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## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Recognition for West-MEC at WESTMARC's annual award ceremony**

**Glendale, Ariz. (November, 2021)**-- West-MEC, a Career and Technical Education school district received WESTMARC's Quality of Life: Education award for their Southwest campus. According to WESTMARC, the award recognizes individuals, organizations, businesses, facilities or programs which have enhanced the quality of life for West Valley residents.

West-MEC serves the multi-generational community of Buckeye and surrounding areas through education, networking, community service and training opportunities. The Southwest campus is the nucleus of a unique partnership between industry, secondary and postsecondary learning institutions. The Energy & Engineering Technology program partners with Estrella Mountain Community College and Palo Verde energy plant to educate high school students for a career in Energy and also provide training for over 6,000 APS workers.

Superintendent Greg Donovan of West-MEC said, "The Southwest campus continues to prepare students today for tomorrow's careers. We hope to serve the community, build relationships and train the workforce with in-demand skills for years to come."

Apart from innovative education, West-MEC also has the first zero-energy education facility in Arizona. The NEX facility is an off-grid building that produces more energy than it consumes. The building seats 400 people and is heavily used year-round. Pamela Loeffelman, Senior Principal in DLR Group's K-12 Education Studio, said, "West-MEC has an unmatched ability to collaborate with various stakeholders like students, faculty and industry partners. Bolstering this effort, West-MEC worked with DLR Group and McCarthy Building Companies to create a space for students and community members to gather and grow."

Elaborating on the value of the NEX facility, DLR Group's Applied Research Leader, Prem Sundharam said, "The photovoltaic canopy of the building becomes a tool to teach students about renewable energy systems. It incorporated a fully functioning industry flow loop, an integral component of energy production. This real-world example is key to an authentic educational experience."

Photo Captions:

1: Dr. Isom, the Director of Business Development and Government Affairs, accepts the award.

2: From Left to right: West-MEC board members, James Kaltenbach and Frank Straka, Jared Guy, West-MEC administrator for learning systems, Terry Wohlgenant, High performance design leader at DLR and Juliana Norvel, Principal at DLR

**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 3,876 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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