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## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **WEST-MEC ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Glendale, Ariz. (August 7, 2020) Western Maricopa Education Center (West-MEC)--a public career technical education district--is pleased to announce its partnership with Arizona State University (ASU).

West-MEC's partnership with ASU provides students a fast-track opportunity to a degree in post-secondary education. Career and Technical Education (CTE) students are learning industry-standard skills related to their specific programs such as Veterinary Science, Automotive Technology, Fire Science, Welding and more. In addition, students have the opportunity to earn dual enrollment college credits from Maricopa Community College in tandem with earning their industry certifications.

Speranta Klees, West-MEC Post-Secondary Partnerships Manager, worked together with a team of transfer specialists to create this meaningful partnership for CTE students. "Until now, we did not have a clear path for our West-MEC CTE program completers to transfer seamlessly to ASU. Our students perceived that only academic achievement indicated by a high GPA or class rank, high test scores on college placement exams, or excellence in extra-curricular activities were qualifiers for university admission. This work changes that perception! Now, CTE program completers are valued, welcomed and recruited by ASU." Mrs. Klees stated.

Upon completion of an AAS degree through Maricopa Community College, the

partnership with ASU allows students to directly transfer 60-75 credits toward their BAS degree at ASU. The work outlined in this partnership has packaged the first two-year degree program so that students can contribute to our economy in a different way while they pursue their degree.

Industry partners are championing these stackable credentials as well. The West Valley economy is growing and the need for skilled workers is high. These meaningful partnerships provide a local talent pipeline directly into high paying employment opportunities.

ASU's nationally ranked programs inspire the top-qualified graduates and have positioned the university as a "top-tier" recruiting and hiring institution by more than 50 of the country's top corporations, according to professional recruiters and rankings services around the world. <https://www.asu.edu>

#### **About West-MEC:**

**West-MEC is a career technical education public school district that focuses 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](http://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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