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Economic Reporter

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY THE CITY OF MESA OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FOURTH QUARTER 2011



EVIT opens new campus and expands facilities

The East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT) in Mesa completed two exciting projects this summer that will enhance student learning and career preparation training.

An expanded Health Sciences building, located on the main campus, features a mock ambulance bay, student massage clinics open to the public, additional nursing classrooms, and space to develop new programs to meet future industry job trends. EVIT students can earn college credit and train to work as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Medical Assistant, Massage Therapist, Surgical Technician, and other health careers.

In east Mesa, a new 87,000 sq. ft. EVIT campus opened for classes in August and hosts an enhanced Aviation education program, along with Health Sciences. The building is the first of a four-phase development planned for 10 acres on Power Road, just south of the Santan Freeway. Aviation students have the opportunity to train for a variety of careers at an affordable cost including Aircraft Flight Operations, Aircraft Maintenance Technology, Air Traffic Control, Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operations, Flight Attendant, and Airport Management.

“It is projected that workforce shortfalls will be critical in almost all aviation career fields in the post-2013 time period,” said Captain Alan Mittelstaedt, director of Aviation Programs. “It is EVIT’s intent to meet these shortfalls with passionate and qualified professionals.”

High school students from 10 districts - Apache Junction, Chandler, Fountain Hills, Gilbert, Higley, J.O. Combs, Mesa, Queen Creek, Scottsdale and Tempe - who meet the enrollment criteria, may attend tuition-free. Classes are also open to adults at competitive rates. EVIT, which has been honored as an A+ school in Arizona, is located in Mesa at 1601 W. Main Street and 6625 S. Power Road.

For more information, visit www.evit.com.

Arizona State University breaks several enrollment records

The preliminary overall enrollment for Arizona State University (ASU) has hit a record 72,250 undergraduate and graduate students.

ASU’s undergraduate student enrollment has climbed to nearly 9,300 first-time freshman. There are an additional 6,800 transfer students for a combined total of over 16,000 students. This is the first-time in university history to ever exceed a record of over 16,000 undergraduate students.

The all-time transfer record is attributed to the strong partnerships ASU has with the community college systems throughout Arizona, and increased enrollment of students from other states and countries.

Out-of-state and international undergraduate students at ASU also hit record levels with nearly 14,700 total, as students from all 50 states and 127 countries were attracted to ASU’s programs. Thirty-five percent of the freshman class has been attracted to ASU from another state or country, up 2 percent from last year.

Quality and quantity

The academic preparation of the 2011 freshman class is at an all-time high, with a mean high school grade point average of 3.41.



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Economic Development Advisory Board

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*Southwest Business Credit
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**William Jabjiniak, Economic
Development Department
Director**

*The Economic Development
Advisory Board meets the first
Tuesday of every month at 7:30
am in the Lower Level Council
Chambers (57 East First
Street). All meetings are open
to the public.*



The Quick Job *by Bill Jabjiniak*

Companies reach new heights in Mesa

Celebrating so many successes in such a short period of time is a rare opportunity – even in a community as large as Mesa. It is a privilege for me to recognize the recent achievements of Mesa companies in the aerospace, aviation and defense industry sectors and to stress their importance to Mesa’s economy and long-term sustainability.

On behalf of the City of Mesa, congratulations to The Boeing Company; MD Helicopters; Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport; and Allegiant Air on recent accomplishments:

Boeing expands operations in Mesa

Known for production of the AH-64 Apache helicopter, Boeing added a new headquarters to its Mesa campus for research, development and production of sophisticated unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). The expansion includes development of drones with military and civilian applications such as search-and-rescue, fire and crop monitoring, and homeland security border surveillance, human systems interfacing, and the capability of pilots to control unmanned aircraft from the Apache helicopter. Boeing officials also expect to see further synergy between the UAS systems development and the Apache helicopter.

Boeing and other companies in Mesa are positioned well to maximize opportunities as global UAS spending is expected to total more than \$94 billion in the next 10 years.

MD Helicopters

In September, 45 days ahead of schedule, MD Helicopters delivered the first of six MD 530F Helicopters to the Department of the Army Rotary Wing Primary Training Aircraft after being awarded a \$186 million contract for as many as 54 aircraft to be used in training missions in Afghanistan.

During the presentation of the keys ceremony at MD Helicopters’ Falcon Field facility, Major General Tim Crosby, the Army’s program executive officer for aviation, praised the company and the employees for the unexpected early completion. Company officials believe the Army contract could lead to additional defense contracts for the company.



Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport grows service, designation

With service to nearly 1 million passengers this year, Gateway is now the nation’s fastest-growing commercial-service airport among those with traffic above 300,000 enplanements a year.

Beginning calendar year 2012, Gateway will officially be designated as a “small hub airport” – increasing the likelihood of recruiting a second or third airline, which would quickly multiply the number of destinations and passengers and move Gateway toward a medium hub designation like Tucson International.

Additional infrastructure is also planned for the airport. The Gateway Board recently approved a \$10.5 million expansion of the passenger terminal, the fourth expansion project since 2008.

Allegiant adds routes

Allegiant has added Duluth, MN, Appleton, WI, and Las Vegas, NV, to the growing number of cities it serves nonstop from the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport. Service to Duluth begins October 21; Appleton, November 10; and Las Vegas, November 17, 2011. The expanding service is testament to Allegiant’s continued confidence in the market demand.

For additional details, please visit company websites:

www.boeing.com | www.mdhelicopters.com | www.phxmesagateway.org | www.allegiant.com

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Thirty-seven percent of the freshman class comes from diverse ethnic backgrounds.

Barrett, The Honors College at ASU, has welcomed its largest freshman class in its history with 1,000 students, an increase of 15 percent from last year. The national reputation of ASU's Honors College continues to grow as 13,850 graduate students are enrolled in the various programs. The Fulton Schools of Engineering, New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, the College of Nursing and Health Innovation and the School of Nutrition and Health Promotion have also experienced enrollment increases. These increases are a sign of the growing interest in graduate programs in the sciences and engineering fields.

Mesa benefits from ASU's growth

Arizona State University Polytechnic campus (Poly) in Mesa continues to develop as well. Poly's core academic strengths are its College of Technology and Innovation and its Morrison School of Agribusiness. To accommodate the growth of student enrollment and research at Poly, ASU built three new academic complexes with new equipment, labs, and the latest technology. ASU Poly has broken ground on a 318-bed freshman residence hall and 20,000 sq. ft. dining facility.

In addition to Poly's new research facilities, some of ASU's major university-wide research efforts have been headquartered at the Mesa campus. These include the algae-based fuel research and the aerospace and defense research programs. The research synergy between the Poly and Tempe campuses has prompted a number of top engineering faculty to move to the Poly campus.

Visit www.asu.edu.



A.T. Still University's Arizona School of Health Sciences holds Commencement

A.T. Still University's Arizona School of Health Sciences (ATSU-ASHS) celebrated commencement ceremonies in August with 433 students receiving either Master of Science or doctoral degrees at the dual ceremonies. Graduates received degrees in human movement, occupational therapy, physician assistant studies, audiology, doctor of health sciences, physical therapy, and athletic training.

Founded in 1995, ATSU-ASHS is committed to educating and preparing its students to practice at the forefront of a rapidly growing healthcare system.

For more information, visit www.atsu.edu.

Mesa's Banner Heart Hospital expands robotics



Banner Heart Hospital recently expanded its robotic surgery program to include thoracic surgeries, and added two (2) robotic surgeons.

Dr. Gyu Gang and Dr. Iva Smolens are now performing lung and chest surgeries at the Mesa hospital. Banner Heart Hospital has already performed more than 200 heart surgeries. The surgeries are performed using the da Vinci Robotic Surgical System,

which translates the surgeon's actions into movements with the surgical robot.

Doctors say with robotic heart surgery, patients who once faced several weeks in recovery following surgery can be back on their feet within days.

For more information, visit www.bannerhealth.com.

New tenants at Mesa's Broadway 101 Commerce Park

The Broadway 101 Commerce Park in Mesa has several new tenants. Boeing subsidiary Aviall, World Wide Technology, Inc. and Dragonfire Racing all have signed on for a total of 101,813 sq. ft. at the location southeast of the Loop 101-202 interchange on Broadway Road. Comercializacion Y Servicios Del Norte, a construction distribution company based in Mexico, also has signed a lease for 6,500 sq. ft. at Broadway 101.



Information is available at www.broadway101commercepark.com.



Business assistance program opens Mesa office

Greater Phoenix SCORE opened new offices in Mesa, on campus at East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT) at 1601 E. Main Street. SCORE is a volunteer organization providing assistance to individuals starting a business or expanding an existing business.



The free mentoring services at SCORE help develop business

plans, evaluate, franchise opportunities, marketing and sales counseling, and ideas for dealing with collections, management, leadership, and IT concerns – just to name a few. The mentors stay with the individual to work through key business issues and get the business to the next level. The mentors are available by appointment on weekdays and the services are provided at no cost.

Please call 602.745.7250 for an appointment or visit www.greaterphoenix.score.org.

METRO takes Design-Build approach to Central Mesa extension



METRO Light Rail will take advantage of the competitive market and gain the early insight of a contractor with a design-build delivery method for its 3.1-mile

Central Mesa extension. This decision is a departure from Metro's typical project delivery approach of design-bid-build, but it works in favor of building a quality product in this economy and in such a way that is supportive of the local business community.

A strong benefit of the design-build approach is the construction contractor will come on board early to work directly with the designer to create plans that are workable for both parties. Contractor expertise will also help to build a construction schedule that meets the needs of the agency, project and business community.

"The City of Mesa supports the design-build option for the Central Mesa light rail extension," Mesa councilmember and Metro board vice chairman Dennis Kavanaugh said. "It will advance the schedule and put Arizonans to work."

The Central Mesa project team is now finalizing preliminary engineering. These plans will be delivered to a design/build team

for further development in spring 2012. Future project milestones remain intact. Utility relocation will begin in spring 2012 with the project to be complete in 2016.

For more information, visit http://www.valleymetro.org/metro_projects_planning/central_mesa.

Transformation of the Air Force Research Lab to a science and technology research center

On June 23, 2011, the Mesa City Council approved an Interim Lease with the United States Air Force for the former Research Lab (AFRL), and a property management/



business assistance agreement with Alion Science and Technology. The United States Air Force has also vacated the facility. The City envisions continuing the legacy of the AFRL site by using this complex as the cornerstone of a science and technology research center including a wide range of academic and security industry organizations and projects.

The success of this endeavor will require the assistance and cooperation of a variety of interested public and private parties. With this in mind, the City Council created the Mesa Redevelopment Authority (MRA) Executive Board (Board). The Board will assist with the implementation of the Reuse Plan for the AFRL. The Mayor and City Council appointed the following Board members:

- Brian Campbell, representative from Mesa Economic Development Advisory Board;
- Tony Ham, The Boeing Company;
- William J. Jabjiniak, Mesa Economic Development Director, as the City Manager's designee;
- John Regni, Science Foundation Arizona; Retired Lt. General; and
- Rick Shangraw, Arizona State University.

The first order of business for the Board is to designate a new name for the former AFRL.

Visit www.mesaaz.gov/bettermesa/afrl.aspx for additional details.

International Economic Development Council Annual Conference award winners

GPEC takes top honor

The Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC) was recognized as “Best in Class” among regional economic development groups in a survey released last week by Development Counsellors International (DCI) at the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) Annual Conference in Charlotte, NC.

“GPEC takes seriously our ability to provide a professional, seamless and comprehensive service-delivery model to location consultants and decision makers,” GPEC President and CEO Barry Broome said. “This recognition affirms the quality of our people and the work we do on behalf of the communities we serve.”

GPEC took the highest ranking in the survey, part of DCI’s annual study “Winning Strategies in Economic Development Marketing.” This year, for the first time, DCI asked site selectors to choose the best regional and state economic development groups. Companies often hire site selectors when they’re doing an expansion or relocation to help evaluate and choose the market that best suits their needs.

“The Greater Phoenix region has clearly been well-represented with the nation’s top location advisors,” said Andy Levine, president and chief creative officer at DCI. “To be recognized as the #1 economic development organization in the nation by the audience is strong testimony to the exceptional job that GPEC is doing.”

GPEC founder received national award

IEDC also recognized Dr. Ioanna Morfessis with the Lifetime Achievement Award. The honor recognizes Dr. Morfessis for an esteemed career of empowering communities and companies to prosper and cites among her many accomplishments the founding of three best-of-class economic development organizations in the U.S.: Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore; GPEC; and Montgomery County (Maryland) Department of Economic Development.

“The impact of Ioanna’s work goes well beyond the markets she’s served. She created programs and tools adopted by many communities in the U.S. as models for contemporary urban economic development,” said Broome.

During the late 1980s-early 1990s, Dr. Morfessis worked with leaders across Greater Phoenix to create one of the nation’s first public-private regional economic development organizations.

Dr. Morfessis currently leads an international consulting firm, IOINC.

Adelante Healthcare selects EVIT campus to build clinic



On Sept. 20, the East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT) and Adelante Healthcare signed a 40-year land lease agreement to build a new, state-of-the-art, public health center on the west Mesa campus at 1601 W. Main Street.

The 45,000 sq. ft. health center will take roughly eight months to construct and is anticipated to open in fall-2012. It will be located on the northwest corner of the EVIT campus, adjacent to the METRO light rail stop at Sycamore and Main.

“After an exhaustive search encompassing three municipalities and more than a year, this location represents a great opportunity for Adelante Healthcare to expand into a medically underserved area with a highly-visible, purpose-built development, with a forward thinking educational partner” said Aaron Kuhl of Medical Office Brokers.

Adelante Healthcare currently operates eight health centers throughout Maricopa County and offers a wide array of services and programs to patients from all social and economic backgrounds. Services include family and internal medicine, pediatrics, prenatal and OBGYN care, health screenings, immunizations, nutrition education and support for patients with chronic diseases.

Health and nursing programs account for roughly one-third, or approximately 1,000 students, on the EVIT campus each year. The Adelante Healthcare facility will provide hands-on, real-life experience for students along with the opportunity to complete clinical hours required for certification in programs such as medical assisting and practical nursing.

“Connecting our health and nursing students at EVIT with a working healthcare clinic on campus is a fantastic way to provide students with the training they need to succeed,” District 3 Councilmember Dennis Kavanaugh said. “I am excited to see our residents get another healthcare option in west Mesa and look forward to the jobs the new facility will provide.”

Follow the progress at www.adelantehealthcare.com.

City of Mesa Office of Economic Development

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Fax: 480.644.3458

www.mesaaz.gov/economic

EVENTS

OCTOBER

5

East Valley Business 2011 EXPO
2-6 pm
Mesa Convention Center
263 N. Center Street | Mesa, AZ
www.eastvalleybusinessexpo.com

6

Free Tax Workshop
7:30 – 9:30 am
City of Mesa Tax Audit Department
Mesa City Plaza | 20 E. Main Street, Room 170
http://www.mesaaz.gov/salestax/pdf/Quickstart_Flyer.pdf

Arizona Laboratories for Security & Defense
Research Event
2 pm
ASU Lot #50
South Kent Street | Mesa, AZ
Patrick.murphy@mesaaz.gov

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GPEC Annual Dinner
5:30-9:00 pm
Arizona Biltmore
Frank Lloyd Wright Ballroom | Phoenix, AZ
www.gpec.org

NOVEMBER

3

Free Tax Workshop
7:30 – 9:30 am
City of Mesa Tax Audit Department
Mesa City Plaza | 20 E. Main Street, Room 170
http://www.mesaaz.gov/salestax/pdf/Quickstart_Flyer.pdf

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Election Day

11

Veteran's Day Parade, City offices closed

22 & 23

Thanksgiving Holiday, City offices closed

DECEMBER

5

Free Tax Workshop
7:30 – 9:30 am
City of Mesa Tax Audit Department
Mesa City Plaza | 20 E. Main Street, Room 170
http://www.mesaaz.gov/salestax/pdf/Quickstart_Flyer.pdf

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Christmas Holiday, City offices closed

Downtown Mesa: On the Move



- Sprinkler System Costs Assistance Program guidelines were recently revised to increase the reimbursable grant amount to \$20,000 for the installation of sprinklers within the Pedestrian Overlay Area of Downtown. Business owners are required to cover the costs of the engineering and design of the system and any costs that exceed the \$20,000. To learn more about this program, contact Melissa Woodall at melissa.woodall@mesaaz.gov or at 480-644-3854.
- The Pop-Up Art Gallery Program was launched in September in collaboration with RB Anderson, the Downtown Mesa Association (DMA), the Mesa Arts Center and the City of Mesa. The program is designed to activate the empty storefronts of properties along Main Street by displaying visual art collections for a period of 30 days. DMA is coordinating this initiative and is working with property owners to secure locations for this innovative marketing initiative. For more information, visit www.downtownmesa.com.
- With the start of the new school year, several Downtown Mesa educational institutions welcomed back students, faculty and administrators. Heritage Academy started its 2011-12 school year with 600 students enrolled and the Queen of Peace School began its school year with 184 students. The Queen of Peace School is also preparing to start construction in October that will facilitate a new campus located on the existing Macdonald property. Higher education is also active with Northern Arizona University and Mesa Community College Continuing

Education and New Frontier Programs in their Downtown campuses with 425 students enrolled in the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Fire Program.

- The Alleyway Utility Construction Project continues. Work to install new gas, water and sewer lines is scheduled to be completed in October. These infrastructure upgrades replace lines that are 80 years old and introduces new utilities to the commercial district so that fire safety improvements such as sprinkler systems may be installed. For more information, visit www.engineering.info@mesaaz.gov.

- Events abound. Motorcycles on Main and the award-winning 2nd Friday Night Out events continue on the first and second Friday evenings each month. Additionally, the Art of Warner Brothers Cartoons exhibition has opened at the Arizona Museum for Youth.

Numerous Fall events are also calendared including the Historic Mesa Downtown Ghost Walk, Old West Days, the Veteran's Day Parade and the return of the Mesa Arts Festival. To find out more about these and other activities in Downtown, visit the Downtown Mesa Calendar of Events at <http://www.downtownmesa.com>



- Monsterland celebrated its Grand Opening September 23 with the 1st Annual Haunted



Attraction, featuring never-seen-before Hollywood quality sets, costumes and animated props. The interactive experience includes a family friendly environment and non-stop

entertainment. Monsterland is open through October 31, 2011.

Visit www.monsterland.com.