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best public school

we are
evit



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EDITION



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business

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inside the cover

On March 26, the East Valley Institute of Technology learned that we were voted the best in four categories of the Best of Mesa contest sponsored by the East Valley Tribune: Best Public School, Best Place to Work, Best High School Teacher – Eric Perez, and Best Specialty Restaurant – Bistro 13. EVIT also placed in three other categories: 2nd Place, New Restaurant – Bistro 13; 2nd Place, Massage/Reflexology Services; and 3rd Place, Customer Service. And, our teachers swept the Best High School Teacher category with Eric Perez winning and Jon Howell and Leon Zamora placing 2nd and 3rd.



What does it mean to be best?

The annual Tribune contest is based on the votes of the newspaper's readers and those associated with the businesses and organizations competing in the various categories. So as much as it is based on people having had a good experience with that school or restaurant or business, it is also about the pride an organization has in itself. If you believe in your organization and the work you do – you show your pride by voting.

And EVIT has a lot to be proud of.

We are home to teachers who are passionate about training our next generation of health-care professionals, first responders, cosmetologists, engineers – and so much more. We are home to employees and business partners whose efforts support and bolster quality teaching and learning. We are home to students who have the grit and heart and drive to overcome obstacles, work hard and do whatever it takes to pursue their dream.

We are the best.

We are EVIT.

we are **evit**

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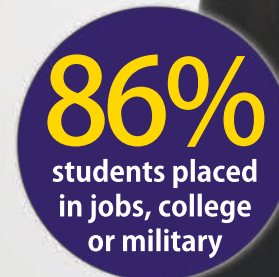
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best public school

takes cte to a higher level



Readers of the East Valley Tribune voted EVIT the Best Public School in Mesa in the recent Best of Mesa contest. This is the second time in three years that EVIT has been voted the best.

Statistically, it's easy to see why. EVIT students have a 95 percent high school graduation rate and two out of three go on to college. Within a year of completing their EVIT programs, 86 percent of EVIT students are in college, a job or the military.

Chuck Essigs, director of governmental relations for the Arizona Association of School Business Officials, was one of the educators who pushed for the formation of EVIT back when he was a business superintendent for Mesa Public Schools. He said EVIT has more than lived up to expectations.

"The East Valley school districts formed EVIT to have a way to deliver high-quality, high-cost career and technical education programs to students, and now it's so rewarding to see how that has prospered," Essigs said. "Not only do we have EVIT, but now just about every county in the state has a (Joint Technological Education District)."

Essigs said the proof of success at EVIT is in how the business community supports the school and relies on EVIT and other JTEDs for its future workforce.

The "Best Public School" has come a long way since its humble beginnings as Mesa Vo-Tech. Years ago, "vocational education" was viewed as the track for students who were not academically successful. Today, Essigs said, schools like EVIT have taken career and technical education to a higher level.

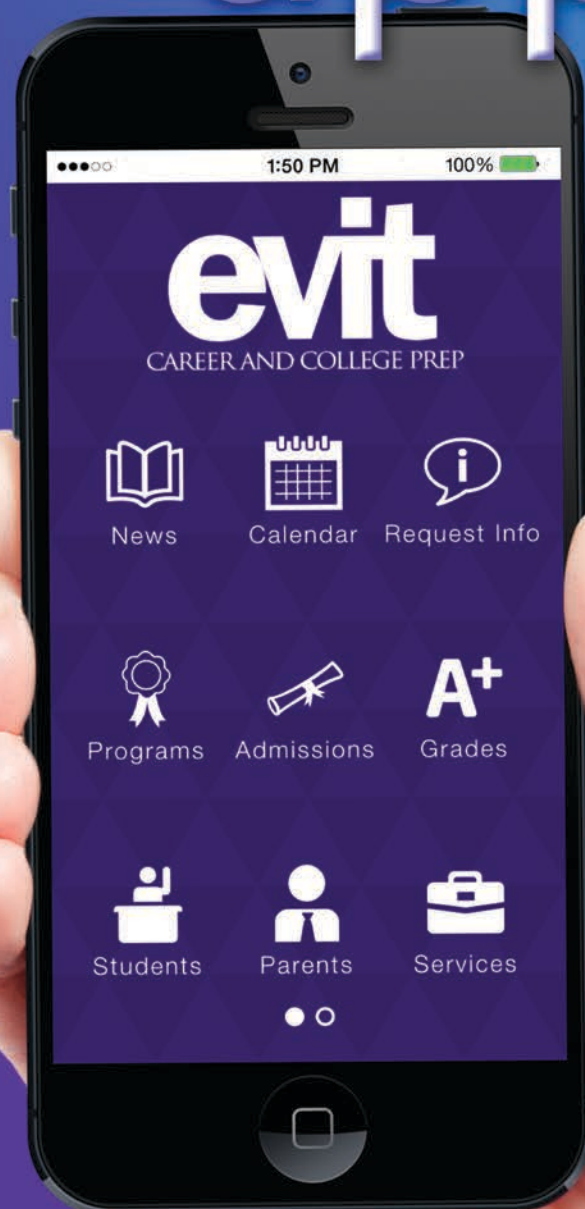
"Now," he said, "it's become a higher status education choice."

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evit educator emphasizes students' drive and effort

by Daniel Ochoa, East Valley Tribune



Eric Perez, instructor at East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT), has been named Best High School Teacher.

Perez, who teaches multimedia, graphic and web design courses, has been an instructor with EVIT for the past 15 years. Perez has taught a plethora of technology classes, centered on 3D animation, production and gaming, which falls in line with his major in graphic design and digital communication from Collins College.

After graduating from Collins College, Perez taught within the associate's program for graphic design at his alma mater. He quickly moved up the ranks and became the night supervisor and in charge of the computer graphic design and digital imaging classes. Perez made the decision to branch out and seek employment elsewhere in 1998, doing graphic design for What's New LTD in Mesa. During his time with What's New, Perez taught summer courses at EVIT and found out the school needed a full-time instructor. Perez said it was a natural move for him to become an instructor because he had the experience and missed the teaching aspect that came with graphic design.

"I missed getting out there and doing the work, but then I also missed teaching students and seeing their little lights go off and realizing their potential," he said.

Perez said he makes sure his students are producing content that's to the best of their abilities and have their work reflect their own drive and interest.

"That's how I've always thought, and I try to tell my students the same thing," he said.

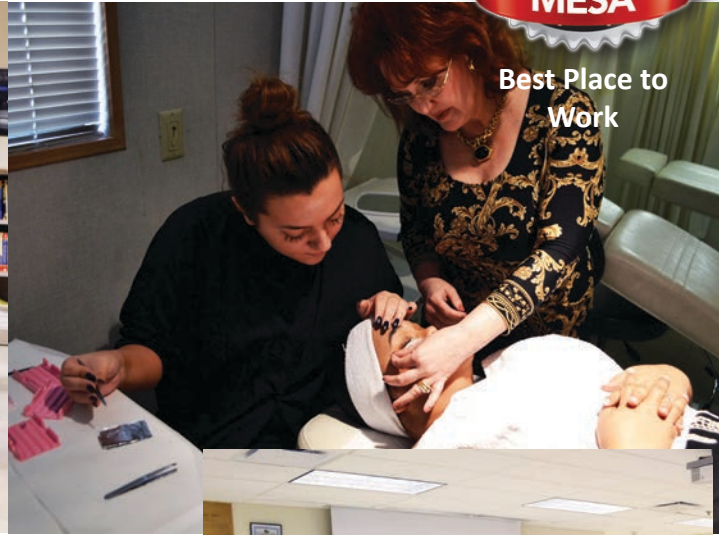
The Best of Mesa award, he said, is an honor.

"It's like a natural high to know that people appreciate the work that we actually do here and what we are trying to accomplish, and that's to get people educated so they learn a good profession," he said. "This is how I put myself through school, and I'm giving them a skill that I consider a life skill, so they can go out there and be able to go for their own dreams."

Article reprinted courtesy of the East Valley Tribune

students make evit the best place to work

by Eric Smith of the East Valley Tribune



Mesa is a large, thriving city with plenty of options for places to work. According to voters in the East Valley Tribune's Best of Mesa voting, there is no better place to work in the city than the East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT).

EVIT is home to approximately 200 employees, and much of the attraction is the environment around the school provided by the students.

"One of the unique things about EVIT is I've never been to a school where kids want to be there as much as kids want to be here," said David Schapira, EVIT's assistant superintendent. "They make every day worth it."

EVIT has several perks, but chief among them is a great place to eat while on the job.

Bistro 13, an on-campus restaurant that's part of the school's culinary program, is operated entirely by culinary students and serves as an alternative to the dreary, mundane cafeteria food employees might find at other companies. Menu options include "The Bistro 13 Burger" and "East Valley Mac and Cheese."

"We have an awesome restaurant on campus, so that's kind of a cool amenity," Schapira said.

In addition to the fantastic eats on campus, EVIT offers a wide variety of different types of people and backgrounds providing for a fully inclusive and diverse work environment.

"It's a conglomeration. Our teachers come from all these different industries that we train in," Schapira said. "It's very eclectic, very diverse. That's one thing I like about it."

Article reprinted courtesy of the East Valley Tribune



the little bistro



Best Specialty Restaurant

that could



It's been quite a school year for EVIT's Bistro 13. Opening last September, the restaurant featuring global cuisine is operated EVIT's Culinary Arts and Commercial Baking students and overseen by instructor Chef Joe Kalfus.



Bistro 13 started out last fall by serving lunch only, celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at EVIT Expo in January, and eventually added breakfast. Then in March, in a random act of violence, a gunman opened fire in the restaurant, hitting a student with a non-life threatening injury and shutting down the restaurant. But not even that could keep Bistro 13 down.

Four days after the shooting, EVIT's Culinary students opened the restaurant back up because they wanted to put the incident behind them and get back to work. Support from the East Valley community – including Mesa Mayor John Giles, councilmen Dennis Kavanaugh and David Luna, and several legislators – poured in when Bistro 13 reopened. And no one is happier about that than the students.

"Look at me – I'm smiling. I am so happy," Culinary student Tae La Videau told media who covered the reopening of Bistro 13. "I love it here."

Tribune readers do too. That's why they voted EVIT's Bistro 13 as Best Specialty Cuisine.



Great teachers and more recognized in contest

The East Valley Institute of Technology dominated the Best of Mesa competition, placing in several categories other than the four that it won.



EVIT teachers swept Best High School Teacher. Runners-up to Eric Perez's first-place finish were: Jon Howell, Human Anatomy & Physiology for Medical Careers, second place; and Leon Zamora, Welding, third place.



In addition, Bistro 13 captured second place in the Best New Restaurant category, and EVIT's Massage Therapy program finished second in Best Massage/Reflexology Services.

And, EVIT placed third in the Best Customer Service category.

"We're very proud of all our Best of Mesa wins," said Superintendent Sally Downey. "And, we are honored to give our best every day to our students and the East Valley community."

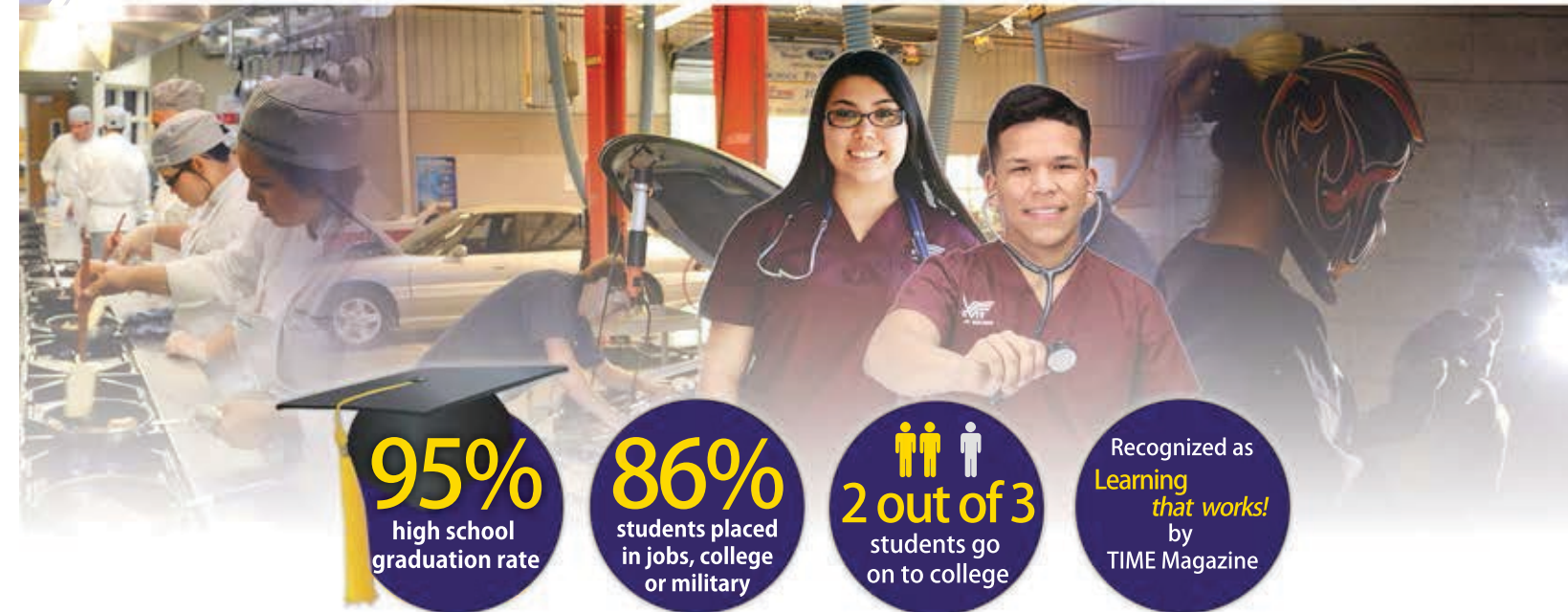


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**Based on Spring 2014 Arizona CTE Assessments



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Cosmetology
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Diesel/Heavy Equipment
Digital Robotic Design
Early Childhood Education
Education Professions
Emergency Medical Technician

Fashion, Interiors & Textiles (FIT)
Fire Science
Future Engineers
Graphic Design
Human Anatomy & Physiology
HVAC
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Mobile Application Design & Programming
Multimedia Technologies
Nursing Assistant
Pharmacy Technician
Photography

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Video Production
Web Design
Welding
** Practical Nursing
** Sterile Processing Technician
** Surgical Technologist

**NOTE: Adults only

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