

evit *Insider*

CAREER AND COLLEGE PREP

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

Issue 1

Volume XIV

September 2013

Upcoming Events:

- Sept. 9, 5:30 pm:
Governing board meeting
- Sept. 13, 5 pm: *Practical Nursing Completion Ceremony, Building 14*
- Sept. 18, 10 am to 1 pm:
Business Leadership Extravaganza, Culinary
- Oct. 7-11: *October Break, No School*
- Oct. 10-11: *Closed*

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2013-14 draws over 4,000 to EVIT campuses



The East Valley Institute of Technology started the school year on Aug. 7 with more than 4,000 students and a new Apache Junction campus.

Health occupations classes continue to enroll the most students. As of Sept. 3, health programs had 989 students.



Enrollment is also booming this year at the East Campus, 6625 S. Power Road, where second-year medical assistant, veterinary assistant, second-year cosmetology, and law enforcement programs have been added to course offerings that already included aviation, human anatomy and physiology, nursing assistant, and first-year medical assistant and cosmetology programs.



“We’ve gone from 200 students to 650 students and now to 750 students. And we’re out here in the sagebrush where horses sometimes ride up to campus. It’s very unique,” said East Campus principal Molly Miller.

EVIT has also taken over operation of Apache Junction district’s CTE programs.

(See story, Page 2)

In the News

EVIT adds 3rd campus at Apache Junction High

The East Valley Institute of Technology has added a third campus through a new partnership with the Apache Junction Unified School District.

EVIT is offering welding, construction, culinary arts, early childhood education, and photography programs at Apache Junction High School, 2525 S. Ironwood Drive. The campus will also offer some business, fire science and sports medicine classes. The programs will be taught by EVIT teachers and overseen by EVIT administration.

"This is an exciting partnership for Apache Junction High School as it places EVIT in the driver's seat of our CTE (career and technical education) program allowing it to grow into the standard they have built throughout Arizona and beyond," said Apache Junction Superintendent Chad Wilson. "We feel a CTE program under EVIT's guidance will attract new students to our campus while at the same time reducing costs for our district."

EVIT provides career and technical education programs tuition-free to high school students and tuition-based to adults. The Apache Junction partnership gives EVIT three campuses, also including the Dr. A. Keith Crandell (Main) Campus at 1601 W. Main St., Mesa, and the East Campus, 6625 S. Power Road, Mesa.

"We are pleased to take on that responsibility in the hope that we will be able to affect the Apache Junction CTE programs in a positive way," said EVIT Superintendent Sally Downey.

About 485 students are currently enrolled in EVIT programs at Apache Junction.

EVIT purchases old Fazoli's restaurant for school project



The East Valley Institute of Technology has purchased the former Fazoli's restaurant property in west Mesa to convert into a restaurant that will be refurbished and eventually operated by EVIT students.

The governing board approved the \$245,000 purchase of the property, located just east of the Dr. A. Keith Crandell Main Campus, 1601 W. Main St., during its Monday night meeting.

Fazoli's closed the restaurant several years ago, and since then it has remained vacant. EVIT Superintendent Sally Downey said homeless people had been staying inside and there has been extensive damage

from thieves vandalizing the property.

Downey plans to make the property a school project with Welding, Construction and HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) students repairing and refurbishing the building. Then Interior Design students will renovate and decorate.

The re-build is expected to be finished within a year. After that, Downey envisions EVIT's Culinary department, perhaps in partnership with the school's health programs, doing specialty cooking there.

New school administration leads EVIT Main Campus

EVIT's Dr. A. Keith Crandell (Main) Campus, 1601 W. Main St., has some new faces at the helm this year.

Greg Copeland is the new principal, coming to EVIT from the Baboquivari Unified School District. He also has worked as a school improvement coach for the Arizona Department of Education and as a teacher and administrator in the Tucson Unified School District.

Main Campus also has a new assistant principal, Michael Chamberlain, and health director, Andrea Diedrich. They join assistant principal Tim Vanda in managing programs. Chamberlain has a combination of industry and teaching experience, most recently at Gateway Early College High School and Skyline Prep. Diedrich was director of education at Mercy Gilbert Medical Center for five years and prior to that held several positions at KishHealth System in DeKalb, Ill.

And, the counseling department has doubled in size with the addition of Susan Chamberlain, special education/504 coordinator, and Dr. Melissa Valenzuela, a counselor who is also director of enrollment. Both come to EVIT from the J.O. Combs Unified School District.



EVIT students win gold in national competitions



Summer was golden for several EVIT students who came out on top in national CTE competitions.

3D Animation students Damian Richard and Lance Wells won the gold medal at Skills USA, and the 3D Animation team placed in the top 10. Aesthetics student Tyra Nelson also placed in the top 10 at Skills USA.

At HOSA nationals, the EVIT HOSA group won first place for raising the most money -- \$9,800 -- for cystic fibrosis, Cassiana Wright placed third in dental science, and teacher Sharon Black was named outstanding advisor for Arizona.

And, at FCCLA nationals, Aubrey Mollett and Hailey Funk won the gold medal in interior design, and Kiera Campbell won bronze in fashion design.

During the first all-staff meeting of the year, Superintendent Sally Downey awarded Gold Slinkys to interior design teacher Kim Foulger and multimedia teacher Eric Perez for their students gold medal wins

that brought national recognition to EVIT.

Congratulations to the students and their teachers for a job well done!

Culinary 1st Year Student Dinner



Program Highlights

Business partnerships bolster EVIT programs

By Janice Parker, Director of Business Partnerships

At the start of a brand new school year, our business and industry partners are gearing up to work with our instructors here at EVIT and help guide the training offered in order to build a pipeline of workers for their industry.

We are excited to have established some new partnerships in fields that need trained workers to replace those retiring or are expanding their business operation to meet market demand.

Empire Cat Machinery is helping us to realign our curriculum for Diesel Mechanics so that the basic skills taught will give them a jump start in their Think Big program and placing their instructors on our advisory, as is RWC International. The Arizona Tooling and Machining Association, ATMA, have also been working closely with EVIT to help get the word out about the critical need for workers in manufacturing and assist us in providing field trips, guest lecturers, and several international manufacturing plants, such as West Pharmaceuticals have placed representatives on our advisory councils. The ABA, Arizona Broadcasting Association, has been instrumental in informing us about some training in radio technician engineers that is needed desperately within their industry.



These are but a few of the many business and industry partners that EVIT is grateful to have as partners in our training programs as our mission here at EVIT is: To provide a productive technically trained workforce that meets the market driven needs of business and industry.

Stay tuned for updates from our industry partnerships!

Janice Parker is EVIT's director of business partnerships.



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.

You can find more information about carpooling at www.sharetheride.com or bus route information at www.valleymetro.com.

Program Highlights

New law makes EVIT elective of choice for charter schools

Arizona's charter schools and Mesa's East Valley Institute of Technology have a lot in common. Both are schools of choice, rather than drawing an automatic enrollment. Both offer niche programs to suit individual interests. Both serve college-bound students as well as students who want a career after high school.

And now – thanks to a new law that increases charter school funding – both are better able to offer high quality career and technical education to charter students.

When Gov. Jan Brewer signed SB 1447 into law, she effectively raised the state funding for charter students who attend joint technological education districts like EVIT to be equal to that of district students.

Charter students have always been able to enroll at EVIT, but in the past, the sending charter school and EVIT lost money because the charters were funded at a lower rate. SB 1447 ended that inequity.

“Previously, charter students were treated as worth less than district students,” said Eileen B. Sigmund, president of the Arizona Charter Schools Association. “Thanks to the hard work of the bill’s sponsor, Sen. Kimberly Yee, a charter student attending a JTED is now treated equally.”

Charter school students who reside in Mesa, Scottsdale, Gilbert, Chandler, Tempe, Higley, Fountain Hills, Apache Junction, Queen Creek and J.O. Combs districts are eligible to attend EVIT’s centralized Mesa campuses – the Dr. A. Keith Crandell (Main) Campus at 1601 W. Main St., and the East Campus at 6625 S. Power Road.

They have about 40 occupational programs to choose from, and most EVIT programs offer college credit, as well as professional certifications.

(continued on Page 7)



Program Highlights

Animation, game design students beta test game project

By Bruce Johnston, 3D Animation Instructor



On, Aug. 23, former EVIT Animation student Matt Weldon, currently a senior attending the Art Institute of Phoenix, returned to Mr. Johnston's class with a team of AI students to have the current Animation and Game Design students beta test a game project they are working on. Part of the AI's curriculum involves having advanced students to actually design, produce and make available for play, a game of their choice. Matt and his team have worked for the past 10 weeks producing this game level, which is still in its infancy.

This event worked on many levels. First, Matt and his team had a group of potential customers test out the game, looking for bugs and errors, free of charge. Secondly, all students were asked to fill out a questionnaire about their gaming experience, and what suggestions, if any, they would make to the development team, which exercised their creative thinking skills, critiquing the game play based on their own likes, dislikes and experiences. Third, it gets the current students excited about going to college and working on projects like this, as well as seeing what graduates of this current program are able to accomplish.

Matt and his team received over 200 critical suggestions and recommendations, some of which were already in the works by the rest of the development team.

(charter schools — continued from Page 6)

Health programs like medical assistant prepare students for licensing exams and jobs after high school – jobs that can also help pay for college while they work in their field of interest. The automotive program can lead to industry certification and jobs at dealerships with high starting pay.

Programs like welding and precision machining feed into industries with high demand. All 33 students who completed welding in May have been hired.

One of EVIT's most popular programs – cosmetology – can save families thousands of dollars because it's tuition-free to high school students. The same training costs more than \$20,000 at private cosmetology schools.

"EVIT is about all kids having an opportunity to receive the best career and technical education, so we are embracing the opportunity to serve more charter students," said Superintendent Sally Downey.

Students like 17-year-old Kelcie Seely, a Gilbert student enrolled in Primavera online charter school. Seely will be starting her second year in EVIT's Design, Merchandising and Textiles program.

"I can forget about the entire world and just focus on something I love doing. And, it's like I have a family there," she said.

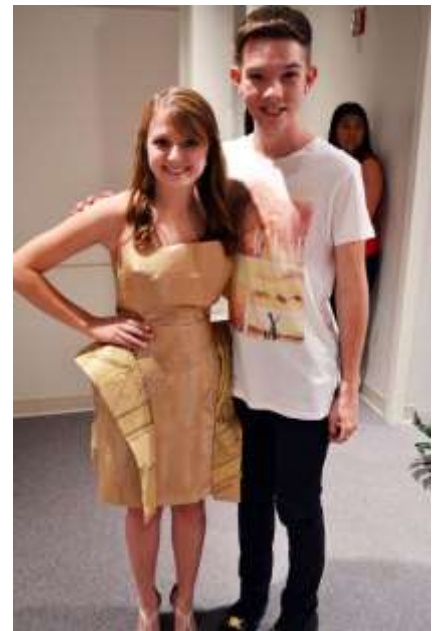
Program Highlights

EVIT East Vet Tech spends a day with cuddly critters



Program Highlights

FIT students put on GoGreen Fashion Show



100 followers
Thank for following
EVIT on Instagram!



#EVITPhotoChallenge
FRIDAY INSTAGRAM CONTEST

1. FOLLOW @EVITNEWS

2. POST A PICTURE WITH YOUR EVIT
TEACHER WITH
#EVITPHOTOCHALLENGE

PRIZE WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON TUESDAY

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General Announcements

Happy Birthday!



September Birthdays			
5	Robert Null	25	John Underwood
7	Theresa Mosier	25	Melissa Valenzuela
8	Pauline Acosta	27	Becky Devine
10	Richard Knight	27	Sherry Rea
15	Barbara Spielbusch	28	Liz Bortkun
22	Karen Perna	29	William Olney
23	John Dunbar		



Coming soon: EVIT backpacks!

Just like the employers they will work for one day, EVIT expects its students to show up every day ready to work. To encourage that, students with perfect attendance have a chance to win a car at the end of the school year. But throughout the year, other prizes are given out too.

Students who make it to the Oct. 25 perfect attendance assembly will win an EVIT drawstring backpack!

Support Mesa United Way

If you still would like to participate in our Mesa United Way Campaign, you can contribute through payroll deduction, a one-time payment with either a check, credit card or cash. Last year, we raised over \$17,000 and each year we try and surpass the previous year's contributions.

If you need a pledge form, please see Barb Spielbusch in Bldg. 3, Liz in Bldg. 1 or Kathie Kopp at the East Campus. Thank you from the Mesa United Way Committee.

EVIT CAREER & COLLEGE PREP



Rigorous instruction leading to scholarships and jobs to pay for **college**.



High-tech training for an industry-certified **career** after high school.



Real **life** experience for college and career success.



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college. career. life.

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Main Campus: 1601 West Main Street
East Campus: 6625 South Power Road