

» West-MEC

IMPACT REPORT

2021 – 2022



OUR IMPACT IN THEIR WORDS...

“What was different about this type of education compared to other learning experiences that I’ve had would probably be that it’s more one on one and it felt more like a family. My teacher had the time to be able to sit down specifically with me and help me personally with things I was struggling with. She would make sure we knew what we were doing and what we were learning before she moved on to the next thing we had to know.”

- Dani Torres, Medical Assisting Alumna



WHO WE ARE *Western Maricopa Education Center (West-MEC) is a public school district dedicated to providing 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.*



SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE

West-MEC has aimed at empowering students through practical and professional skills. By providing Career and Technical Education (CTE) to children and adults, we strive to fill the skilled worker gap and nurture economic progress in Arizona and beyond. Through partnerships with member districts, industry leaders, and the community, West-MEC provides the most up-to-date technology, resources, and opportunities to tens of thousands of students every year.

West-MEC CTE programs provide students opportunities to earn college credit and industry credentials. West-MEC strives to be the best CTE opportunity a person can have. With that goal in mind, West-MEC has to constantly innovate and become an improved version of itself every year. As the West Valley continues to expand and grow, so does West-MEC.

With that being said, our teachers, staff and everyone involved with what makes West-MEC special did a great job this past year in improving West-MEC's unique pathways we provide to students to aid in their path to economic independence.

Educators from across the state learn from our professional development offerings and bring with them ideas that make us better. Signature events at each campus invite the surrounding community to learn more about what is happening right in their neighborhood. Above all, serving our communities remains a top priority, because without the community, West-MEC wouldn't be able to be where it is today.

Every day truly is a great day to be at West-MEC, and I want tomorrow to be even greater than it is today. Our 2021-22 school year was a major success and the following report provides an overview of our 2021-2022 CTE year. On behalf of the the governing board and administration, I invite you to look at the impact the school has made in the past year and celebrate the thriving students and innovative educators and staff that make up West-MEC.

Sincerely,
Dr. Scott Spurgeon,
 West-MEC Superintendent

Credentials show employers you have the knowledge and skills to excel in your profession.

At West-MEC, there is ample opportunity for students to earn credentials. During the 2021-22 school year, 96% of the 2,047 students that studied at West-MEC campuses earned at least one certification.

“Credentials are life-long skills that show a true measure of career readiness, and students are provided the opportunity to earn them here at West-MEC,” said Northwest Campus Administrator Holly Medina.

“About 90% of our teachers come from the industry area in which they’re teaching. So we really have our finger on the pulse of what industry expects of entry-level employees,” said Assistant Superintendent Stephen Weltsch. “This way, we can better develop students to connect them with those career opportunities, and I think this is what makes West-MEC stand out.”

West-MEC also listens to industry partners within the area to ensure students are gaining the optimal skills and experience to be job-ready after their time with West-MEC. Knowing the expected standards for industry gives

STUDENTS EARN CREDENTIALS AT WEST-MEC AT A HIGH RATE



According to a 2021 study by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 46.1% of civilian workers must have at least one credential. Which means nearly half of civilian workers need a credential.

“Credentials provide someone with a competitive edge, a sense of readiness, and a plan to move forward toward economic independence,” said Northeast Campus Administrator David Svorinic.

Not only are credentials vital for someone pursuing a career, but credentials are also important to employers.

“For industry, it is ensuring a prepared and skilled professional workforce. It supports growth and sustainability and it gives you an agile employee as an employer,” said Svorinic.

High-value credentials are required, preferred, or relevant to the industry to which it pertains. At West-MEC, ensuring students obtain these types of credentials is a high priority. 78% of students at West-MEC obtained a high-value credential in 2021, up from 64% in 2018. West-MEC is looking to increase that number every year.

But what makes West-MEC an excellent option for earning these types of credentials? It all starts with the instructors.

West-MEC an edge in preparing students for their futures.

“We start the whole process with listening to our industry partners in the area, whether it be new industries like KORE Power in Buckeye, which will be a big employer in the future,” said Weltsch. “Or existing partners, like Abrazo hospital in Goodyear, everything begins with them.”

More than anything, credentials give people confidence in their abilities to excel in their chosen field. It tells them they have the skills and know-how to perform the essential functions of their career.

And it’s not just their parents or teachers telling them they are great, either.

“This is a third party. This is someone who doesn’t know the person at all and has assessed their skills and abilities and confirms they’ve got what it takes to be successful in their pathway,” said Weltsch. “That really starts to build confidence in young people and their efficacy.”



OUR ORANGE HEROES

Our instructors are the cornerstone of West-MEC. Our future leaders and workforce is due to the tireless efforts of our West-MEC instructors.

“With the vast number of opportunities out there, it is more important than ever for young people to prepare. When they walk out of the West-MEC doors, there’s a tremendous chance of getting a good job after the proper certification process.”

- Terry Menees
Aviation Maintenance
Technology Instructor

GENERATION ORANGE SUCCESS

- 2,244** *Enrolled Central Program Students*
- 100%** *Central Program Pass Rate*
- 92%** *Central Program Retention Rate*
- 5,000+** *Central Program Industry Certifications Earned*



WEST-MEC STUDENTS EARNING COLLEGE CREDIT

- 443 Students Took Dual/Concurrent**
(V 322 Students Previous Year)
- 17 Programs Out Of 29 Offer College Credit**
(V 15 Programs Previous Year)
- 3,575 Total College Credits Earned**
(V 3,449 Credits Previous Year)



“We continue to be successful with West-MEC graduates due to their strong work ethic, eagerness to learn and job specific skills,”

- Tom Magurany,
Rummel Construction



CAREER COLLABORATIONS

West-MEC continues to build a strong industry network to provide career pathway options for our students.

Here are some companies that have hired West-MEC students.

Adelante

AerSale

Ang Construction

APS/Palo Verde

Ball

Banner Health

Freightliner AZ

Honeywell

Humana

K2 Electric

Lexus

Lufthansa

Mercedes-Benz

Ohana Salon

Pacific Dental Services

Pepsi Co

Rummel Construction

SanMar

Schuff Steel

Subaru

Sun Health

1st Pet Vet

AN AWARD-WINNING YEAR

West-MEC is pleased to celebrate staff members who were recognized for their CTE contributions by the Association for Career Technical Education of Arizona (ACTEAZ).



Tamara Greabell,
Northwest Campus,
New Career and
Technical Educator of
the Year



Kris Guy,
Northwest Campus,
Career Guidance
Professional of the Year



Maya Milhon,
District Office,
ACTEAZ Distinguished
Service Award



Charlie Ellis,
Northeast Campus,
ACTEAZ Community
Service Award

**West-MEC
Dental Program,
Career and
Technical Education
Program of the Year**



Tammy Bachelder,
Northwest Campus,
Dental Program



Julie Ehrman,
Southwest Campus,
Dental Program



Tracey Oium,
Northwest Campus,
Dental Program



Dottie Wittman,
Southwest Campus,
Dental Program

A DISTINCT HONOR



West-MEC was in the top 5% of schools that participated in the accreditation process during the 2021-2022 school year. Accreditation from Cognia is a valuable mark of distinction recognized around the world and West-MEC has been recognized by Cognia for the 2021-22 school year.

Cognia's Performance Standards for accreditation are based on ever-expanding research and understanding of learning, and define high-quality education for today's world.

Being recognized by Cognia shows West-MEC has effectively implemented high-quality instruction, has shown consistent organizational effectiveness, and has maintained a commitment to continuous improvement.



ASPRA AWARDS:

Each year, the Arizona School Public Relations Association (ASPRA) recognizes standards of excellence in school public relations through its ASPRA*tion Awards. Winning entries will demonstrate how sound public relations principles, creativity and a commitment to improving communications were used in pursuit of organizational goals.

West-MEC was honored to receive three ASPRA awards, all in different categories. These awards are humbling and proof of excellence for the Public Relations team for the 2021-22 school year.

THE AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE WERE AS FOLLOWS:



VIDEO CATEGORY:

"You Want More" video



SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN CATEGORY:

CTE Campaign



PODCASTING/AUDIO CATEGORY:

"Generation Orange" Podcast

REBUILDING MORE THAN JUST A HOME



At West-MEC, community service is an integral part of all programs and helps to teach students life-long lessons and values. The General Construction Technology instructor, Charlie Ellis, provides students with a unique opportunity to give back to their community.

Along with teaching at West-MEC, Ellis is the founder of Operation Enduring Gratitude (OEG), a nonprofit that assists the veteran community in Arizona by filling in the gaps left by other services.

“There’s a personal satisfaction with helping somebody that can’t help themselves and that, I hope, will carry them more through life than swinging a hammer,” Ellis said in an interview with ABC 15.

Ellis’ students got their first chance to give back by helping LaGean Levar. Levar lost her husband Phillip, a navy veteran, and was forced to move out of her house in downtown Glendale as the city deemed it condemned. She was unsure of what was going to happen or what her next move was going to be.

But then, OEG stepped in. They undertook renovations of the dilapidated house and worked to restore it into a place Levar could call home again. While OEG was working on Levar’s house, Ellis wanted to bring in students from his

class to see the impact of the construction field on the community.

On the first Friday of February, a busload of high school students landed at Levar’s home, ready to participate in the renovation process.

“The class is here to make a tangible difference while seeing the real-life application of techniques learned in the lab. They will be coming back a few more times to help in the restoration process,” said Ellis.

Students repaired cracked masonry joints, filled gaps with bricks and cinder blocks, replaced windows, and assisted with electric installations. The high schoolers also received guidance from industry partners like AZ Masonry Council and Avanti windows. “It feels great to use the skills that I’ve learned in class while also giving back to the community,” a student of the program Ximena Navarro said.

While honing their skills and putting what they’ve learned to the test in a real-life situation, they also had the chance to help someone who needed it. A perfect situation for the students to learn from, not just as students, but as people too.

“I’d like to thank the students, Operation Enduring Gratitude, and others who have helped in the restoration process,” said Levar.

ADULT EDUCATION - A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR ALL

To meet the growing needs of our community, West-MEC provides educational opportunities to adults looking to gain industry skills and further their education.

Adult Education achieved Accreditation Renewal for another six years from Council on Occupational Education.

Our programs offered to fill the employment needs of industry:

Aviation Maintenance Technology, Coding, HVAC-R, IT Security, Pharmacy Technician, Precision Manufacturing, Welding Technology



95% For the year, Adult Education had an overall attendate rate of 95%.



PROJECT SEARCH

Project SEARCH is a Faster Way Forward for individuals 18-28 who have graduated high school and have a disability that is a barrier to employment.

Locations: Renaissance Phoenix Glendale Hotel and Spa, and SanMar

In the 2021-2022 Cohort, 19 of 23 interns are already employed within the community, with 73.91% of the total interns (17 of 23) employed within the Project SEARCH success criteria.

19 OF 23
Interns Employed

73.91%
Employed within
Project SEARCH

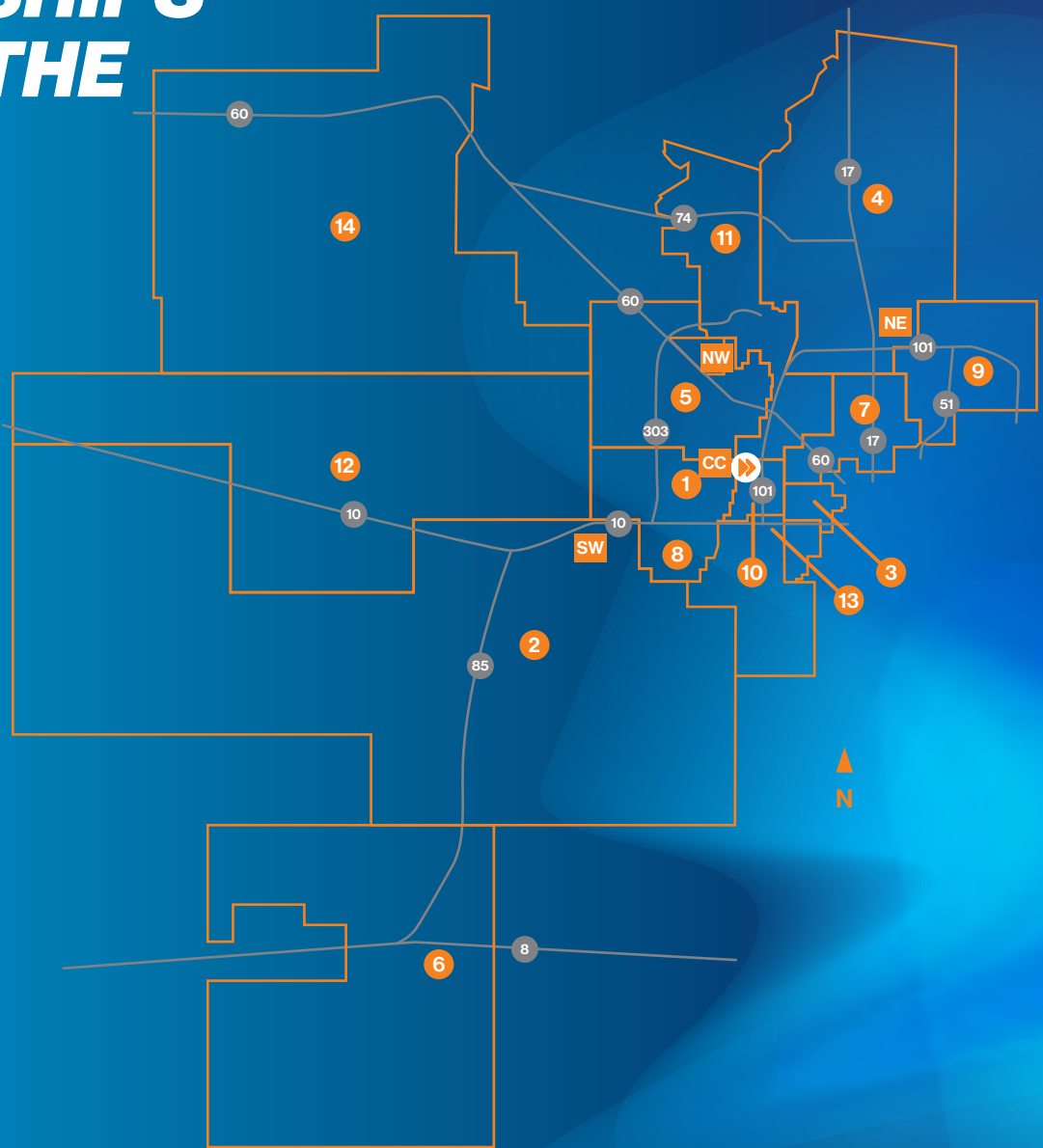
EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS SHAPING THE

MEMBER SCHOOL DISTRICTS

- 1 Agua Fria Union
- 2 Buckeye Union
- 3 Cartwright Elementary
- 4 Deer Valley Unified
- 5 Dysart Unified
- 6 Gila Bend Unified
- 7 Glendale Union
- 8 Littleton Elementary
- 9 Paradise Valley Unified
- 10 Pendergast Elementary
- 11 Peoria Unified
- 12 Saddle Mountain Unified
- 13 Tolleson Union
- 14 Wickenburg Unified

WEST-MEC CAMPUSES

- ▶ District Office/START
- CC Central Campus
- NE Northeast Campus
- NW Northwest Campus
- SW Southwest Campus



West-MEC partners with 14 public school districts and 2 charter districts to enhance a variety of CTE programs. These CTE programs are elective courses offered to students at their designated high school campuses.

PARTNER CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICTS

- Paradise Honors
- Western School of Science & Technology

NEW DISTRICTS, NEW CAREERS

West-MEC added two new districts during the 20-21 school year. We are excited to have Gila Bend Unified and Littleton Elementary join the West-MEC family. We look forward to impacting their communities for generations to come.

A GRAND PARTNERSHIP

PARTNERING TO IMPACT OUR FUTURE

Over the last year, The Cartwright School District has held four separate grand openings for makerspaces across the district. A Makerspaces is where students can create, problem solve, test critical thinking skills, design, build and bring what they learn in the classroom to life. Cartwright has used funds from

West-MEC to reimagine previous spaces and furnish them with 3d printers, sewing machines, and other STEM equipment. These new spaces have become the highlight of the campuses housed on and have helped propel college and career readiness across the district.



POWERING THEIR FUTURE

West-MEC held summer camps for middle school students at each of its four campuses, which included 65 hours of programming and 185 students from over 30 different schools across the West Valley. Camp programs included Coding, Welding Technology, Medical Assisting and more. In 2022-23, we will continue to expand our summer campus, due to West-MEC's most successful summer camps to date.

“West-MEC’s summer camp was a tremendous success and we were excited that West-MEC was able to hold a camp at each of our four campuses for the first time in West-MEC’s history. To have the opportunity to be active in our communities and to teach our future leaders the importance of CTE, leadership, and professional skills at a young age is of utmost importance to West-MEC.”

-Rahsaan Bartet, Elementary/Community Liaison



RETURN ON YOUR INVESTMENT



Accomplishing West-MEC's mission to prepare students today for tomorrow's careers requires the district to think beyond central programs. Achieving this aspirational purpose requires a shared commitment to high quality CTE and investment across all our partnerships. As a result, West-MEC serves as an educational partner with member districts in providing a myriad of services and funding.



Total Funding and Services

- 10.3 million funded based on student enrollment
- 560K to support industry aligned equipment
- 450K to support innovation in CTE
- 72K to support small districts
- 300K to support 8th grade STEM education



- CTSO officer trainings
- Host regional CTSO competitions
- School grants to grow CTE programs
- Counselor grants to promote Central Programs
- State CTE Curriculum Consortium membership



- OSHA 10 training/credentials
- NC3 trainings/certifications
- Program of Study/Dual Enrollment
- Career Services for students
- Externships for teachers and students
- Facility usage of West-MEC facilities by member districts



- START Center services
- Certification services for teachers to renew their teaching certifications
- Certification classes for teachers to earn their teaching certifications

CTSOS

= SPRINGING INTO LEADERSHIP



STATE AND CTSO AWARD WINNERS FOR CENTRAL PROGRAMS

We are honored to have West-MEC students selected to serve as state officers. These students are gaining valuable leadership experience and are a testament to the impact and guidance our West-MEC instructors provide them.

TOTAL STUDENTS	156
FBLA	6 STUDENTS
HOSA	87 STUDENTS
SkillsUSA	63 STUDENTS



WEST-MEC STATE OFFICERS

2021-2022 HOSA STATE OFFICERS:

- Reanne Espiritu**
- Region 2 Vice President – Northeast Campus
- Emily Tang**
- State Secretary - Northwest Campus

2021-2022 SKILLSUSA NATIONAL OFFICER

- Noe Garcia**
- National Treasurer – Southwest Campus