth applications. Eligible participants will be matched with 90 available

internships at 65 different worksites.

NEWS & MEDIA

Teens compete with laid-off adults for summer jobs — Maricopa Workforce Connections told USA Today's Laura Petrecca, how it plans to engage local employers to put Maricopa County youth to work this summer. MWC's assistant director, Patrick Burkhart, is quoted in the May 6 edition saying, "We're not asking employers to underwrite the salary costs, but we do expect them to provide a meaningful work experience and general

supervision." This article may be read online at http://www.usatoday.com/money/economy/2009-05-05-teens-job-market-unemployed-adults_N.htm

The Arizona Republic Features MWC/WIA/ARRA Programs — An article in the Sunday, April 12, 2009 edition of The Arizona Republic featured ARRA/Federal stimulus coming to Arizona on the front page (above the fold). "The stimulus job-training quandary" notes the \$7.87 million MWC is set to receive to help train customers in areas such as health care and green technology. Patrick Burkhart, assistant director of Maricopa Workforce Connections is quoted, "(We're) trying to get as much out the door with the maximum effect as we possibly can, sooner rather than later." http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/news/articles/2009/04/12/20090412stim-biz-workforce0412.html An MWC customer, Diana Tarango, is pictured with this article. She "wants to be come a medical assistant and could potentially use a combination of federal education loans and stimulus retraining aid to pay for school.

Submitted by:

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

Maxine Jones, Chair, PWC Board Governance Committee President, Aimco Precision, Inc.

On behalf of: MWC Board Members

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

Vania Black, Vice President Organization Development, Televerde

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

Trish Georgeff, Director, Human Services Department, Maricopa County

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

On Behalf of PWC Board Members

Fred Lockhart, Executive Director, AZ Private School Assoc.

Josie Martinez, Senior Manager, Human Resources - The Arizona Republic

Lynn Reed, Executive Director, Literacy Volunteers of Maricopa County

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

John Underwood, Executive Director, Maricopa Skill Center

Dee Wheeler-Cronin, Assistant to the City Manager, Hope VI Project, City of Phoenix

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

(more)



THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Summer Youth Employment Programs — "Jobs for youths" — informs readers about the Summer Youth Employment Program noting "providing youths with jobs helps stabilize families. Sometimes a youth's income may be the family's only income." Links to program details lead readers to MWC and PWC Websites for applications and additional information. <http://www.azcentral.com/business/articles/2009/04/12/20090412stim-biz-workforce0412.htm>

Job Fairs Are Changing — "Offers not on the spot, but job fairs still valuable" which appeared on the front page of "Business Sunday" section of the April 12, 2009 edition of *The Arizona Republic* leads with ... "lines of well-dressed people snaking through job fairs are among the most poignant images of the downturn." The article highlights the function of job fairs and how job seekers should prepare to get the most of these events. MWC Board member, Greta Suda, representing Jobing.com and two MWC professional staff members are quoted in this well rounded piece — <http://www.azcentral.com/business/articles/2009/04/12/20090412biz-jobfairs0412.html>

PARTNER ITEMS

Workforce Partnership Trains Over 200 Healthcare Workers — Through a unique partnership with Phoenix Workforce Connection and Maricopa Workforce Connections, businesses and educators recently joined forces to train more than 200 healthcare workers. Federal workforce development funds, provided training scholarships for certified nurse assistant, medical assistant, patient care technician, pharmacy technician, and licensed practical nurse positions. The students ranged from entry level hospital and community clinic workers aspiring to higher skilled positions and salaries, middle-aged laid-off workers seeking more stable careers, and low-income youth entering the workforce.

This program was based on funding short-term occupational training to help individuals re-enter the workforce quickly and on a solid career path in a growing industry. With an aging population, anticipated to require record levels of care, and the existing shortage of skilled healthcare workers, the healthcare field promises employment well into the next 10 to 20 years.

Through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), the city of Phoenix and Maricopa County were awarded \$16 million for job training programs in high demand and emerging industries. This ensures that the successful program models will continue to be offered to the community in the near term. Directives at the national level encourage use of ARRA funds for training and employment programs in healthcare and green industries and Arizona is stepping up to build a strong, educated and talented workforce that will benefit our community for generations to come. (Photos below are from the 4/13/09 graduation event.)





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

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Not a Typical Jobing.com Job Fair — The May 6, 2009 Jobing.com Job Fair offered more than employment opportunities to local job seekers. The ever popular Resume Review services provided in part by MWC workforce development staff was again a highlight for the event. This event included a Community Career Services Pavilion where a half-a-dozen workforce partners educated job




seekers about the additional services available to them such as GED and computer classes, instructions for signing up for Unemployment Insurance, veteran specific services, utility assistance and other supportive services. Participants in this area included Goodwill, AWEE, Las Artes de Maricopa, DES, ACYR, PWC and MWC.

The on-site workshops featured: "Networking - Are you Leveraging it to your Career Advantage" by Lisa Schumacher from Right Management and "Stay Positive In a Negative World - How to Laugh in the Face of a Challenging Economy!" by Dave Sherman, Professional Speaker, Trainer, and Best-Selling Author. There was also an open forum where a panel of local experts answered a wide-variety of job seeker questions. The HR Professionals on the panel were from Casino Arizona, Vangent and the East Valley HR Association. Maricopa Workforce Connections also served on the panel and moderated the session.

Event coordinators promoted the event as a tool to learn more about companies, their available opportunities and how best to be positioned to be called for an interview. Yes, many employers require job seekers to apply online; however, there are specific requirements for each such as the use of key words, job titles and descriptions and the companies philosophies and culture.





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TTY Relay: 602/534-5500

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