



PRESS RELEASE

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West-MEC Receives Generous Electric Vehicle Donation From SRP

GLENDAL, Ariz. (May 23, 2023) – On May 23, Salt River Project (SRP) donated an electric vehicle to Western Maricopa Education Center’s (West-MEC) Northeast Campus, to help a potential West-MEC EV program in the future.

As technology continues to advance and many states are mandating EV adoption by 2035, the donation of an electronic vehicle is vital for the potential program, and SRP graciously donated a 2015 electric Ford Focus.

“On behalf of SRP, we are excited to be able to do this today. We support the trades; our transportation department is a huge supporter of helping the industry move forward,” said SRP Senior Director of Supply Chain Transportation & Flight Services Kate Kochenderfer.

SRP is a not-for-profit public power utility and the largest electricity provider in the greater Phoenix metropolitan area and are a leader in the EV field.

“Giving back and enabling students for the future of the trade is what will keep the automotive technician trade thriving,” said SRP Transportation Services Regional Manager of Maintenance David Samuel. “EV is more than an emerging technology, it’s the way of the future. We want to enable the young mechanics to learn the new technology and be able to step into the workforce as a very knowledgeable and competent mechanic right from the get go.”

The 2015 electric Ford Focus was once a member of SRP’s EV fleet, but by gifting the vehicle to the Northeast Campus, students will be able to use it to work on an EV and prepare for the future of the automotive technician field.

“This is going to be a great start for our program, getting high schools students used to working on EV’s and giving them a better opportunity for success by preparing them for the industry,” said Automotive Technology instructor Randy Golding. “We can sit here and plan all we want but without the support and backing from partnerships like SRP, we aren’t getting the right technology. Partnerships like SRP are crucial for our programs to survive.”

Thanks to Kochenderfer, Samuel, and all of SRP for the generous EV donation.

About West-MEC:

West-MEC is a career technical education public school district focusing solely on innovative career and technical education (CTE) programs that prepare students to enter the workforce and pursue continuing education. West-MEC CTE programs provide students opportunities to earn college credit and industry credentials. West-MEC serves more than 37,000 students from 48 high schools across 3,800 square miles in the northern and western cities of the Phoenix Metropolitan area. West-MEC now also offers adult education programs. Visit www.west-mec.edu for more information about West-MEC's career-driven education opportunities, or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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