

# evit Insider

1601 West Main Street • Mesa, Arizona 85201 • 480.461.4000 • www.evit.com

Issue 8

Volume XIII

April 2014

## Upcoming Events:

- April 17: 9th Annual Fashion Show, 6 p.m. (Main Campus—Culinary)
- April 18: District Break — No School
- April 24: Free Movie Thursday by Teen Pulse Radio, 4:30 p.m. (Pollack Tempe Cinemas)
- April 30: Sine Dine, 6 p.m. (Main Campus—Culinary)

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## Who needs basketball? EVIT's got a RACE CAR!



Other schools have football and basketball teams, but the East Valley Institute of Technology has a race car! EVIT #5, driven by R.C. Whitwell, is sponsored by EVIT students and staff and is now competing in the Dirt Late Model racing series.

The idea for an EVIT race car came from collision repair instructor Hollywood Leary, who used to race and manage a race track.

He asked Jeff and Mitzi Manka of Glendale, Ariz., if EVIT could sponsor the car they own. The car, a 2013 Rocket, has 800 to 850 horsepower and can reach 100 mph at the end of straight-aways on the dirt track, Manka said. Its driver, Whitwell, is well known in West Coast Late Model dirt racing.

For a donation of \$5, EVIT students and staff can have their name put on the car alongside the EVIT logo. During two assemblies March 26 students got their first up-close look at the car.

"Some schools have a football team, some schools have a basketball team. But we have a race car," said Superintendent Sally Downey. "It's a great way to build camaraderie. When it's racing locally, we can all go to the race track and root our car on to victory."



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CAREER AND COLLEGE PREP

# In the News

## Designers find their creative niche in FIT program

From an eyewear and sports apparel company in Europe to the Dallas corporate office for Fossil accessories, Candice Barringer's fashion design education at the East Valley Institute of Technology led to a whirlwind of exciting career opportunities.

"Without my participation in the EVIT fashion program, I don't know if I would have had all of the opportunities that I've had so far at such a young age in my career," said Barringer, who completed EVIT's Fashion Merchandising and Design program in 2009, interned at Phoenix Art Museum, and worked for Oakley Inc. in Switzerland before moving to Texas, where she manages accounts for Fossil. "Having thrived in the EVIT program has set me apart from people aspiring to have careers in the fashion industry."



Since Barringer attended EVIT, the fashion and interior design programs merged to form Fashion, Interiors and Textiles, a dynamic program that teaches students the elements and principles of design, fabrics and textiles, use of color and texture, retail theory, visual merchandising, sewing and pattern making.

Fashion, Interiors and Textiles – or FIT, as the students and teachers call it – is one of more than 30 occupational training programs at EVIT currently enrolling for the 2014-15 school year. Instructors Kim Foulger and Kristen Johnson say FIT would appeal to any student who is creative, thinks outside-the-box, and has an entrepreneurial spirit. Johnson pointed out that while many high schools offer design programs, they are not two-hour blocks of instruction each day with the depth that EVIT provides.



"We always get some students who will say, 'I've already done that,' but then when you say, 'show me,' they've never used the correct tools," Foulger said.

Students who love art may want to go into interior design, but will discover that to get into the best design schools they have to show a portfolio first. At EVIT, design students not only finish with a portfolio of quality work, but also a resume and, if they choose, nine college credits through dual enrollment at Mesa Community College. Many EVIT design students have gone on to such renowned schools as the Pratt Institute and LIM College in New York, FIDM Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising in California, and more.

"We have former students in college who say they're so glad they went to EVIT because they are so far ahead of everyone else," Foulger said.

(Continued on Page 3)



# In the News

## Ukrainian delegation visits EVIT to learn about CTE



On March 24, People to People International, Greater Phoenix Chapter hosted a group of Ukrainian officials at EVIT's Main Campus to learn more about science and technology, teaching, citizens' involvement in the education process and more. People to People is a non-profit whose goal is to foster peace by linking people around the world with each other.

The Ukrainian delegation was visiting the United States through the Open World Leadership Center in Washington, D.C. They met with EVIT Superintendent Dr. Sally Downey, Assistant Superintendent David Schapira and other experts on educational and legislative issues.

## Designers — Continued from Page 2

EVIT's design students transform their skills into garments, elaborate sets and window displays, while also raising money for an annual field trip to New York City. At the annual Fashion Show, their clothing collections are judged by fashion experts. This year's Fashion Show will be 6 p.m., April 17 at the EVIT Culinary Arts banquet hall, 1601 W. Main St., Mesa. To order tickets, call (480) 461-4141.

The FIT students are also currently designing EVIT's new restaurant, Bistro 13, which is scheduled to open in August. FIT is one of several EVIT programs involved in renovating the restaurant, one of the "real life" projects that sets the design program apart from those offered at other schools.

It's also an example of the teamwork stressed in the program, a "soft skill" prized by employers – and an environment in which young designers thrive.



"We become a family," Johnson said.

"We know the students really well. All EVIT programs are like that ... When one student goes down, they all go down. They're a team. They're very committed. They grow together."

# In the News

## EVIT registration under way for 2014-15

Who wouldn't want to go to a school where you can work with animals, build an airplane, cut and style hair, design clothes and video games, interview bands on the radio and much more? Classes offered at the East Valley Institute of Technology are not only fun, but also smart because EVIT training leads to credentials, careers and jobs to help pay for college.

"There are no guarantees in life. But you are closer to a guaranteed success in life if you are one of the students who attends EVIT," said Greg Copeland, principal of the Dr. A. Keith Crandell (Main) Campus.

Enrollment is under way at EVIT for 2014-15. EVIT offers over 30 programs tuition-free to high school students in 10 districts – Scottsdale, Mesa, Tempe, Chandler, Gilbert, Apache Junction, Fountain Hills, Higley, Queen Creek and J.O. Combs. Charter school and home-schooled students are also welcome. In addition, EVIT provides tuition-based classes for adults, with financial aid available.



Students attend their high school for a half day and EVIT for a half day, with transportation provided by the school districts. EVIT classes are offered at two centralized Mesa campuses – the Main Campus, 1601 W. Main St., and East Campus, 6625 S. Power Road. EVIT also provides classes at Apache Junction High School, 2525 S. Ironwood Drive.

Two out of three EVIT students go on to college, many of them starting their college coursework at EVIT. Dual enrollment for credit at community colleges is offered in 3D Animation, Early Childhood Education, Fire Science, Multimedia, Radio/Audio Production, Automotive, Culinary Arts, Aviation and Fashion, Interiors and Textiles.

Students also use training and internships they receive at EVIT to secure jobs to help pay for college. For example, Siena Karacas, 18, had an internship last year through the Dental Assistant program, one of 11 programs in the EVIT School of Health Sciences. That led to employment with Kids First Pediatrics in Gilbert, where she is working while taking classes at Chandler-Gilbert Community College. Eventually, she will attend dental hygienist school at Phoenix College or Rio Salado College.

"EVIT," she said, "is college when you're in high school."

Most EVIT programs lead to professional credentials. For instance, 176 Automotive students recently passed 205 tests to earn certifications in engine repair, automatic transmissions, manual drivetrains, brakes, steering and suspension, engine performance, electrical, heating and air conditioning, and maintenance and light repair.

And, more than 90 percent of EVIT's cosmetology students pass state licensing exams every year. Cosmetology, which can cost more than \$20,000 at private beauty schools, is tuition-free for high school students at EVIT. The program has waiting lists every year, but there are still seats available for 2014-15.

(Continued on Page 5)

# In the News

## Summer school is FREE for EVIT students

For the second year, the East Valley Institute of Technology will provide free summer school to students who enroll to attend EVIT in the fall.

The occupational training programs offered by EVIT are electives for high school students, with most attending EVIT in their junior and senior years. But if they have already taken too many electives, it can be difficult for them to attend EVIT and complete their course requirements for high school graduation.

That's why EVIT takes the extra step – and expense – of providing free summer school.



“We’re offering free core academic summer classes because the state’s increase of graduation requirements in the last few years has made it harder and harder for students to find the flexibility in their schedules to pursue career-focused courses,” said Assistant Superintendent David Schapira.

EVIT will offer Government and Economics classes taught by certified teachers at the Dr. A. Keith Crandell (Main) Campus at 1601 W. Main St., Mesa. The classes, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday, will be offered in two sessions June 9-26 and July 7-24. Students can enroll in one of the classes or both. All school districts require these courses to graduate, and most students haven’t taken them yet going into their senior year.

Eight of the ten school districts served by EVIT – Apache Junction, Fountain Hills, Gilbert, Higley, J.O. Combs, Queen Creek, Scottsdale and Tempe – have agreed to accept the EVIT summer school credits. Four of those districts – Gilbert, Higley, J.O. Combs and Queen Creek – agreed to honor the credits for the first time this year.

EVIT will also cover tuition costs for EVIT students to take courses needed to fulfill graduation requirements (not electives) at their home district’s summer school. This option is available to EVIT students from any of the 10 districts served by EVIT, including Mesa and Chandler.

Summer School applications are available in the Registrar’s Office on the Main Campus or at [www.evit.com/summer](http://www.evit.com/summer). The applications must be submitted to the Registrar’s Office for either option in addition to any paperwork required by the student’s home district.

### Registration — Continued from Page 4

EVIT has a few new programs in the works as well. The iTEC program will prepare students for a career in engineering and information technology. The curriculum provides a foundation in the first year from which students can then specialize in a chosen career in their second year. EVIT also is partnering with ASU Polytechnic to provide in the near future a pre-engineering program for select students at the East Campus.

Also at the East Campus, principal Molly Miller is watching enrollment numbers closely in the popular Veterinary Assistant program. Miller said if the interest is there, EVIT East will offer a two-year vet assistant program this fall, and hopefully in another year, an associate degree program.

To register for the 2014-15 school year, visit [www.evit.com](http://www.evit.com) and see your high school counselor. For more information, contact enrollment director Melissa Valenzuela at (480) 461-4153 or [mvalenzuela@evit.com](mailto:mvalenzuela@evit.com).



# Main Campus Spotlight

## Law students test their limits during Academy Week



High school students in the Law Enforcement program at EVIT's Main Campus were put through their paces by the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, police, U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps during Academy Week March 24-28.

Law Enforcement instructor Tony Garcia said the annual event pushes EVIT students to their limits and shows them what it would be like to participate in an actual police academy boot camp.



## Garcia 2-time 'Best Teacher'

For the second year in a row, readers of the East Valley Tribune voted Tony Garcia, Law Enforcement instructor at the Main Campus, as "Best High School Teacher."

Garcia will be honored during the 2014 EVIT Completion Ceremony, May 20 at Tempe Diablos Stadium.

Congratulations, Tony!



# East Campus Spotlight

Vet Assistant students practice pet CPR, first aid skills



Learn more about the Veterinary Assistant program at: [www.evit.com/vetassist/](http://www.evit.com/vetassist/).

# Program Highlights

## Externship leads to job, braces, family dental care for EVIT student

For Jamie Escalante, 20, EVIT's Dental Assistant program is the gift that keeps giving. In January, she began her externship with Risas Dental and Braces in Phoenix. The practice was so impressed with Escalante's work ethic and skills that they have since offered her a job, braces, and free dental care for her parents and younger brother.

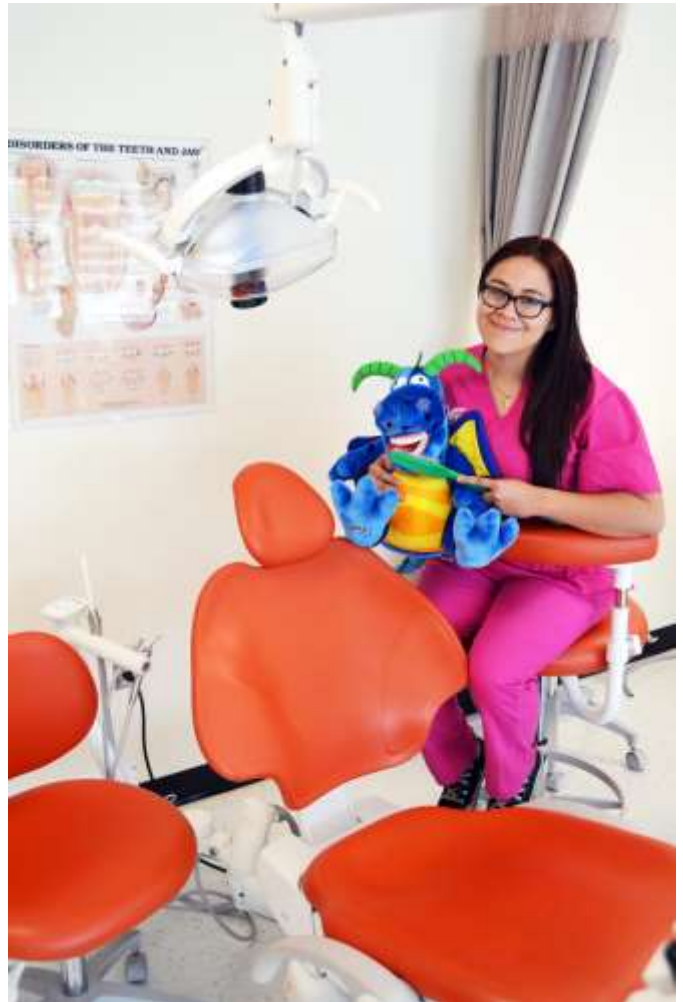
"They have taught me so much," Escalante said. "They don't treat me as a newbie, but as one of them."

Escalante will complete EVIT's dental program in May, and then hopes to go on to dental hygienist school. In the meantime, she loves her work at Risas Dental and Braces as a dental assistant.

"Just going in there, it doesn't feel like a job," she said. "When you have a job you love so much, it's not a job. It's a career."

Escalante, a graduate of Coronado High School in Scottsdale, is enrolled in EVIT's dental program as an adult student. She said she would recommend that other adults consider the programs EVIT has to offer.

"EVIT is a great stepping stone," she said. "In my wildest dreams, I would never have thought (a dental practice) would already hire me, give my family free dental care, and me, braces."



## Trip Reduction Program

In a partnership with Valley Metro, the EVIT Trip Reduction Program is designed to reduce single occupant vehicle (SOV) trips to the work site.

If you carpool, vanpool, walk, bike or ride the bus to school you are considered an Alternate Mode User (AMU), and you can register to win quarterly prizes valued at \$25.

For more information, or to sign up as an alternative mode user, contact Liz Bortkun at 480-461-4160 or e-mail [lbortkun@evit.com](mailto:lbortkun@evit.com).

You can find more information about carpooling at [www.sharetheride.com](http://www.sharetheride.com) or bus route information at [www.valleymetro.com](http://www.valleymetro.com).



# Program Highlights

## Aviation program visits Pima Air and Space Museum



## East Law learns from Army Explosive Ordnance & Disposal



# Program Highlights

Prom Hair & Fashion Show displays Cosmetology students' skills



NFL's Dontay Moch visits Teen Pulse Radio





# General Announcements

## Happy Birthday!



April Birthdays			
3	Jeffrey Ridout	16	Eugene Ward
5	Jeffrey Leroy Eric Perez	18	Lacy Davis
7	Herb Williams	20	Sally Downey
8	Megan Greene	20	Terri Pearson
9	Traci Plough	21	Sean Harper
14	Andrea Diedrich David Gertz	21	Brent Johnson
15	Randy Baker Sara Snyder		

### Craft supplies needed for Positive Paths fundraiser

Fashion and interior design students at the East Valley Institute of Technology are ready to use their creativity and eye for style to create masquerade masks for the upcoming Positive Paths Dinner fundraiser.

Dr. Sally Downey, EVIT superintendent, and Janice Parker, director of partner development for EVIT, serve as board members for Positive Paths, a nonprofit focused on building life bridges for women by removing barriers that prevent them from being successful. The fundraiser on May 1 will be centered on the theme, "Life is a Masquerade," and will include masks created by the EVIT students. The masks will be auctioned at the event with proceeds benefitting the Positive Paths program.

To create these one-of-a-kind masks, students are looking for donations of costume jewelry, feathers, beads, sequins, glitter, fabrics, glue and other various craft supplies. Gift cards are also appreciated for the purchase of supplies for this project. Donations can be dropped off at EVIT from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 1601 W. Main Street, Mesa (Building #1).

"Since the Positive Paths program opened on the EVIT campus, it has been an honor to provide their clients with career training opportunities" said Downey. "Gaining the right skills is essential to long-term employment and self-sufficiency, and EVIT looks forward to more women benefitting in the future."



Tickets for the Positive Paths Dinner on May 1 at the Hilton Phoenix East/Mesa can be purchased for \$125 each, or \$1,250 for a table of 10, by calling (602) 261-7159.

# EVIT CAREER & COLLEGE PREP



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