

WIA Funding Fuels Grassroots Economic Growth

ITEMS OF NOTE -- September 2009

This publication is provided jointly from the WIA Local Workforce Investment Boards representing Maricopa County and the City of Phoenix.

INSIDE THIS EDITION

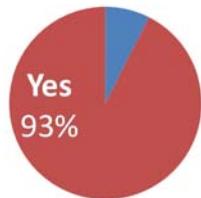
- Results of Summer Youth Employment Program Survey
- *The Phoenix Business Journal* Profiles MWC Board Chair
- KPHO Newscast: Area Job Market 2nd Worst of U.S. Cities
- *The Arizona Republic* features State Jobless Rate of 9.2%
- Regional Approach to Secure ARRA Grants
- Recap of Jobing.com's August Career Expo
- Congressional Visit to Gilbert MWC One-Stop Career Center

FACTS & FIGURES

Results Summer Youth Employment Program Survey—

MWC conducted a survey of SYEP employers and youth participants to obtain information to establish and/or improve processes and identify best practices and lessons learned to

Would you hire the participant(s) if a position was available?



ensure success in future youth employment programs. The effort was met with a 59% response rate from SYEP worksite supervisors. Overall employers and youth participants in MWC's Summer Youth Employment Program indicated satisfaction with the program and noted interest in the program lasting longer. Youth participants indicated they felt the work readiness classes were helpful.

98% of Employers are interested in participating again in 2010!



Profiles MWC Board Chair — Neil Alexander, Chairman, Maricopa Workforce Connections; attorney, Littler Mendelson PC, took his new post as chairman of MWC on July 1. The August 14 article states, "During the next two years, Alexander hopes to attract new solar and renewable energy companies and be able to provide trained workers by the time those companies are ready to hire. 'There is a clear message coming from Washington, D.D., that they want to support things like solar energy,'" he said. Go to <http://phoenix.bizjournals.com/phoenix/stories/2009/08/17/story20.html> to read the entire profile.



KPHO Newscast: Area Job Market 2nd Worst of U.S. Cities —

KPHO's July 31, 2009 evening newscast incorporated the story of MWC customer Staffany Hardison, a substitute teacher from a Mesa school. Read about Ms Hardison and other valley job seekers in this article about the Phoenix area job market at <http://www.kpho.com/money/20245529/detail.html#>.

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC features MWC and PWC in feature on State Jobless Rate of 9.2% — The August 21

edition of *The Arizona Republic* quotes LWIB area directors:

"The three Phoenix Workforce Connection Centers, also known as one-stop career centers, saw the number of unemployed people seeking help more than double in the fiscal year that ended June 30, to 186,000 from 90,000 in the previous year, said Stan Flowers, the workforce-development supervisor. One center near 51st Avenue and Osborn Road is especially swamped, he said. "Lines form before the building opens," Flowers said. "There are 35 to 40 people in line when it opens at 8 a.m."

Maricopa County Workforce Connections centers have been equally as busy. The centers have been getting more than 10,000 job seekers a month, and recently, the number hit 14,000, Assistant Director Patrick Burkhart said. Job seekers are flocking to courses that help them write better resumes, handle interviews better and pick up other skills."

This informative article is available online at <http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/news/articles/2009/08/21/20090821biz-jobs0821.html>.

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

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)

Local Workforce Investment Areas Take Regional Approach to Secure ARRA Grants — Over 40 agencies provide workforce development services in Maricopa County. Given the prospects for an extended economic slowdown, coupled with restricted financial resources and a steadily growing demand for services, the workforce development community in Maricopa County recognizes the urgent need for greater collaboration and streamlining of services as the best and most effective response to the region's needs.

The Maricopa Human Capital Collaborative (MHCC), a new and highly networked coalition of regional workforce development services providers was established by a leadership team composed of agency directors from the Phoenix Workforce Connection, the Maricopa Workforce Connections, Arizona Women's Education and Employment, Inc., Arizona Call-A-Teen Youth Resources Inc., Friendly House, Chicanos por la Causa, Inc. and The Arizona Opportunities Industrialization Center.

The Collaborative will function seamlessly to help restore the region's economic stability in the short term, and its economic competitiveness in the long term. The MHCC will function as an open referral network so that job seekers can obtain the assistive services they need quickly and effectively.

A major focus of the Collaborative is to coordinate the pursuit of additional funding opportunities, primarily federal grants that can be secured to enhance the region's capability to enhance and expand the services available to both job seekers and employers. Arizona Women's Education and Employment, Inc., (AWEE) has taken the lead in competing for a Pathways Out of Poverty grant to assist in developing a green workforce in an underserved area in south Phoenix. Members of the Collaborative support them in this effort.



The Arizona Opportunities Industrialization Center
— "Helping Others to Help Themselves"



PARTNER ITEMS

Recap of Jobing.com's August Career Expo — The August 12th event offered more than just employer booths. One corner of the University of Phoenix Stadium offered workshops focused on topics like what

industries are hot in today's economy, and how to stand out from your competition. There were employer hosted workshops. Eight local employers had their own private workshop section where they offered a variety of in-depth information about their organization, their hiring practices, how to more effectively use social media in a job search, etc. The event's largest partner, Maricopa Workforce Connections offered Interviewing and Resume Instruction workshops from 10am-1:30 pm to help veterans and dislocated workers improve their resumes and interviewing skills. The workforce professionals at MWC provided intensive resume reviews for workshop participants and others and provided a computer lab so the updates could be made prior to the beginning of the Expo and throughout the day.





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

Congressional Visit to Gilbert MWC One-Stop Career Center — Congressman Harry Mitchell from Arizona's 5th District toured MWC's Gilbert One-Stop Career Center the morning of September 2, 2009. During his visit he saw WIA and ARRA

funds in action assisting job seekers. He saw first hand a sampling of MWC workshops; a computer lab filled with job seekers and had an opportunity to speak with some of his constituents before departing to Mesa Community College for a similar meeting.





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