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# Economic Reporter

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

SECOND QUARTER 2014

## Mesa's Apple project named Deal of the Year

*Business Facilities* magazine recently announced Mesa's Apple project as its 2013 Economic Development Deal of the Year. *Business Facilities* noted the collaborative efforts of the City of Mesa, Arizona Commerce Authority, DMB Associates, Salt River Project, Maricopa County and the Greater Phoenix Economic Council as instrumental in landing the project.

Apple Inc. purchased the former First Solar building for its manufacturing partner, GT Advanced Technologies. The project will create approximately 700 new permanent jobs, 1,300 construction jobs, and will use 100% renewable energy.

"Our Deal of the Year Gold Award winner is a game-changer for Apple and Arizona," said *Business Facilities* Editor in Chief Jack Rogers. "This deal puts Greater Phoenix on the map as a leading high-tech hub."

*Business Facilities* magazine is a national publication that reports on corporate site selections. Learn more at [tinyurl.com/AppleDealOfTheYear](http://tinyurl.com/AppleDealOfTheYear).

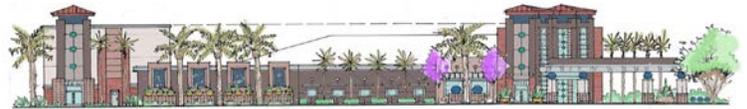
## Three new hotels in Mesa to provide important economic impact

Three new hotel developments have recently been announced for the City of Mesa – a full-service Sheraton locating next to Cubs Park, a Marriott Courtyard and a Four Points by Sheraton, both locating in close proximity to the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport.

Travel spending in Arizona generates billions of dollars in local, state and federal tax revenues (see *Tourism spending*, page 6). Moreover, travelers purchase large amounts of goods and services in the communities where they stay. Mesa has a limited number of higher-

end hotels, thus travelers coming to Mesa for business or events (such as a Chicago Cubs spring training game) often stay and spend their money outside of Mesa. With the arrival of these new hotels, the City of Mesa will realize additional revenues. In addition, quality brands such as Marriott and Sheraton strengthen the City's position as a desired destination for travelers and businesses.

### Sheraton at Cubs Park



Starwood Hotels and Resorts announced it will build a 180-room, full-service Sheraton Hotel just east of Cubs Park, the new spring training facility for the Chicago Cubs. The hotel will include a 26,000 sq. ft. conference center and will be built on the north side of a palm tree-lined paseo that links Cubs Park to the newly built Riverview Park. Construction began March 31, 2014 with a completion date of Spring 2015. Learn more at [tinyurl.com/SheratonByCubsPark](http://tinyurl.com/SheratonByCubsPark).

### Courtyard by Marriott at Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport



Sunridge Hotel Group, a Mesa-based company, announced its plan to build a Courtyard by Marriott in the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport area. The hotel, which will be located east of Power Rd. on Ray Rd., will have 99 rooms and a restaurant. It will be well positioned near the entrance of Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport and will provide accommodations for business and leisure travelers. Construction is scheduled to begin this summer with a completion date in late Spring 2015. Learn more at [tinyurl.com/CourtyardByGatewayAirport](http://tinyurl.com/CourtyardByGatewayAirport).

### Four Points by Sheraton

February 2014 was the official ground breaking ceremony for the Gila River Indian Community's new Four Points by Sheraton and Toka Sticks Golf Club Project, located adjacent to the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport. The new Four Points will be a 74,000 sq. ft., 134-room, six-story hotel and will include a bar and restaurant, private

see **HOTELS**, page 3



## Economic Development Advisory Board

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**Steve Shope, GPEC Representative, Sandia Research**

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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 Jab *by Bill Jabjiniak*

### Spring Training in Mesa: Cubs break attendance records and renovations begin to welcome Oakland A's

#### Chicago Cubs



The Chicago Cubs recently finished the 2014 spring training season in their new \$84 million Mesa facility (Cubs Park) with record-setting numbers. The Cubs drew 213,815 fans during a 15-game home schedule, or 14,254 fans per game — both new records according to Cactus League statistics kept by Visit Mesa.

On Tuesday, March 25, the Cubs drew 15,276 fans when the Cubs played the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, the best-attended game in League history. The previous all-time record for attendance at a Cactus League game was set March 24, 2013 with 13,721 attendees at a Chicago White Sox game.

This year the Cubs recorded the 12 highest-attended Cactus League games of all time, pushing the previous records far down the list.

New ballparks have a history of drawing curious fans to Cactus League games. Salt River Fields, near Scottsdale, also posted strong attendance numbers when it debuted in 2011. The hometown Arizona Diamondbacks drew 189,737 fans over 17 games that year, which is now the fourth-highest yearly attendance in league history.

The Cubs season kicked off with a grand opening celebration, “Double Play at the Park,” on January 25, complete with self-guided and trolley tours, food, live music, hot air balloon rides, a zip line, free fishing at the lake and many baseball-themed activities. The first game was held February 27 against the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Historically, spring training in Mesa has had a tremendous economic impact on the City and the State of Arizona. A 2010 report prepared by Elliott D. Pollack & Company stated the

Cubs alone generate an annual economic impact of nearly \$138 million. According to a 2012 Spring Training study, the Cactus League brings more than \$630 million to Arizona’s economy annually.

According to a Mesa Riverview representative, preliminary restaurant sales for the season are up 20 to 30%. Learn more at [www.mesaaz.gov/bettermesa/cubs](http://www.mesaaz.gov/bettermesa/cubs).

#### Oakland A's

Major renovations are underway at Hohokam Stadium and the



Fitch Park training facility to accommodate the Oakland Athletics (A's), which will serve as the A's spring training home beginning with the 2015 Cactus League season.

The improvements to Hohokam Stadium will include refurbished seating, a state-of-the-art scoreboard and a remodeled clubhouse. The bleachers along the left field foul line will be replaced with permanent seats and a kids zone. The bleachers along the right field foul line will be replaced by a party area that can be divided to accommodate multiple groups. The exterior will be refreshed and entrances will be re-branded with the familiar Oakland A's green and gold color scheme. Construction will be completed by January 2015.

The City of Mesa and the Oakland A's reached a 20-year agreement last March for the A's to return to Mesa beginning in 2015. The team also holds two five-year options that could extend the contract to 30 years. The A's previously trained in Mesa from 1969 to 1978, and won three consecutive World Series from 1972 to 1974.

Mesa will now host two spring training teams with updated and new stadiums, making it a premiere destination for Cactus League Spring Training baseball. Learn more about Hohokam Stadium at [www.hohokamstadium.com](http://www.hohokamstadium.com).

**HOTELS**, continued from page 1

dining, fitness room, 2,000 sq. ft. of meeting and event space. It is scheduled to open early 2015.

The Toka Sticks 18-hole golf course will include a new 3,900 sq. ft. club house, pro shop, grill and patio, and is scheduled to be completed late 2014.

The Four Points will serve the many leisure travelers frequenting Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport and will have a positive economic impact on local restaurants and businesses. Learn more at [tinyurl.com/FourPointsByGatewayAirport](http://tinyurl.com/FourPointsByGatewayAirport).



## Free Rapid Startup School for entrepreneurs at LAUNCHPOINT

Rapid Startup School is a free program that offers innovators a forum to develop

an entrepreneurial mindset while learning the fundamentals of launching a new venture. The program, presented by the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Group at Arizona State University (ASU), will consist of 12 hour-long modules at LAUNCHPOINT, the Mesa Technology Accelerator, 6113 S. Kent St., at 6 PM on Thursdays from April 10 through June 26.

The modules (class sessions) will be taught by ASU staff with practical experience and expertise on subjects related to entrepreneurship. Topics will include Entrepreneurial Resources, Product Development, Marketing and Branding, Tools for Startups and Managing Legal Aspects of Startups. The registration portal and details for each module are available at [tinyurl.com/RapidStartUp](http://tinyurl.com/RapidStartUp). Each module is self-contained and participants are not required to attend all of them. However, participants that attend all of the modules will be awarded a non-accredited certificate from ASU.

LAUNCHPOINT is a partnership created last year by the City of Mesa and ASU on the ASU Polytechnic campus. Its mission is to stimulate the establishment and growth of small technology-based companies and other businesses in the East Valley. For more information, visit [www.mesaaccelerator.com](http://www.mesaaccelerator.com).

## Mesa closes on sale of more than 11,000 acres in Pinal County

The City of Mesa closed on an agreement December 30, 2013 to sell more than 11,400 acres of land it owns in Pinal County to Pinal Land Holdings, LLC (PLH), a real estate investment company. It is one of the largest land deals in the history of Mesa, and the three-phase agreement could net the City up to \$135 million. PLH will fully manage the remaining lands through a master lease.

The property is comprised of 88 parcels within the city limits of Coolidge and Pinal County.

The land sale and lease proceeds will go into the City's Economic Investment Fund envisioned to finance, in part, important economic development projects such as the Cubs new training complex and the City's higher education initiative, including the Benedictine University campus and the Mesa Center for Higher Education. A portion of the funds may also be used to pay for other HEAT initiative projects, which target the health care, education, aerospace, tourism, and technology industries in Mesa.

Five years ago, the Mesa City Council agreed to market and sell the land in a market-driven fashion. Mesa had expected it would take 20 years or more to sell, but PLH approached the City two years ago with interest in purchasing all of the land over 5.5 years.

Mesa purchased the land for more than \$29 million in 1985 for its water rights to create a water farm. The City no longer needs the farm because it has strengthened its water portfolio with other more reliable, accessible and cost-efficient supplies. Learn more at [tinyurl.com/MesaSellsLand](http://tinyurl.com/MesaSellsLand).

## Mesa City Manager receives professional excellence award



Mesa City Manager Chris Brady was recently awarded the prestigious John J. DeBolske Professional Excellence Award by the Arizona City/County Management Association (ACMA) during its annual winter conference held in Sedona, Arizona.

The award named for Jack DeBolske, the past executive director of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns for 40 years, recognizes city/county managers who demonstrate the highest level of professional excellence in local government who have made lifetime contributions in serving the profession. This award is the highest honor ACMA bestows upon an active member.

Brady, who has worked more than 25 years in local government, has been Mesa's city manager since January 2006. Prior to that, he served as assistant city manager in both San Antonio and Bellaire, Texas, as well as working in financial management positions for the City of Houston, and in the Mayor's Office in Provo, Utah. Based upon his leadership and contributions to the ACMA, the International City/County Management Association and the Texas City/County Management Association, Brady was appointed to a two-year term on the National Public Technology Board. Currently, he is serving his third year as a member of the Mesa United Way Board, and has also served in leadership roles for the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association Committee, the Maricopa Association of Governments Management Committee, and the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport Authority.

Learn more at [tinyurl.com/MesaCityManager](http://tinyurl.com/MesaCityManager).



## Higher Education Roundup

### Arizona College

On March 3, Arizona College started its first group of students in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program. The college is excited to prepare future nurses and to help these students achieve their goals. The school was also recently approved by the Arizona Board of Nursing to offer prerequisite nursing courses. This approval allows Arizona College to expand its BSN program to students who wish to complete the required coursework to progress into the upper division nursing courses.



Arizona College has been preparing students for careers in healthcare for over 20 years at its Arizona campuses. In addition to the nursing program, the college offers several associate's degrees and diplomas in health-related fields. Learn more at [www.arizonacollege.edu](http://www.arizonacollege.edu).

### A.T. Still University

A.T. Still University's Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health (ATSU-ASDOH), has received the Gies Award for Outstanding Innovation by the American Dental Education Association.

The most prestigious recognition, the William J. Gies Awards for Vision, Innovation, and Achievement, honor exceptional contributions to, and support of, oral health and dental education. The award was presented on March 17 at the 2014 ADEA Annual Session and Exhibition in San Antonio, Texas.

ATSU-ASDOH, Arizona's first dental school, opened in 2003. The school's most recent addition is its state-of-the-art Advanced Care Clinic on the Mesa campus, which serve those with complicated oral health needs or medically complex conditions including, but not limited to: cancer; cardiac disease; renal disease; bleeding disorders; physical disabilities; and developmental disabilities. For more information, visit [www.atsu.edu](http://www.atsu.edu).

### Benedictine University at Mesa Benedictine Launches \$10,000 MBA Program

In response to the need for more affordable education, and to honor the Benedictine promise of creating values-based business leaders, Benedictine University's new National Moser Center for Adult Learning is piloting its Next Generation Learning MBA program to experienced business professionals in underserved populations in Arizona for just \$10,000 – an unprecedented higher education pricing strategy.

Experienced business professionals who enroll in the two-year, \$10,000 MBA program will receive the same high quality program and follow the same curriculum that is offered at the University's main campus in Lisle, Illinois, but in an updated blended format featuring Next Generation Learning.

### Athletics Program

Benedictine University at Mesa has announced the hiring of Steve Schafer as the associate athletic director and head golf coach. Schafer will run the day-to-day operations of eight sports programs in Mesa – men's and women's cross country, golf, tennis and volleyball. The University would like to add additional sports for the 2015-2016 season, including men's and women's basketball and soccer, as well as softball and baseball. For more information, visit [www.benumesasports.com](http://www.benumesasports.com).

### Upcoming Events at BenU

Benedictine University at Mesa has planned the following upcoming events for interested students and their families: "Saturday Preview Days" for prospective freshmen, and "Transfer Days" for prospective transfer students. Appointments are available for Saturday Preview Days from 9 AM-12 PM on April 5 and May 17 at Gillett Hall. The next Transfer Days are scheduled from 2-5 PM on April 4, 4-7 PM on April 24, 2-5 PM on May 9 and 4-7 PM on May 22 at Gillett Hall.

During the events, attendees meet with an admissions counselor to discuss Benedictine University's renowned academic programs, the admissions process and requirements, applying, scholarships, financial aid and receive a guided tour of campus. Learn more at [www.ben.edu/mesa](http://www.ben.edu/mesa).

### DeVry University

DeVry University and Keller Graduate School of Management are excited to be offering a Master of Public Administration (MPA) program with an emphasis in Government Management. A special cohort is being formed for East Valley county and government employees.

The cohort model will be used for this program to help students improve their career opportunities by collaborating with fellow students who are employees of their own and neighboring municipalities. This MPA program has direct relevance to careers in public administration, and provides great networking opportunities.

Classes will be held on Fridays, during the day, at the Mesa DeVry/Keller Learning Center on the fifth floor of the Financial Plaza building located on the southeast corner of Alma School Rd. and Southern Ave. For more information, contact Russell Riter at 602-908-1029 or [rriter@devry.edu](mailto:rriter@devry.edu).

### Northern Arizona University

The Extended Campuses of Northern Arizona University's (NAU) Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) program is making

the move from Mesa Community College’s Downtown campus to the larger Southern and Dobson campus. NAU will offer in-person business classes at its new location beginning in the Fall Semester.

“We’re thrilled to be working with the largest community college in Maricopa County,” said Dr. Jason Myrowitz, an assistant professor with NAU-Extended Campuses’ BBA program. “Our partnership with Mesa Community College’s business department will help strengthen NAU’s business program and better serve all students.”

“The addition of NAU-Extended Campuses’ business programs at our Southern and Dobson campus is a significant opportunity for our students and community,” said Preston Cameron, chair of Mesa Community College’s business department. “As we enhance transfer and completion initiatives, NAU’s ACBSP-accredited programs will enable our business students to receive a high-quality, four-year education in an economical environment. We enthusiastically support this partnership.”

NAU’s BBA program is designed to meet the needs of working adults with classes offered in the evenings. It accepts blocks of 64 transfer credits and is a convenient, affordable option for any recent graduate of Mesa Community College who wants to complete a bachelor’s degree. Learn more at [www.nau.edu/extended](http://www.nau.edu/extended).

## Upper Iowa University

The first three students of the Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN-BSN) degree program at the Upper Iowa University-Mesa Center (UIU) have completed the program and earned BSN pins for their degree requirements.

Kathy Schmitz, Nelson Silva-Craig and Marianela Melendez began a full-time track toward completing this RN-BSN program one year ago. All three are employed by Maricopa Integrated Health Systems, which has partnered with UIU through a Corporate Advantage Program that provides tuition discounts. Recently, two of the students received promotions to management positions that they attribute to being enrolled in UIU’s RN-BSN program at the Mesa Center.



The students received their BSN pins during a ceremony at the Center surrounded by family, friends, faculty, staff, students, and Mesa District 3 Councilman Dennis Kavanaugh. Councilman Kavanaugh spoke at the event and was very complimentary of the City’s partnership with UIU under the new economic development initiative – Mesa Educates U. Learn more at [www.uiu.edu](http://www.uiu.edu).

## Westminster College

*New Westminster leadership approach gives graduates an advantage for success*

An innovative new approach to leadership will give Westminster College-Mesa students an edge in the job market and in acceptance

to graduate programs and professional schools. The Price Leadership Program will offer all Westminster students the



opportunity to compile a clear, thoughtful assessment and collection of the coursework, events, people, organizations, and tasks of their academic journey through an e-portfolio. Working closely with their advisors, students will demonstrate how they have grown and changed over the course of their education, and what they have learned from their experiences. Students will be required to do more than record activities and achievements as in a standard e-portfolio; they will think about the elements of each experience and reflect on what it means to their development as a student, a professional, and as a person.

Another unique feature of the program is the assignment of alumni as mentors to review the student’s e-portfolio in their sophomore and senior years, giving the student the benefit of the mentor’s real world perspective and coaching the students on their progress. The e-portfolio Westminster students build, with the help of academic and alumni mentors, will stand out above a customary resume by offering an employer a clear picture of the student’s leadership skills, personality, character, and achievements. To learn more about Westminster College, visit [www.westminster-mo.edu](http://www.westminster-mo.edu) or call Hillarie Price at 480-747-3863.

## Wilkes University

Adults interested in pursuing a Master of Business Administration (MBA) can do so at Wilkes University. Prospective students can apply for a scholarship that reduces program tuition by as much as 50% – a value of \$15,000. Summer classes start in May at the Mesa Center for Higher Education.



### MBA Scholarship Levels

- \$15,000 - 50% of tuition per semester - Undergraduate GPA of 3.5 and above
- \$7,500 - 25% of tuition per semester - Undergraduate GPA of 3.0 to 3.49
- \$3,000 - 10% of tuition per semester - Undergraduate GPA of 2.5 to 2.99

Applicants must complete an online application and submit official undergraduate transcripts. Professional experience will also be considered for scholarship eligibility. A bachelor’s degree in any discipline is accepted for admission, and there is no GMAT requirement.

Learn more and apply online at [www.wilkes.edu/Mesa](http://www.wilkes.edu/Mesa). Questions? Contact Michael Gundersdorf at (800) WILKES-U Ext. MESA or [MesaAdmissions@wilkes.edu](mailto:MesaAdmissions@wilkes.edu).

\*Mesa Educates U higher education updates are provided by the institutions. To submit material for inclusion, please email [Sara.Sorensen@mesaaz.gov](mailto:Sara.Sorensen@mesaaz.gov).



## Boeing 4th largest defense contractor in Arizona

The Boeing Co., with large operations in Mesa, was recently ranked the fourth largest defense contractor in Arizona by the *Phoenix Business Journal*. The list is based on the number of contracts each firm had with the Department of Defense; Boeing had 441 contracts in fiscal year 2013.

Boeing occupies over 380 acres at its Mesa site where it produces the Apache attack helicopter, the Hummingbird unmanned rotorcraft and various other products and composite components. Learn more at [www.boeing.com](http://www.boeing.com).

## Tourism spending generates economic impact for Mesa

Direct travel spending in Arizona generated \$2.6 billion annually in local, state and federal tax revenues in 2012.\* According to the same study, almost 38.1 million domestic and international overnight travelers visited Arizona in 2012 (104,000 each day), spending \$19.3 billion statewide. Eighty percent of this spending is attributed to out-of-state and international visitors, indicating new money infused into the Arizona economy. Also, the study shows that state and local tax revenues contributed by the travel industry comprise over 7% of all state and local tax revenues in Arizona. In 2012, 16.7 million visitors to Maricopa County spent \$11.5 billion.\*\*

Consider these additional important impacts:

- In 2012, the travel industry generated \$1,080 in local, state and federal tax receipts for each Arizona household.
- Direct travel-generated employment throughout the state was 161,300 jobs in 2012 with another 37,000 indirect jobs. The re-spending of travel-related revenues by businesses and employees creates secondary impacts. In 2012, these impacts were 139,000 jobs generating \$5.6 billion in earnings. When inducements are factored, travel-generated employment was 301,000.
- If tourism were a publicly traded company, it would be the 2nd largest “company” in Arizona with all of tourism’s dollars spent in Arizona.

Visitor-related taxes are extremely efficient in their yield, as visitors do not utilize most of the local, public services that governments and schools provide.

### What tourism means to Mesa

In fiscal year 2012-13, each dollar invested in Visit Mesa, by the City of Mesa, is estimated to return \$12.13 in future direct expenditures

by meeting and event attendees. This is a conservative figure and does not include leisure impacts driven by Visit Mesa’s efforts in marketing, communications and social media. Learn more at [www.VisitMesa.com](http://www.VisitMesa.com).

\*Sources: Travel Statistics, Travel Impacts, Dean Runyan Associates

\*\*Source: 2012 Arizona Travel Impacts, Dean Runyan Associates

## Mesa and Valley Metro celebrate light rail milestone event

The City of Mesa and Valley Metro celebrated a milestone event for the Central Mesa Light Rail extension on February 8. The rail welding ceremony marked the half-way point of construction.



“The light rail extension through downtown Mesa is a game changer for our community,” Mayor Scott Smith said. “The welding of this first piece of rail is the next step in our downtown’s transformation to the more urban lifestyle our residents seek.” Learn more at [www.mesaaz.gov/lightrail](http://www.mesaaz.gov/lightrail).

## LAUNCHPOINT client presents at Clinton Global Initiative University Exchange

LAUNCHPOINT client Qwik Eyes presented at the Clinton Global Initiative University (CGI U) Exchange event held March 2014 at Arizona State University. Qwik Eyes was selected to present its innovative solution to a global challenge – providing a way for blind or low vision individuals to receive visual assistance throughout their daily lives.

Each year, CGI U hosts a meeting where students, youth organizations, topic experts, and celebrities come together to discuss and develop innovative solutions to pressing global challenges. The 2014 meeting brought together nearly 1,200 attendees to make a difference in CGI U’s five focus areas: Education, Environment and Climate Change, Peace and Human Rights, Poverty Alleviation, and Public Health.

QwikEyes is a video calling service provided to blind or low vision individuals that allows them to connect to a service professional who can provide them with visual assistance throughout their daily lives. Utilizing smart phone capabilities and a built-in camera, they can connect to QwikEyes in a matter of seconds for daily difficulties where visual assistance would be useful. Once connected, they will be greeted by a friendly and properly trained QwikEyes support specialist who will inquire about the reason for the call and then begin providing clear, accurate, detailed, and complete service.

Qwik Eyes has been a LAUNCHPOINT client since December 2013. Learn more at [tinyurl.com/QwikEyes](http://tinyurl.com/QwikEyes).

## Mesa's MD Helicopters delivers on \$50 million contract with Kurdistan

The Kurdistan Regional Government, a federated region in Iraq, recently purchased 14 high-performance helicopters from MD Helicopters for more than \$50 million. The purchase included 12 MD 530F helicopters and two twin-engine, six-seat MD Explorers. They will be used for law enforcement, firefighting and medical purposes.



MD Helicopters has operations at Mesa's Falcon Field Airport and currently has more than 2,500 helicopters in operation world-wide. Fleet users include Korean Armed Forces, US Special Operations, Japanese Self Defense Forces, Jordanian Armed Forces, Turkish National Police, Houston Police, Columbus Police, Argentina Armed Forces, the Italian government, and the Finnish Armed Forces among others. Learn more at [www.mdhelicopters.com](http://www.mdhelicopters.com).

## Adelante Healthcare Mesa receives Best Healthcare Project award

Adelante Healthcare Mesa received a RED Award in the category of Best Healthcare Projects from AZRE.

The award was given February 2014 at AZRE's 8th Annual RED Awards reception at the Arizona Biltmore in Phoenix. The RED Awards recognize the most notable commercial real estate projects of 2012.

The 43,000 sq. ft. facility, located in Mesa, is a LEED platinum certified building and serves its patients with high quality primary and preventative healthcare. The developer of the project was Axis Companies; the contractor, LGE Design Build; and the architect, Cawley Architects.

To learn more about Adelante Healthcare Mesa, visit [tinyurl.com/AdelanteHealthcareMesa](http://tinyurl.com/AdelanteHealthcareMesa). To learn more about the RED Awards visit [tinyurl.com/2013REDAwards](http://tinyurl.com/2013REDAwards).



## Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport's Jane Morris named to top 25 Dynamic Women in Business

The *Phoenix Business Journal* has named Jane Morris, executive director of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, to the top 25 Dynamic Women in Business. The list celebrates women business leaders and their impact across a



broad array of economic sectors. This year's 25 honorees include high-ranking Valley business executives in education, non-profits, health care, real estate, technology, law and more. Learn more at [tinyurl.com/DynamicWomenInBusiness](http://tinyurl.com/DynamicWomenInBusiness).

## Rebranding i.d.e.a. Museum results in big success



The i.d.e.a. Museum (formerly the Arizona Museum for Youth), open for more than a month, has been deemed a resounding success. After a three-year planning project that resulted in the rebranding of the museum, 400 VIPs and members walked through the museum's doors February 6, 2014. Since then the museum has seen a 37% increase in memberships and attendance compared to the same period last year (increasing from 5,902 to 8,797).

The museum will present a BIG i.d.e.a. BASH on April 12 to raise funds for education programs. The museum is a public/private partnership between the City of Mesa and the i.d.e.a. Museum Board. Please visit [www.ideaMuseum.org](http://www.ideaMuseum.org) or contact Sunnee O'Rork, Executive Director, at 408-644-2850 or [Sunnee.O'Rork@mesaaz.gov](mailto:Sunnee.O'Rork@mesaaz.gov).

## Mesa Chamber annual leadership awards dinner

The Mesa Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Leadership Awards



**mesachamber**  
OF COMMERCE

Dinner Friday, April 25, at the Phoenix-Mesa Hilton. The following businesses have been nominated as Businesses of the Year with the winners to be announced at the April dinner:

**Small Business Nominees:** Arnett Insurance, Ivan Martinez Photography, and Red Mountain Christian Center.

**Medium Business Nominees:** Chester's Harley Davidson, Las Sendas Golf Club, and Organ Stop Pizza.

**Large Business Nominees:** Crescent Crown Distributing, FastMed Urgent Care and Superstition Springs Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram.

Americopy will receive the Safety Award and Mesa United Way will be awarded as the Non-Profit of the Year. The Volunteer of the Year Award will be announced at the event.

In addition to recognizing business excellence, the Chamber will honor Johan Hernandez Diaz of Mesa High School as Student of the Year, Ms. Heather O'Brien of Red Mountain High School as Teacher of the Year, and Ms. Tawn Hauptli of Mesa Community College as Professor of the Year. Learn more at [www.mesachamberofcommerce.org](http://www.mesachamberofcommerce.org).

## City of Mesa Office of Economic Development

PO Box 1466  
20 East Main Street, Suite 200  
Mesa, Arizona 85211-1466

Phone: 480.644.2398  
Fax: 480.644.3458

[www.mesaaz.gov/economic](http://www.mesaaz.gov/economic)

## EVENTS



### APRIL

- 10 AAED Econ. Development Academy**  
Visit Mesa Building  
120 N. Center St., Mesa, AZ  
8:30 AM – 4:30 PM  
[tinyurl.com/AAEDacademy](http://tinyurl.com/AAEDacademy)
- 10 Rapid Startup School - Free**  
LAUNCHPOINT  
6113 S. Kent St., Mesa, AZ  
6 PM (classes held every Thursday  
through June 26)  
[www.mesaaccelerator.com](http://www.mesaaccelerator.com)
- 12 Westminster Preview Transfer Night**  
Mesa Center for Higher Education  
245 W. 2nd St., Mesa, AZ  
Register: **480-747-3863**  
[Hillarie.Price@westminster-mo.edu](mailto:Hillarie.Price@westminster-mo.edu)
- 15 State Route 24 Ribbon Cutting**  
4-7 PM  
By invitation
- 25 Mesa Chamber Annual Leadership Awards Event**  
Hilton Phoenix/Mesa  
1011 W. Holmes Ave., Mesa, AZ  
Register: [tinyurl.com/ChamberAwardsEvent](http://tinyurl.com/ChamberAwardsEvent)
- 26 Celebrate Mesa**  
Pioneer Park  
526 E. Main St., Mesa, AZ  
[www.mesaaz.gov/parksrec](http://www.mesaaz.gov/parksrec)  
[www.mesaaz.gov/celebratemesa](http://www.mesaaz.gov/celebratemesa)
- 30 AAED 2014 Spring Conference**  
(Apr 30-May 2)  
Loews Ventana Canyon  
7000 N. Resort Dr., Tucson, AZ  
Register: [tinyurl.com/AAEDspringconference](http://tinyurl.com/AAEDspringconference)

### MAY

- 26 Memorial Day**  
City offices closed

### JUNE

- 1-3 IEDC 2014 Spring Conference**  
Minneapolis-Saint Paul, MN  
Register: [www.iedcevents.org/SpringConference](http://www.iedcevents.org/SpringConference)

## Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport services two more destinations with Allegiant



Allegiant Air recently announced new nonstop flights to Colorado Springs, Colorado and Stockton, California from Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport beginning May 15. The new destinations increase the number of cities served from Gateway to 36. Learn more at [www.phxmesagateway.org](http://www.phxmesagateway.org).

### Staff Profile: Andrew Clegg



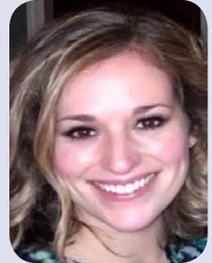
Andrew joined the City of Mesa Office of Economic Development team in June 2013 as an economic development specialist. In December 2013, he began his new role as an economic development project manager and works to enhance job creation through assisting in business attraction and expansion efforts. In addition, he is responsible for business retention and expansion coordination for the economic development team.

Prior to working for the City of Mesa, Andrew served as the director of business attraction and development for the Central Arizona Regional Economic Development Foundation where he focused on attraction and retention efforts for the cities of Casa Grande, Eloy, Coolidge, and Western Pinal County. In May of 2013, he was honored by the Arizona Association of Economic Development as Economic Developer of the Year, Small Community.

Andrew received a BS in Business Administration with a concentration in Human Resource Management from San Jose State University, and an MBA from the University of Phoenix.

Andrew can be reached at 480-644-3961 or [Andrew.Clegg@mesaaz.gov](mailto:Andrew.Clegg@mesaaz.gov).

### Staff Profile: Sara Sorensen



Sara joined the City of Mesa Economic Development team in August 2013 as a project manager. In this role, Sara works to promote new capital investment, redevelopment opportunities, and job creation throughout Mesa. In addition, Sara represents the department as the City liaison for Mesa's newest colleges and universities involved in the Mesa Educates U initiative.

Prior to working for the City of Mesa, Sara served as marketing representative for Henrico County Economic Development Authority in Henrico, Virginia, where she focused mainly on domestic and international business attraction efforts. She also held a position at Genworth Financial as an Information Technology Research Assistant.

Sara was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia and received a BA in English and Political Science with a concentration in Pre-Law from Virginia Tech.

Sara can be reached at 480-644-2773 or at [Sara.Sorensen@mesaaz.gov](mailto:Sara.Sorensen@mesaaz.gov).

## Follow Us

You can follow us and engage in economic development discussion at the following locations:

-  Twitter @MesaEconDev
-  LinkedIn @ City of Mesa Office of Economic Development

- [www.mesaaz.gov/economic](http://www.mesaaz.gov/economic)