

# we are evit

PASSION • PATH • PURPOSE



## FEATURED STORIES:

Navistar : 52

Olli the Trolley: 51

Skills USA International: 41

# inside the cover

In August, EVIT welcomed back students and teachers with a theme for the 2018-19 school year based on the popular Carrie Underwood song -- Champion:

"I am invincible,  
unbreakable  
Unstoppable, unshakeable  
They knock me down, I get up again  
I am the champion ..."

In a semester chock-full of learning, activities and challenges, EVIT's teachers, staff and students have more than lived up to those lyrics. The growing Diesel Tech program accepted the

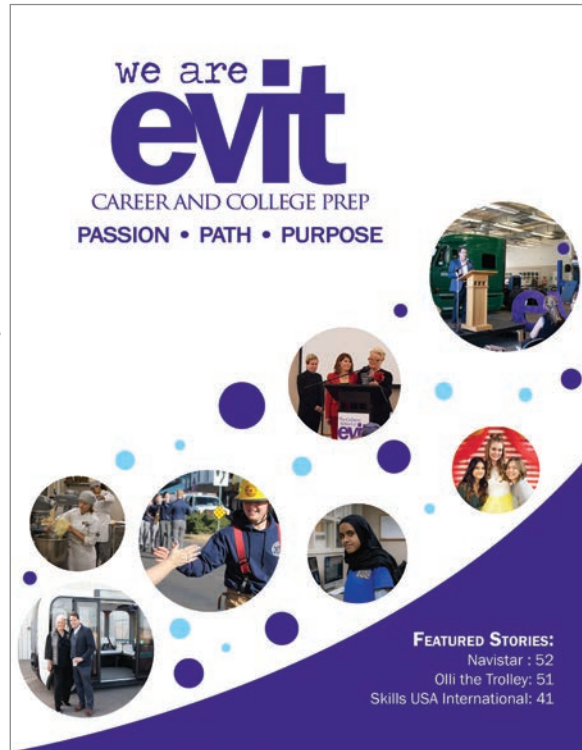
donation of five commercial big rig trucks worth more than \$400,000. The Culinary School @ EVIT prepared and served a fantastic gourmet breakfast for hundreds of people who raised over \$115,000 for the EVIT Education Foundation. Students and teachers marched with the EVIT float in parades in Mesa, Gilbert and Fountain Hills. Cyber Security student Mawadda Abuhamda and alum Jason McGee were selected to represent the United States on the 2019 National SkillsUSA World Team when it competes in Russia next year. And, our health students in HOSA Future Health Professionals became true heroes, placing first among large schools in Arizona for registering organ, eye and tissue donors for the Donor Network of Arizona.

In addition, residents of Cave Creek Unified School District voted to join the EVIT Career Technical Education District (CTED), and EVIT became the first high school campus in the nation to be chosen by Chandler-based manufacturing company Local Motors to host two autonomous trolleys that will shuttle students, staff and visitors around the Main Campus in the spring semester.

Those are just a few highlights. Every day, our EVIT family exemplifies the spirit of a champion.

We are invincible and unbreakable. We are unstoppable and unshakeable.

We are EVIT.



we are  
**evit**  
Issue 1, Vol. XVI

#### EDITORIAL

CeCe Todd  
Public Information Officer

#### DESIGN

Tara Tingey, Communication Specialist

#### PHOTOGRAPHY

Tara Tingey & Patrick Jervis

#### PUBLISHER

East Valley Institute of Technology  
Public Information & Marketing Office  
publicrelations@evit.com



Follow us!



the real prep school

**evit**

CAREER AND COLLEGE PREP

**Dr. A. Keith Crandell (Main) Campus**  
1601 W. Main Street  
Mesa, AZ 85201

**East Campus**  
6625 S. Power Road  
Mesa, AZ 85212

(480) 461-4000 • [www.evit.com](http://www.evit.com)

**contents**

ISSUE 1 • VOLUME XVI

**4-7**

**Trained, Credentialed, Placed**

**10**

**We Are EVIT**

Two Sisters Two Career Paths

Design Student Becomes Design Teacher

A Family's Passion for Career Education

Mother & Son Find Career Success

**20-51**

**EVIT Happenings**

August

September

October

November

December

**52**

**Navistar Donation**

**54-61**

**EVIT News in Briefs**

**62**

**Fountain Hills Campus**

**64-71**

**EVIT Satellite Programs**

# Trained, credentialed, placed



Career and technical education is often lauded for its ability to make learning relevant and give students a jump-start on college and career. But how do you measure its success?

In a series of meetings last school year, CTE administrators in Arizona grappled with how to grade the state's CTE programs. Required by state law, the letter grades were intended to arm parents with the information they would need to find quality CTE programs for their child. Considerable debate ensued over which criteria – graduation, CTE program completion, placement or industry certification rates – should carry the most weight in determining grades. There was disagreement on whether grades should be given at a district or school level, prompting legislation in January to require that each campus providing CTE be given its own letter grade. More debate and lobbying ensued, resulting in a strike-everything amendment that would eliminate the requirement for letter grades altogether, but the bill never made it out of committee.

“Without outcomes, CTE is just another elective,” said Dr. Sally Downey, superintendent of the East Valley Institute of Technology, which provides over 40 CTE programs for high school students and adults. “CTE outcomes shouldn't be difficult to measure. Did the student complete their program and earn an industry credential or license? Did they get a job related to their CTE program? Did they go to college or join the military? All of those things are measurable. But the devil is always in the details, especially when those details involve taxpayer dollars and politics.”

In 2013, the Morrison Institute for Public Policy

at Arizona State University published what many considered to be the first comprehensive look at CTE in the Grand Canyon state. The study by Sapna Gupta identified a number of challenges, including the absence of data to measure outcomes and a state system that financially incentivizes public schools “to maximize the number of students in seats – regardless of whether students would be better served by engaging in off-campus work-based internships or by taking a half-day class in a (career and technical education) central campus. This points to the urgent need to examine how the state allocates education funds and the necessity of a statewide longitudinal data system that will measure student performance and outcomes from preschool to entering the workforce.”

In an interview for this article, Gupta expressed frustration that while individual schools have their own data systems, there still is not one system for all schools in Arizona. She pointed to Arizona's current Achieve 60 AZ initiative, led by Gov. Doug Ducey's office, to ensure that 60 percent of Arizonans 25 and older have a certificate or college degree by 2030. “How do you measure all this? If you can't measure it, you can't fix it,” Gupta said.

The dearth of data isn't a problem that's unique to Arizona. In a 2017 report, The Brookings Institute noted that the past 10 years have brought a renewed interest nationwide in CTE. “Unfortunately, research on CTE has not kept pace with policy interest.”

## Different models, definitions. Same goals?

In Arizona, secondary CTE is provided by 14 Career Technical Education Districts or CTEDs, either at central campuses or in “satellite” programs at high

schools in the CTED's member school districts. CTE can also be offered at high schools in districts that are not members of CTEDs. But CTED programs – central campus and satellite – receive additional state funding to operate, while non-CTED programs do not. Downey maintains the extra tax dollars obligate EVIT to provide added value in its CTE programs. “We need to do everything we can to ensure that students complete their program and that every student leaves EVIT not only with the skills to do the job, but with a portable industry certification that tells employers they are ready to do the job,” she said. “We are not where we should be yet in making this happen, but we work toward it every day. Our students deserve no less. It's the right thing to do.”

But not all CTE programs within the EVIT CTED share the same goal. In some districts, CTE programs have been serving more as electives than a formal pathway to certification and career, making it difficult to compare outcomes. Joe O'Reilly, former executive director of research for Mesa Public Schools, Arizona's largest school district and one of 10 districts in the EVIT CTED, said the expected outcome also depends on the program. “In CTE in high school, for some, success is getting into this career ... but for many CTE programs you're not getting 'career-ready' as much as you are getting ready to be career-ready because you will need additional training and education to be successful,” said O'Reilly, who left Mesa last spring to become the director of the Decision Center for Educational Excellence at Arizona State University.

Some CTE administrators in Arizona maintain a program is successful if it introduces students to career possibilities and teaches them the so-called soft skills that employers value, such as communication skills and team work, even if they never work in the industry in which they studied. Educators in some other states share similar views.

Patrick Biggerstaff, director of career and technical education and adult education at Area 31 Career Programs in Indianapolis: “I consider schools' programs to be successful if they help students to develop skills and understandings that are relevant to their future lives. By connecting with student interests, successful CTE programs prepare students for their next step after graduation and motivate them to continue learning. Whether or not CTE graduates decide to pursue a career in their area of study, I have no doubt that they develop

transferable skills that will benefit them as they move into adulthood.”

In North Carolina, Kimberly MacDonald, senior analyst for state and federal reporting in CTE at the state Department of Public Instruction, said her state acknowledges that many industry-recognized skills are transferrable skills that can apply to other industries. “North Carolina CTE encourages multiple entry points and exit points throughout the student's pathway ... If a student masters the skills and moves his/her pathway to an applicable industry, we consider the program to be successful,” she said.

## How do you know if a CTE program is working?

North Carolina teachers track placement results (students going on to college, jobs or military related to their CTE program) of former students who were CTE concentrators – defined by North Carolina as secondary students who earn four or more credits in a single CTE cluster, one of which is in a secondary-level course, MacDonald said. The results are then validated by instructional management coordinators at each local education agency.

Arizona teachers also track their placement results, which are sent to the state Department of Education, and based on Arizona's definition of concentrator – a secondary student who has transcribed two or more Carnegie Units/credits in a state designated sequence in an approved Career and Technical Education program. That definition, Downey said, is a better fit for the satellite CTE programs, which are usually about 50 minutes long each day, than for central campuses like EVIT, where students receive 2



½ to four hours of training daily. Under Arizona’s definition, EVIT students become concentrators before they are even finished with the first year of a two-year program. So even if they drop the program before the end of that first year, the state counts them in EVIT’s results. That, Downey said, results in a skewed measurement of the program’s success and holds EVIT accountable for students who drop their EVIT program after the first semester because they are lacking credits to meet graduation requirements at their high school.

“The data we provide to parents and the public shows results for EVIT program completers,” Downey said. “We want parents to know the result they can expect if their son or daughter completes their program, graduates from high school and earns a credential – not what to expect if they only finish part of one year.”

**Says who?**

CTE programs sometimes face credibility issues because so much of the data that does exist is self-reported. Every year, EVIT teachers and staff spend countless hours tracking down former students to find out if they are employed, in college or if they enlisted in the military. This data is then submitted to the Arizona Department of Education for the state to use in its performance measures report as required by federal Perkins funds. Some data, such as post-secondary enrollment, can be obtained from a neutral third-party source, such as the National Clearinghouse, but much of it can only be gathered by asking questions of the former student to determine if their placement is indeed related to their CTE skills.

Also, while Arizona law requires CTED-funded CTE programs to lead to an industry credential, there is no state report that details the number of industry credentials earned by Arizona’s CTE students. In her “On the Rise” report, Gupta recommended that Arizona “consider measuring and incentivizing the attainment of industry-recognized credentials ... This could motivate more students to stay in school, provide a measureable outcome and send a strong message to existing employers and those considering locating to Arizona that the state is serious about investing in its workforce.” She



noted that Kansas passed legislation in 2012 that provides monetary incentives for high schools to increase the number of students who earn a credential in a high need industry such as manufacturing. Similar legislation was proposed in Arizona in January.

Meanwhile, in North Carolina, the importance of industry credentialing as an addition to statewide assessments has been a priority for many years. Industry credentials make CTE students more marketable, give employers a reliable predictor of a CTE student’s success, and elevate the image of CTE, according to a briefing paper by Dr. Daniel R. Smith, CTE section chief for the state’s Department of Public Instruction. He wrote: “Decades after vocational education became CTE many people still think of it as cooking and sewing, shop class, or where the students who are not academically focused go. However, NC CTE programs offer worthy credentialing opportunities that document learned skills by students and have begun to alter those negative, erroneous, and outdated sentiments.”

North Carolina’s credentialing data comes from third-party vendors as well as self-reports by schools. “At the state department, we collect credentials from the authentic source (the third party vendors) for the credentials where we have agreements with the vendor to receive the direct data feed. Currently we receive direct feeds from Project Lead the Way (PTLW), National Academy Foundation (NAF), and Certiport,” MacDonald said. “The rest of our credentials are collected by designees, called Instructional Management Coordinators, at each local education agency as self-reports of the data.”

According to North Carolina’s 2016-17 Credentialing Data report, the number of credentials earned by CTE students in that state has increased from 24,782 in 2010-11, the first year that data was collected, to 160,224 in 2016-17.

Downey has long advocated for a similar system in Arizona. She recalled that when she worked in CTE in Oklahoma in the 1990s, the state’s CTE department collected credentialing data for its schools. “That should be a priority in Arizona

too,” Downey said. “We need to require programs to test students for industry certifications where they exist – and to track how we’re doing in preparing students to earn those certifications.”

Downey has not been satisfied with certification results for some EVIT programs, which the school tracks on its own. So, starting this year, each EVIT instructor was paid a \$25 incentive stipend for each student who earned a certification.

By itself, data doesn’t give a complete picture of a school’s success in CTE, but it is a vital starting point, Downey said. “We also need to know if industry is satisfied with the skilled workers that CTE programs are turning out. Is industry getting a return on its investment in career and technical education?”

The input of parents is important too. Every year, EVIT surveys its parents to see if they are satisfied with the school’s programs. Last spring, 1,108 parents participated in the survey with 97 percent agreeing that their child understands the expectations for becoming a CTE program completer. In addition, 93 percent said EVIT provides a high quality education that encourages their child to learn and 94 percent said they were satisfied overall with the quality of CTE at EVIT.

Students were surveyed too, with 96 percent of the 2,674 surveyed saying they would recommend their EVIT program to a friend. “Those are the results I care about the most,” Downey said. “When 94 percent of parents are satisfied and 96 percent of your students love your school so much they would urge a friend to come here – you know you’re doing something right.”



SATURDAY • JANUARY 26

# evit expo

9 AM TO 1 PM  
FREE ADMISSION

Discover how you can take career training at EVIT while in high school.

EVIT offers over 40 tuition-free career training programs for East Valley high school students with opportunities to earn professional industry credentials and college credit.

Adult Education @ EVIT also has classes for Phoenix area adults.

For more information, call (480) 461-4000 or visit [evit.com/expo](http://evit.com/expo)



**eastvalleyinstituteoftechnology**

1601 West Main Street • Mesa, Arizona 85201  
#evitexpo • [evit.com/expo](http://evit.com/expo) • 480-461-4000



[evit.com/expo](http://evit.com/expo)

#evitexpo

# discover evit east



**tuesday, april 9**

6:00-6:45 pm OR 6:45-7:30 pm

Cosmetology

Veterinary Assistant

Aviation

Medical Assistant

Future Engineers

Nursing Assistant

Behavioral Health

Anatomy & Physiology

Learn more about EVIT East campus programs & put us on your schedule!

EVIT offers more than 40 tuition-free career specific classes for high school students.  
EVIT provides 3 elective credits a year.



**eastvalleyinstituteoftechnology**  
East Campus • 6625 South Power Road • Mesa, AZ 85212

480-308-4600 • [www.evit.com](http://www.evit.com)  
@EVITNews • #WeAreEVIT

“ The experience and knowledge [EVIT] offers to their students is incomparable. ”

HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

**WE  
ARE  
EVIT FAMILY**



## Two Sisters Two Career Paths

Rachael Litwiller, 19, wants to own and operate a farm-to-table restaurant or maybe a food truck. Sister Katy Litwiller, 18, is interested in health care, loves music and would love to find a way to combine the two in music therapy. They have different dreams and goals, but through EVIT, they are finding their own unique pathways to a career they can love.

The Litwillers of Mesa are part of a growing group at the East Valley Institute of Technology: Families who are sending more than one child to EVIT's central campuses for advanced career training. Last year, 59 families enrolled multiple students at the central campuses; this year, 75 families have more than one child enrolled.

EVIT is both a school – EVIT Career and College Prep with two central campuses in Mesa and branch campuses in Apache Junction and Fountain Hills – and EVIT Career Technical Education District (CTED), which also funds CTE programs in high schools operated by East Valley school districts.

EVIT's central and branch campuses currently have over 4,000 high school students enrolled in one of more than 40 programs, such as Aviation, Construction, a variety of health care programs and much more. Approximately 500 adults are also enrolled. East Valley high school students attend tuition-free; adults pay tuition, with financial aid available for those who qualify.

Nearly every EVIT program prepares students to earn a professional license or industry certification. Most programs also include college credit through community colleges and other post-secondary schools.

When the Litwillers of Mesa learned about EVIT, daughter, Rachael, was attending Primavera charter school. "Rachael only dreamed of culinary school, but the cost was out of reach," her mother, Jenny Litwiller said. But by enrolling in the Culinary Arts School at EVIT, Rachael got advanced culinary training that resulted in her winning a \$150,000 scholarship to attend Johnson & Wales University. She is now in a culinary internship at Disney World in Florida.

"I would like other potential students to know that no matter what your interests are, EVIT is a program to consider," Rachael said. "The experience and knowledge they offer to their students is incomparable."

Her sister, Katy, is enrolled in the Medical Assistant program at the EVIT East Campus.

"Every day is a new adventure in the program, and it is obvious as a parent, that her teacher really motivates the kids to learn and succeed," her mother said.

"It is a lot of hard work, but I know that it will pay off," Katy said. "It is a great way to kick-start your career and learn valuable skills in your field."

When the Arizona Educational Foundation honored EVIT as an A+ School of Excellence in 2015, judges noted: "This school serves such a meaningful purpose that resonates with students and parents profoundly." Today, nearly 9 out of 10 EVIT parents say they would recommend EVIT to other families.

Jenny Litwiller said: "Just the fact that the kids walk out with the skill set and certification to apply for jobs, or take the skills on to college for a specific career, is worth so much."





## Design Student Becomes Design Teacher

This year's Fashion Design & Merchandising students at EVIT are learning from a teacher who not only graduated from a rigorous design school and worked as a designer, but who also knows what it's like to be an EVIT student.

Landry Low completed the EVIT fashion design program and graduated from Scottsdale's Chaparral High School in 2011, went on to the Pratt Institute in New York where she earned her bachelor of fine arts degree in fashion design, and has created her own collections. Now she has returned to the East Valley Institute of Technology to teach the next generation.

"Knowing what an impact EVIT and my instructor, Kristen Johnson, had on my life – it is, without a doubt, the greatest honor to be on the other side of the 'desk,' so to speak," Landry said.

The fashion program she teaches is one of more than 40 career training programs EVIT offers for East Valley high school students and adults.

Landry's parents, Ann and Chris Low, recalled their family had never heard of EVIT when Landry enrolled in 2009. "EVIT is the best kept secret in the Phoenix area for an experiential education that allows students to have experience, certifications and a job out of high school," Ann said.

Her daughter was an academically strong student with a 4.5 GPA, but gave up honors and AP classes at Chaparral just so she could attend EVIT for a half day her junior and senior years. It resulted in her winning \$94,000 in scholarships to attend the prestigious Pratt Institute.

At her high school, Landry had been "just another high achieving student," Ann said. But at EVIT, she became both high achieving and skilled in the field in which she wanted to work. "She got so much from this school. They supported her and she thrived."

At Pratt, Landry discovered that "no (freshmen) had anywhere close to the education and knowledge that I had from EVIT ... I would say that about half of what was covered in my first two years at Pratt was almost identical to the projects and lessons I completed as an EVIT student."

While Landry was at Pratt, her mother remained involved at EVIT by serving on the fashion program's advisory council. "I'm a firm

believer in giving back," she said. "I thought it was my responsibility to support the program while I can."

Ann also became close friends with Landry's EVIT teacher, Kristen Johnson, who stopped teaching a few years ago, but has come back this year as a classroom assistant and mentor to Landry in her first year of teaching. That teacher-student relationship is one of the hallmarks of EVIT, Ann said. "You aren't just a number at EVIT. The teachers really care, and the kids want to be here."

On her teacher's page, Landry wrote to her students that she wants to give them the same opportunity EVIT gave her.

"So, now, I've come home -  
to Arizona -  
to EVIT -  
to contribute to this gift that I was granted,  
& to pass that gift on to you."







## A Family's Passion for Career Education

Cassi Perez practically grew up at the East Valley Institute of Technology where dad Eric Perez has taught graphic design and multimedia programs for nearly 20 years. As a child, she spent many summers in his classroom while he worked. Today as an adult, she has her own EVIT work space as a career coach in the counseling department.

"EVIT has been a huge part of my life. So many of my friends as well as family members have benefited from programs here," she said. "Being able to lead students towards a successful future is something I am really passionate about. When I heard that EVIT was looking for someone to do just this, I knew I found my career."

EVIT offers over 40 career training programs for high school students and adults. Many programs include opportunities to earn college credit and nearly every program prepares students to earn an industry certification. Within a year of completing their training, 92% of EVIT students are in college, jobs or the military.

Cassi is part of a team of counselors and recruiters who visit East Valley high schools to present information about EVIT and help students find a pathway to their career passion.

"One day, I am presenting; the next, I am assisting with a tour at our Main Campus," she said. "Working closely with the home high school counselors as well as the future EVIT students is incredibly rewarding."

While Cassi was never an EVIT student, she has continued to use skills she learned in the Early Childhood Education CTE program at Tempe's McClintock High School in her work as a youth coach, youth program coordinator, preschool teacher – and now as a career coach. She just earned her master's degree in Forensic Psychology and plans to pursue a doctorate in Clinical Child Psychology.

"Even once all my education has been completed, I know that I will rely heavily on the basics that I learned from my CTE training back in high school," she said.

She'll also rely on a passion and work ethic she learned from Dad. "I can never remember a day where my dad was not working at EVIT," she said.

Eric was named Teacher of the Year by the Association for Career Technical Education of Arizona in 2008, and was twice voted Best High School Teacher by East Valley Tribune readers. Other awards include the National

Civic Star award, American Association of School Administrators; 2005 National Graduate of the Year, Accrediting Commission of Career Schools & Colleges of Technology; 2007 Arizona Platinum Apple Teacher of the Month; and 2010 Meritorious Citizen of the Year, Mesa Police Department.

But the most heartfelt of honors is having a daughter following in his footsteps as an advocate for CTE, EVIT and students. "For her to walk a similar road as I did in my career, well it simply means the world to me as a father. It showed me she did notice the love, caring and hard work I put into being her father and balancing that with a career I loved.

"Working in career and technical education has been my career ambition and passion. I hope she gets the same satisfaction and enjoyment I have gained over the last 29 years of teaching."





## Mother & Sons Find Career Success

As a parent, Suzanne Wolf saw how valuable EVIT training was in preparing her sons for career success. So when the East Valley Institute of Technology had an opening for a GED Grant Program Coordinator, she jumped at the chance to apply.

Now, through the EVIT Industrial Trades Academy, she is making it possible for adults to complete their secondary education and obtain the same career training her children benefitted from when they were in high school.

“I’m one of EVIT’s biggest fans and have been since my oldest son attended classes here,” she said.

EVIT is a public school providing over 40 career training programs tuition-free to high school students in the East Valley. Tuition-based programs for adults are also offered.

The GED program and Industrial Trades Academy are offered through Adult Education @ EVIT. The GED preparation class is free for Maricopa and Pinal county residents 16 and older who are not enrolled in school. Through the academy, these students also have the opportunity to enroll in EVIT’s adult career training programs while taking their GED class. Tuition is charged for the career training, but financial aid is available for those who qualify.

“Each student in the GED program has their own unique story and reason why they weren’t

able to complete their high school education through traditional means. Many are raising families while working one or more jobs and completing their high school equivalency,” she said. “Seeing these students persist in the program despite the additional demands it places on them is truly inspiring.”

She was also inspired by how her sons thrived in EVIT’s high school programs.

Wade and Alex Wolf enrolled in EVIT while attending Desert Vista High School in the Tempe Union High School District. EVIT’s Automotive Technologies program gave Alex the skills he needed for his current job as a mechanic at San Tan Ford.

The dealership hired Alex as a lot attendant when he was a junior in his first year of the EVIT Automotive program. The manager knew he wanted to be a mechanic and told Alex that once he finished his EVIT program, graduated from high school and turned 18 that San Tan Ford would move him into the shop.

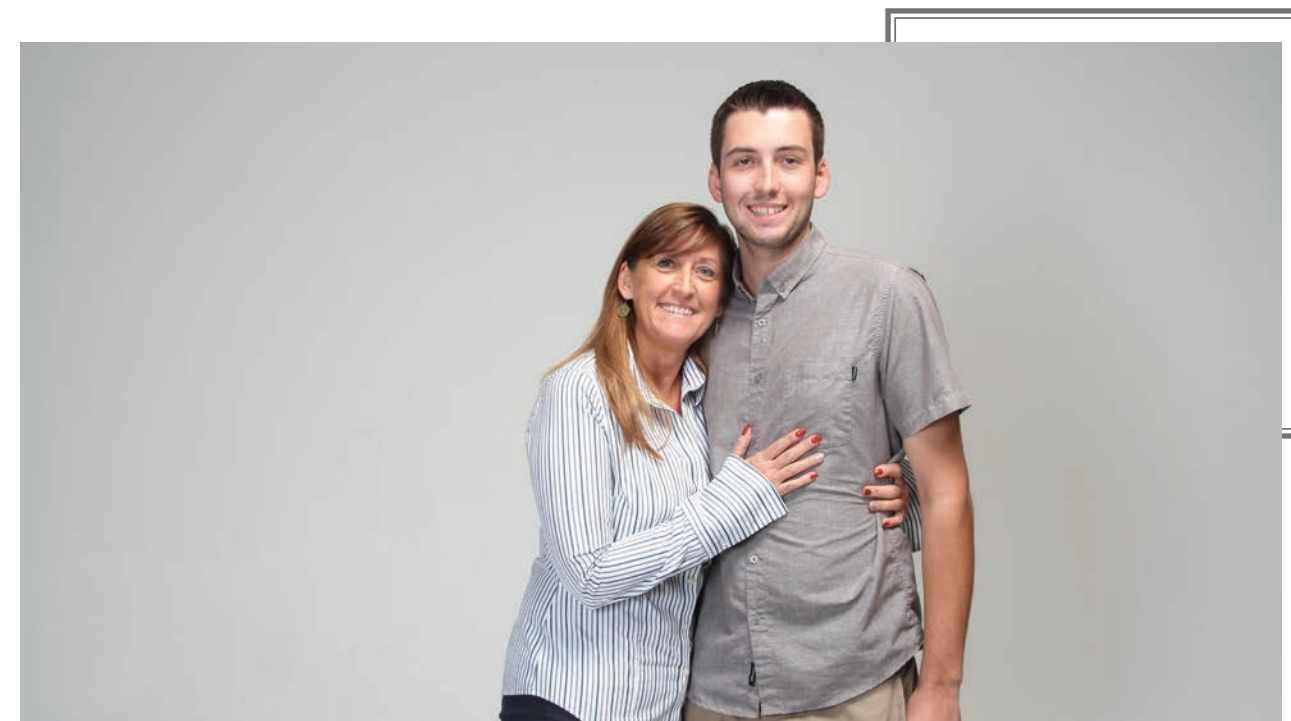
He’s been working as a mechanic for over a year.

“EVIT provided all the necessary education and training I needed to pursue my career goals,” Alex said.

His brother Wade followed a different path by enrolling in the EVIT Fire Science Academy. “Although he has not gone on to a career in firefighting yet, many of the skills he learned in the program transcend many other careers, including construction, which is the area he is currently working in,” his mother said.

Without EVIT, Wolf said her sons would have been taking high school classes that had no benefit or interest to them.

“Not only does EVIT allow students countless course offerings to be taken for high school credit,” she said, “but they are truly given life and career skills that can translate to actual high-paying careers when they graduate from high school.”



# EVIT HAPPENINGS





# Shannon "The Cannon" Ritch comes to EVIT Multimedia

**August 15, 2018**

American professional mixed martial artist Shannon "The Cannon" Ritch visited the EVIT Multimedia class to work with second-year students on designing new branding materials such as t-shirts. This is one of many client projects that the students will work on throughout the year.



# NAVISTAR DONATES TRUCKS WORTH MORE THAN \$400,000

**September 14, 2018**

Chicago-based manufacturer Navistar International Corporation (INTERNATIONAL TRUCKS) has donated five commercial big rig trucks worth more than \$400,000 to EVIT's growing Diesel Technologies program.

Shon Rasmussen, fleet account manager for RWC Group and long-time advisor to EVIT's Diesel program, said the Navistar donation not only will allow EVIT to train workers that industry needs, but will also allow EVIT to engage students and help them discover a career they will love. Learn more: <https://bit.ly/2GbKeRb>

Read Full Story on page 52.





## EVIT Culinary Alumna Deploys to Middle East



### September 16, 2018

Congratulations to Arizona Army National Guard member and former EVIT student Paige Curtiss for passing the American Culinary Federation Certified Culinarian exam. Paige will be deploying to the Middle East.



## International Guests visit EVIT



### September 17, 2018

EVIT's Radio program had the opportunity to have a discussion with 4 journalists from multiple countries:

Mr. Eyuel Solomon Fisseha from Ethiopia

Mr. Gustavo Cabullo Madrid from Mexico

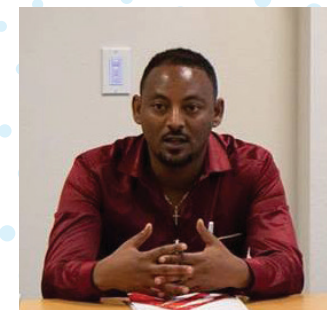
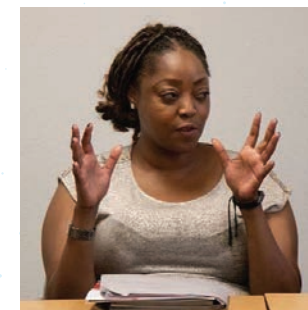
Ms. Milica Marinoic from Montenegro

and Ms. Tsepiso Makwetla from South Africa

All accompanied by Ms. Cassandra McGuinness.

Students were able to ask questions and banter with these journalists.

We were so glad to have them here and give them a tour of our campus.





# Trades on FOX 10



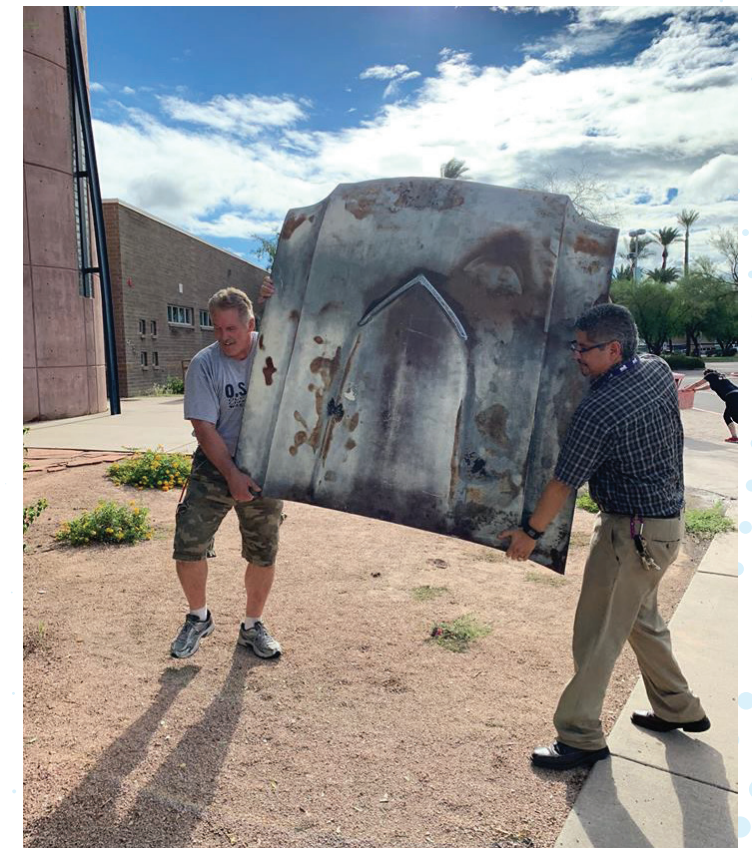
**October 2, 2018**  
In case you missed it: EVIT's construction, plumbing and HVAC programs were featured on FOX10.  
Check it out: <https://bit.ly/2SHdD79>



# Big Car Wrap Donation



**October 3, 2018**  
Dan "The Beast" Severn & Tom Ranger donated two Jeep hoods as well as a hood, doors, and fenders of a T-Bird for EVIT Multimedia students to work on in the EVIT Digital Print Studio as they learn how to wrap cars.



We are so thankful for this opportunity and can't wait to learn some cool new trades! Thank you!



# EMT Skill Practice

# #CollegeBoundxEVIT



### October 3, 2018

EVIT Emergency Medical Technician students took a break from the classroom and practiced skills all day. The lesson of the day focused on the proper way to lift and move patients and prevent injuries to themselves.

Special thanks to AMR Central Arizona Paramedic Adam Apodaca and EMT Mason Masters who came to assist by showing off their ambulance and ALS equipment.

### October 15, 2018

We are proud to be in partnership with College Bound AZ in assisting our students with their journey as they get ready for college with the RISE Scholars program!

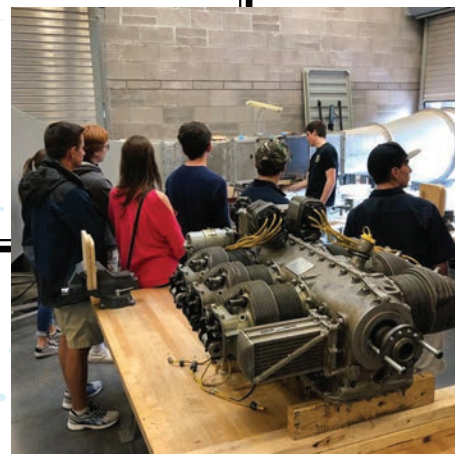
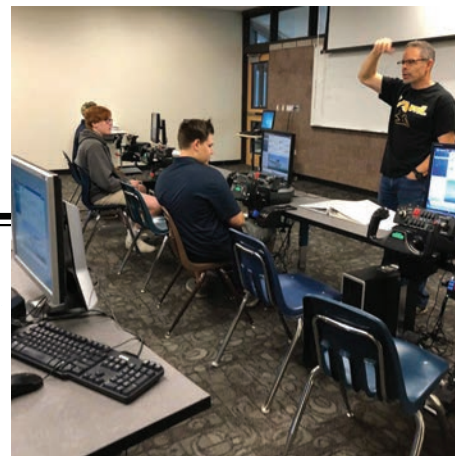


# EVIT Aviation Hosts Aviation Explorer #352

## October 18, 2018

EVIT Aviation hosted the Aviation Explorer Post #352 from Falcon Field in Mesa. Several current students came in to demonstrate and discuss our program.

The Explorers were also given the opportunity to try out our flight simulators and see the wind tunnel in action. This is a great partnership because of how these two aviation programs compliment each other. Several of our current EVIT students are also Aviation Explorer members.



# City of Phoenix Police Department Pawn Scholarship Winners

## October 24, 2018

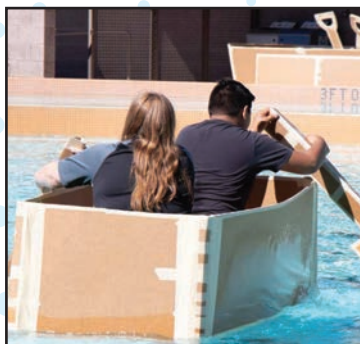
Congratulations to EVIT Criminal Justice students Kemberly and Miranda for receiving the City of Phoenix Police Department Pawn Scholarship! We are so excited to see what your future holds.







# Float or Sink? Future Engineers build boats & race



### October 26, 2018

EVIT Engineering program had its annual boat races where students design a boat using only cardboard and tape. Then they must put their boat to the test in the treacherous waters of the ASU pool! Their boat not only has to stay afloat, but they are also timed to see who can get across the pool and back the fastest. Each boat is so unique and they all have different innovative designs that anything could happen. Congratulations to Joseph and Giovanni for having the fastest boat!



# Fire Truck Gets New Look



AFTER



BEFORE



### October 25, 2018

The EVIT Digital Print Studio did an amazing job wrapping the EVIT Fire Science Academy truck with new purple vinyl. They worked very hard and the truck looks stunning

Did you know that EVIT offers printing services? We also offer many additional services, head to [evit.com/services](http://evit.com/services) to find out more.



## EVIT Video Produces Music Videos

**October 29, 2018**

In EVIT's Video Production program, students are challenged to create a unique music video using the green screen room. Students have written their shot lists and are starting the filming process.



## Adult Cosmetology Avant Garde Competition



**October 30, 2018**

EVIT's Adult Cosmetology students displayed their designs for the Avant Garde Competition. They were judged based on form, space, emphasis, and harmony. With creative hair and makeup, these mannequins are ready to rock their look on Halloween!



## Milwaukee Tools offer practice to EVIT Plumbing



## EVIT @ HOSA Conference in Downtown Phoenix



### November 1, 2018

We are so grateful to have industry partners who are willing to come out to our classes and train with our students. Thanks to Milwaukee Tools for coming to show our plumbing students all about the tools you offer and best of all, letting them practice using them. At EVIT we love hands-on real-world training.

### November 1, 2018

EVIT HOSA students had a great day at the Arizona HOSA Fall Conference at the Phoenix Convention Center. Their venture to downtown Phoenix started by riding the light rail from the EVIT Main Campus to the convention center. The students came back to EVIT feeling inspired. They are also gearing up to compete at the state conference in events like the HOSA Bowl competition.



# 22 Too Many 5K



### November 3, 2018

On November 3rd, hundreds of runners and volunteers gathered on EVIT's Main Campus for a 5K run with one goal in mind to break the stigma of mental health in the military, and have the 22 daily veteran suicides reduced to 0. All of the money from runner registration and on-site donations were donated to 22 Too Many, a national veteran's organization that seeks to reduce veteran suicide. There were over 20 vendors, and Desert Car Center of Chandler raffled off a car, where 100% of the money was donated to 22 Too Many. Keri Jacobs, the founder of this charity, flew in from Maine to be on-site, and see the impact the run was making on our community. When all was said and done, this event raised over \$7,000!

Emily Aiton started this race 3 years ago after her best friend's husband, Antouine Castaneda, took his own life after serving multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, leaving behind his wife and two daughters. EVIT has been so gracious to let us host this event year after year, and we only hope that we can continue every November, and gather more and more momentum each year.

## EVERYONE'S LISTENING



@PULSERADIOAZ



PULSERADIO.FM

5  
NOV

## Health Students Volunteer at Feed My Starving Children



**November 5, 2018**

6 students from Ms. Thorson's CNA class volunteered for Feed My Starving Children. They had so much fun packing enough to feed 9 children for a year. What a great way to practice compassion, a skill very important in the health care industry.



6  
NOV

## EVIT Students go International



**November 6, 2018**

Congratulations to EVIT Cybersecurity student Mawadda Abuhamda & alum Jason McGee for their selection to the 2019 National SkillsUSA World Team! Mawadda, a student at Sequoia Choice Arizona Distance Learning charter school, & Jason, who attends Grand Canyon University, will compete in Russia!



## EVIT Foundation Breakfast

### November 8, 2018

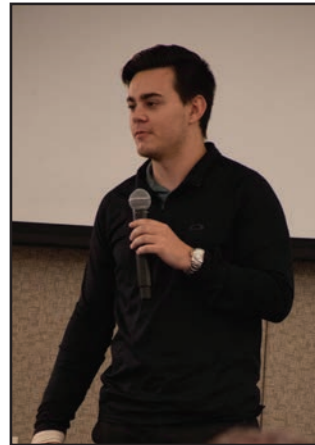
On Nov. 8, nearly 400 business and industry professionals, dignitaries and community members attended the EVIT Foundation Annual Gourmet Breakfast Fundraiser in the The Culinary School at EVIT Banquet Hall.

The event raised more than \$100,000 to provide assistance to qualifying low-income students. Last year's event raised more than \$95,000 and assisted nearly 200 EVIT students in paying for program fees, uniforms, kits and tools.

The keynote speaker was U.S. Senator Jon Kyl. Ann Low, a parent of EVIT alum now EVIT Fashion Design & Merchandising instructor Landry Low, shared her passion for hands-on learning and the great career and technical programs being offered at EVIT.

The event also featured EVIT Radio alum Joey Liberatore and Arizona Diamondbacks play-by-play announcer Steve Berthiaume.

We were pleased to present Francis Tesmer & Rolf Lohse of Rolfs Salon with the Sam & Olga Bender Award. This award is given to those who have demonstrated commitment to Career and Technical Education. Ending the ceremony, EVIT Superintendent Sally Downey thanked everyone and ended the event with her rendition of "Always."



## VETERANS DAY PARADE

### November 11, 2018

Students and staff walked the parade route waving, shaking hands with veterans and community members while EVIT's student-run radio station, 88.7 Fm The Pulse, played some favorites that honored veterans





## Early Childhood's Annual Pumpkin Festival



### November 14, 2018

It's cuteness overload every day in Lisa Bradford's Early Childhood Education program at EVIT, but especially during the annual Pumpkin Festival. ECE students learn about child development and more as they gain experience in working with young children.



## Gilbert Days Parade



### November 17, 2018

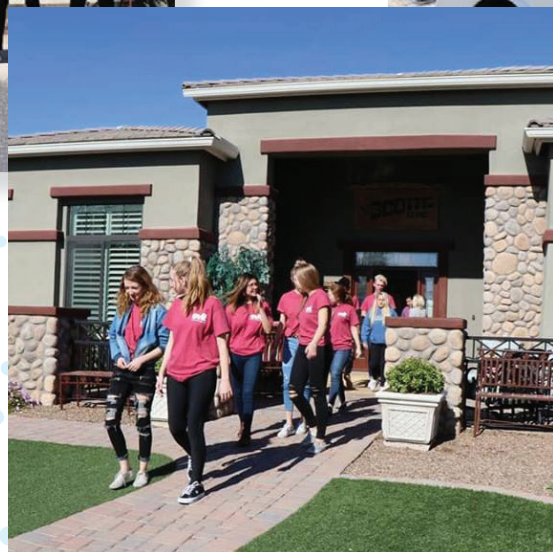
On Nov. 17, EVIT students and staff participated in the Gilbert Days Parade in Downtown Gilbert while music was being played by EVIT's radio station, 88.7 Fm The Pulse.



## Interior Design Puts Skills to work at Sunshine Acres

**November 19, 2018**

The Interior Design program took a trip to see Sunshine Acres and brainstormed for possible service projects to do as a class. The students returned several weeks later to give out personalized gifts to each child.



## EVIT Cosmetology Presents Under the Big Top Show



**December 3, 2018**

It was a circus at EVIT Main Campus for the Cosmetology and Aesthetics' masquerade: Under the Big Top! These students are so talented!





## PPG Aerospace Visits Aviation

**December 4, 2018**

in the EVIT Aviation program, industry professionals from PPG Aerospace came to give a demonstration of a repair they would do on a plane window.

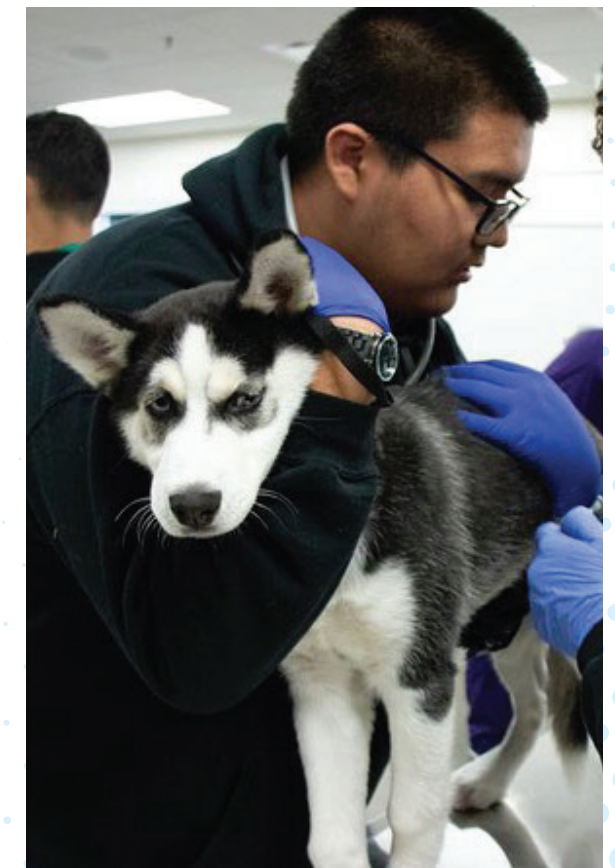
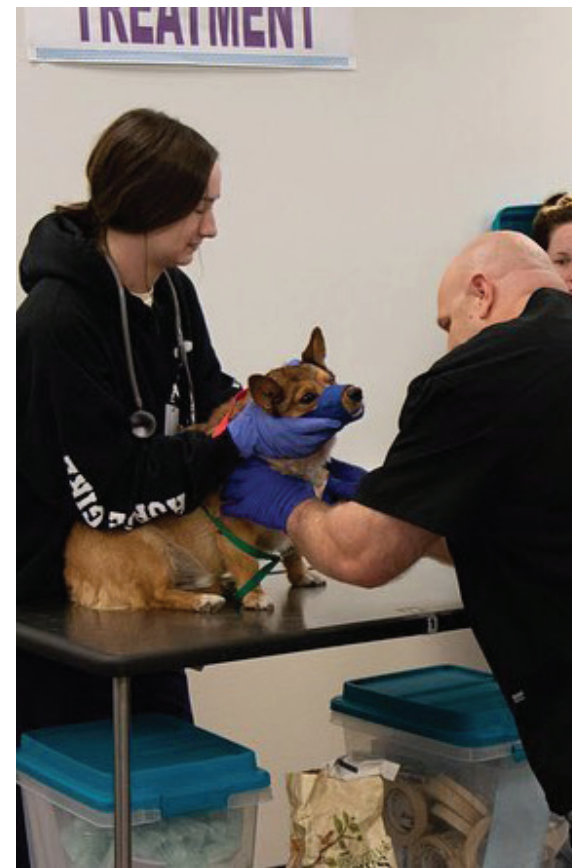
After they were done, they donated this panel to the class so students could practice on it. Thanks PPG Aerospace!



## Vet Assistant Students Learn Skills

**December 7, 2018**

EVIT Veterinary Assistant students learned how to safely restrain animals while blood is being drawn by a Veterinary Technician. They were then shown various ways the blood could be processed afterward.





# EVIT East Cosmetology Presents Fantasy Show

**December 7, 2018**

EVIT Academy of Cosmetic Arts students at the East Campus put their skills to the test as they created fantasy looks from storybook and movie characters to candy themes and more!



# EVIT WINS OLLI FLEET CHALLENGE



**December 12, 2018**

Students at the EVIT Main Campus will have two autonomous trolleys shuttling them around campus next year thanks to Arizona manufacturing company Local Motors.

# Navistar donates 5 big rigs to Diesel program

This fall, Chicago-based manufacturer Navistar International Corporation donated five commercial big rig trucks worth more than \$400,000 to the East Valley Institute of Technology's growing Diesel Technologies program.

The donation comes as EVIT is developing a pipeline of technically skilled workers to address the need for diesel mechanics in Arizona. It also coincides with EVIT's plans to open a new truck driving school next year to address the state's truck driver shortage.

Shon Rasmussen, fleet account manager for RWC Group and long-time advisor to EVIT's Diesel program, said the Navistar donation not only will allow EVIT to train workers that industry needs, but will also allow EVIT to engage students and help them discover a career they will love.

"We need these young people to come to EVIT and learn skills for a lifetime," Rasmussen said. "And they will find a passion in something where they can earn six figures."

The Navistar donation included:  
Two International ProStar trucks  
One International DuraStar truck  
Two International WorkStar trucks  
Interfaces students can use through laptop computers to diagnose issues.  
EVIT Diesel instructor Steve Bernasek said the donated trucks and interfaces will be used by second-year students who are working toward earning industry certifications.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that job openings for diesel service technicians and mechanics will grow by 12 percent by 2024. The BLS estimates jobs for truck drivers will grow by 6 percent by 2026.

EVIT is committed to providing East Valley high school and adult students with high quality career training while meeting the needs of Arizona's transportation industry. Currently, over 260 students are enrolled in EVIT's automotive programs (Automotive Technologies, Diesel Technologies and Collision Repair), including almost 80 students in the Diesel program.

All of EVIT's automotive programs are located at the Dr. A. Keith Crandell (Main) Campus, 1601 W. Main Street in Mesa. The truck driving school will be built on land EVIT owns just south of the campus. Assistant Superintendent Dr. Steve Waldvogel said construction is already under way and will include work done by EVIT Masonry and Welding students.

The Navistar donation will go a long way toward helping EVIT to continue its efforts to provide Arizona industry with a skilled workforce.

"We are so grateful for the Navistar donation," said EVIT Superintendent Dr. Sally Downey. "When industry and career and technical education work together, the sky's the limit in terms of providing quality training that meets the needs of students and industry."



# EVIT News in Brief

## Season of giving



It's that time of year when taxpayers donate to schools and charitable organizations. Just like all other public schools, EVIT accepts tax credit donations that support extracurricular activities. Maximum credit is \$400 for married joint filers and \$200 for single, heads of household and married couples filing separately. To make a tax credit donation, visit <https://az-evilite.intouchrecepting.com/> and select an EVIT campus and specific EVIT program in the "Item" box, or leave "Item" blank to make a tax credit donation to EVIT without specifying the program.

At the same link, taxpayers can also make a Qualifying Charitable Organization tax credit donation to the EVIT Education Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit that provides assistance to low-income EVIT students. In the "Item" box, select "AZ QUALIFYING CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION DONATION." Maximum credit allowed is \$800 for married joint filers and \$400 for single, heads of household and married couples filing separately. Thank you to all who support EVIT students through these donations.

## Successful fundraiser

The EVIT Foundation raised over \$110,000 at its annual gourmet breakfast fundraiser in November. Students from The Culinary School @ EVIT did a masterful job of preparing and serving a wonderful breakfast. U.S. Sen. Jon Kyl addressed the crowd of about 400 people, alum Joey Liberatore and parent Ann Low gave stirring testimonials, and Rolf Lohse and Francis Tesmer of Rolf's Salon were honored with the Olga Bender Award for their outstanding contributions to career and technical education at EVIT.

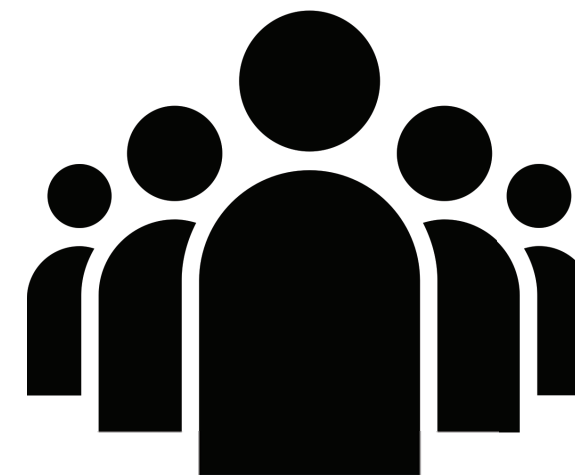


## Cave Creek in EVIT CTED

Under legislation passed last session, Arizona's Joint Technical Education Districts (JTEDs) have been renamed Career Technical Education Districts (CTEDs). Each CTED is composed of member school districts. The EVIT CTED, which now includes 10 East Valley school districts, is getting a new member in 2019-20. In November, Cave Creek voters approved the Cave Creek Unified School District's request to join the EVIT CTED. We welcome the opportunity to provide Cave Creek students with advanced career training.



## EVIT Governing Board



Starting in January, the EVIT Governing Board will have four new members who were elected in November: Shelli Richardson Boggs, a career and college specialist in the Queen Creek Unified School District; Ronda Shumway Doolen, core nursing chair and assistant dean of nursing for Arizona College Tempe campus; Bryghtyn R. Franker, an applied biological science and animal science teacher at Westwood High School in Mesa; and Larry A. Johnson, director of the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce. Incumbent board member Robert Covington was also re-elected to the EVIT board in November.

## New partnership



EVIT has partnered with College Bound AZ to help students successfully transition from EVIT and high school to Arizona State University. Many high school students, especially low-income students, plan to go to college, but fail to make it there because they miss completing forms and other details. Each year, College Bound AZ will work with up to 60 EVIT students planning to attend ASU to ensure missed details and bumps in the road don't keep them from going to college.

## Big rig donation

Chicago-based Navistar International Corporation has donated five big rig trucks worth over \$400,000 to EVIT's Diesel Technologies program. The donation includes interfaces students will use on laptop computers to diagnose engine issues. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates job openings for diesel mechanics and technicians will increase by 12 percent by 2024. Navistar's generous donation will go a long way toward helping EVIT meet this need.



## 1+1=Associate Degree!

The EVIT governing board approved a memorandum of understanding with Gateway Community College to offer an associate degree program for adult students in EVIT's Occupational Therapy Assistant program. The students will complete one year of training at EVIT and one year of education at Gateway to earn their degree. Gateway will reserve 50 percent of the seats in its program for EVIT students.



## Fountain Hills incubator

EVIT's Fountain Hills branch campus now includes incubator space for local home-based businesses. The goal is to not only have a campus that provides quality CTE for students, but a space businesses from Fountain Hills and the surrounding area can use to grow and thrive.



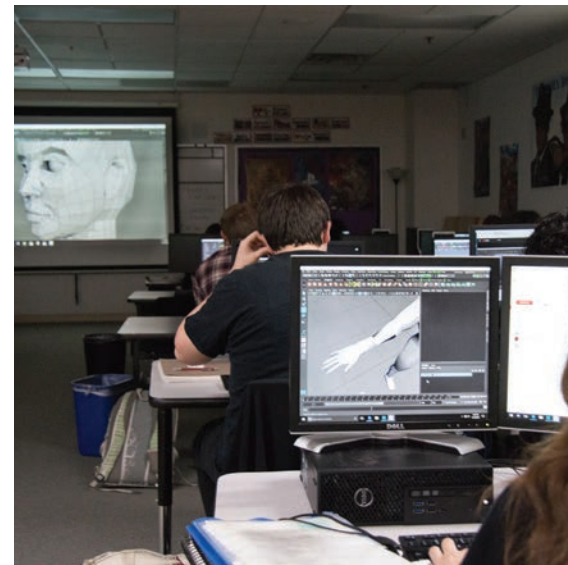
## Laser aesthetics



Adult Education @ EVIT is now offering a Laser Aesthetics Technician program that will allow students to earn at a reasonable rate what can be a very expensive specialty certification. The new adult program comes at a time when the high school Aesthetics program has a record 114 students enrolled.

## From EVIT to art school

Two 3D Animation students – Tyler Crabtree, a senior at Combs High School, and Karen Phan, a senior at Chandler’s Hamilton High School – were accepted into a highly recognized art school, The DAVE (Digital Animation & Visual Effects) School. The DAVE School is located on the backlot of Universal Studios Florida in Orlando. The students traveled to Florida over fall break to tour the campus and were immediately accepted. Because of their two years of training at EVIT, they have been offered internships to start next fall.



## Ford training

EVIT’s Automotive Technologies program will soon be housing a Factory Ford Training, similar to the Subaru program already housed at the Main Campus. High school students will be able to train and test for manufacturer certifications in both programs. An Audi program should also be in place by January.



## Working together

Culinary instructors and students in Scottsdale Unified School District, Mesquite High School in Gilbert Public Schools and Tempe Union’s McClintock High School have been meeting with instructors and students at The Culinary School @ EVIT to find effective ways to collaborate. By working together, EVIT programs and satellite CTE programs in the high schools can ensure students have opportunities to pursue career pathways.



## 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 Lacy Caprario at 480-461-4160 or e-mail [lcaprario@evit.com](mailto:lcaprario@evit.com). You can find more information about carpooling at [sharetheride.com](http://sharetheride.com) or bus route information at [valleymetro.com](http://valleymetro.com).

## STEM grant

EVIT has received a \$25,000 grant from Verizon to provide teachers with the knowledge and skills to help students explore careers in STEM fields, especially through robotics, coding and other hands-on interactive activities.



## Our HOSA Heroes

EVIT students in HOSA Future Health Professionals placed first this fall among large schools in Arizona for registering organ, eye and tissue donors for the Donor Network of Arizona. They will be recognized for their efforts at the 2019 HOSA Spring Leadership Conference in April. Great job, EVIT students!



## EVIT Expo



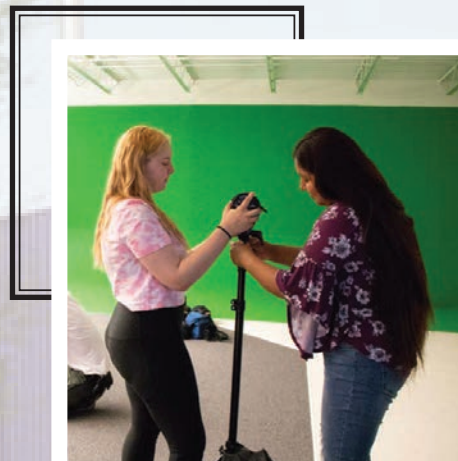
Mark your calendars: Our big EVIT Expo open house is coming up on Jan. 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Dr. A. Keith Crandell (Main) Campus, 1601 W. Main St., Mesa. If you've never seen EVIT in person, this is a great opportunity to take a trolley tour, visit our programs and meet our instructors and students. While the event is held at the Main Campus, programs from our East Campus and Apache Junction and Fountain Hills branch campuses will also be represented.

# Fountain Hills Campus

At the EVIT campus in Fountain Hills, students can take

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Nursing Assistant
- Digital Arts
- Digital Photography
- Video Production
- Digital Communications
- Graphic/Web Design

14605 N Del Cumbre Ave  
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268







## Marcos de Niza Business Academy partners with ASU's W.P. Carey School of Business

*Submitted by: Tempe Union High School District*

The Marcos de Niza Business Academy has added new program designed for students interested in pursuing marketing and management careers.

The academy, now in its ninth year, works in conjunction with faculty and students from the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University to prepare students in areas like marketing, finance and entrepreneurship.

“This program has changed my life in many ways and without it, I don’t know where I’d be right now,” said Kristine Cao, a senior at Marcos de Niza.

This year, the academy added a marketing program designed to help students prepare for careers like sales, customer service, advertising, promotion and public relations. Students are exposed to marketing practices as it relates to several industries, including

sports, entertainment, hospitality and tourism.

The goal of the program is to help students become strategic thinkers and innovators implementing new ideas, said Karen Stark, early outreach and summer programs manager at Arizona State University. “In this partnership between the Marcos Business Academy and our faculty, we want to reach out to them and prepare them for whatever their plans may be in the future, because wherever they go, business is sure to follow,” Stark added.

The program, is part of the district’s Career and Technical Education department, allows students to work regularly with W.P. Carey faculty and students, as well as network with industry leaders. Students also participate in DECA, a club that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in business fields like finance, hospitality and management.

### A foundation of skills

Heather Hunt, a staff development coordinator and business department chair at Marcos de Niza, said the business academy was started to help students prepare for the next step after high school. Marcos staff worked closely with Arizona State to develop curriculum specifically for the marketing program, which includes three years of rigorous marketing coursework and hands-on training in the workplace.

“We want them to leave Marcos with a strong foundation of skills that they need to be successful at the next level,” she said.

In the marketing program, courses include Marketing, Advanced Business Marketing, Sports and Entertainment Marketing and Hospitality and Tourism Marketing. Students are also able to complete an internship in the marketing field, earn industry certifications and state recognitions, and be granted an opportunity of direct admission to ASU’s business college.

Hunt, who also sponsors DECA club at Marcos, said students regularly network with other students who share common goals.

“You are the sum of who you surround yourself with, and we want to surround these students with successful, innovative people that are going places,” she said.

Hunt says she hopes to see the academy grow in the coming years, expanding programs to include digital media marketing, personal finance and investing, entrepreneurship and supply chain management.

### ‘I’ve got big plans’

Nicholas Hargis, a senior at Marcos de Niza, said the academy opened his eyes to valuable opportunities after high school.

It all started by taking a business class.

“It’s the best decision you could make,” he said. “Not only does it teach you about the basic values of business, which is valuable regardless of what you go into after high school, but it teaches you how to learn and how to grow as a person.”

After high school, Hargis said he plans to attend a business college, pursuing a degree in finance and possibly economics. His dreams include working on Wall Street as a trader for a big investment bank. After that, he said he hopes to do some entrepreneurial work, like managing his own hedge fund.

“I’ve got big plans, big things I want to do,” Hargis said.

For more information on the Marcos Business Academy, visit [www.tempeunion.org/MBA](http://www.tempeunion.org/MBA) or [www.tempeunion.org/marketing-program](http://www.tempeunion.org/marketing-program).





## Unified Robotics offers inclusion and competition

*Submitted by: Higley Unified School District*

This year, both Higley and Williams Field High School will offer Unified Robotics. The program brings together typical students with peers who have unique learning styles for an extracurricular activity that engages all in the competitive sport of robotics.

Williams Field High School launched the first full Unified Robotics team in Arizona last school year. Unified Robotics was developed through a partnership between Special Olympics Arizona and STAX3D, a local technology company that works with local area schools to help provide STEM (science, technology, education and math) learning opportunities.

“It’s all about inclusion,” said Higley High School engineering teacher Jason Sixkiller. “It’s getting together kids who normally would not be in the same classroom or at the same lunch table.”

Tournament-styled competitions will be organized for groups to compete in, and students will have coach instruction and

teamwork-building exercises in order to prepare.

Sixkiller said that with any sport, it is important that individual students work hard to be successful and keep in mind that it takes practice and time.

“It is going to be a commitment,” Sixkiller said. “Not just for myself, but for the kids too.”

Alise Kraus, Williams Field High School’s engineering teacher, said that she is actively seeking all students that are interested.

“I believe everybody has attributes to contribute,” Kraus said. “I believe in challenging everybody to use their best skills possible.”

Kraus said that she learned a lot from running Williams Field’s team last year and plans to have students start learning how to program earlier with other teams.

Laura Duncan, senior director of support programs at Special Olympics Arizona, said the goal of the robotics program is to create opportunity for inclusion.

“Special Olympics Arizona is extremely excited to be partnering with STAX3D to use robotics as a catalyst for promoting social inclusion and driving change in STEM education. The goal of Unified Robotics is simple – to provide an opportunity where students of all abilities can pursue their passion in STEM and excel in an arena amongst their peers. We look forward to expanding Unified Robotics on high school campuses statewide through a continued partnership with STAX3D,” Duncan said.

As Special Olympics Arizona’s official partner for Unified Robotics, STAX3D helped create and organize Williams Field High School’s program last year, and will join again this year as more teams – including Higley High – join.

Shawn Hardina, executive vice president of strategic partnerships for STAX3D, previously came from education – teaching science and robotics for 26 years.

“I know the impact a quality robotics program can have on changing kids’ lives and on workforce development,” he said.

STAX3D works with businesses, as well as educators, to take conventional ways of working and teaching and blending emerging technologies into the mix.

“There’s a pre-kindergarten through business application for all of this and that’s what we focus on as a company,” he said.

This year the organizers are fine-tuning the program to create opportunities for the Unified Robotics team to participate in both inclusive competitions and unified competitions as students develop their skills, according to Hardina.

Nikki Fyffe, lead teacher for special education at Williams Field High School, said the program has helped her students make friends.

“What my students gained from this experience is that they can do it. They can be involved and be a part of something. That they have the same abilities as their peers and that they were treated the same, fair,” said Fyffe. “They learned something that can translate into, ‘Hey, I can do that.’”

She said that the program has really helped the students develop their problem-solving skills and work as a team.

“They think through, ‘Oh, it didn’t work perfectly this time, let me change a part,’” Fyffe said. “That’s what the robotics kids did. They helped them problem solve through that.”

Fernanda Villafana Benitez is a student leader in the robotics club at Williams Field and said the club wants to share their passion for robotics with those that are interested.

“We want to share this with students who had never experienced robotics and give them a chance to do robotics and engineering,” Villafana Benitez said.



# Higley High students win Gilbert SPARK App Game Jam competition

*Submitted by: Higley Unified School District*

The Dark Knights, a team from Higley High, won the annual Gilbert SPARK App Game Jam competition in September with a game creation that allowed users to design and fly their own vehicle.

The team - made up of seniors Daniel Pickering, Brady Jenkins and Dylan Franzen – won the Best Game Design by the judges for the advanced category at the two-day event, held at ASU Polytechnic campus.

“This was super, super difficult to decide. We saw some really, really amazing games. I want all of you to give yourselves a pat on the back and a round of applause. It was absolutely impressive. Thank you everyone for what you did,” said Derek Konofalski, who organizes the event each year for the Town of Gilbert.

“It took lots of hours. Luckily Daniel came up with the idea and it just took a lot of putting together,” Jenkins said.

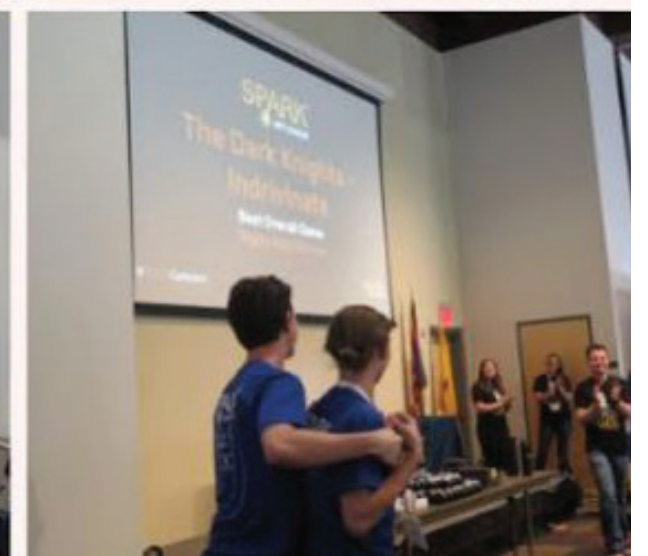
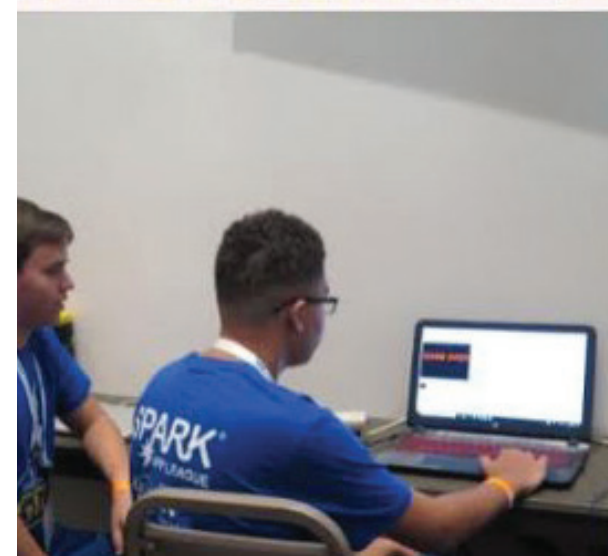
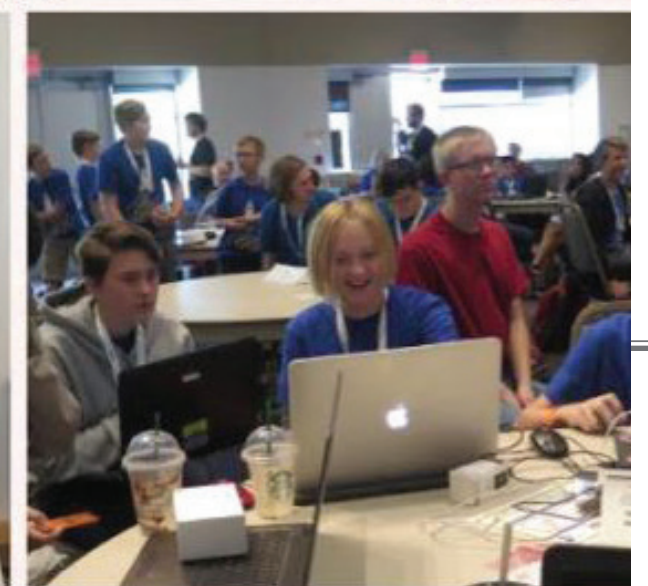
“We had the bones of the game but then we

had to add the meat and make everything pretty,” said Franzen.

“We really just took the idea of invention and transportation to heart ... it was super fun, super stressful, but super fun,” Pickering said.

The three Higley students all completed three years of engineering courses on their campus, where they learned engineering, robotics and coding.

Their game allows users to use different items to create a vehicle that must then deliver a package – water – through different levels. The students use the Grand Canyon, the desert and downtown Gilbert (completed with a Dutch Bros. coffee) as some of the backgrounds.



## EVIT satellite leaders, students win national, state recognition

Congratulations to Meg Giancesello, retired executive director of educational programs in the Chandler Unified School District, for winning 2019 ACTE National Administrator of the Year. Meg retired last spring after overseeing Chandler's CTE programs for many years. She was recognized this fall during the national ACTE conference in Texas.

Kudos also to Amy Dillard, an agriculture teacher in Gilbert Public Schools. Amy was named as the recipient of the 2018 ACTE Region V Carl Perkins Community Service Award, which made her a finalist for the 2019 national award.

Also this fall, the Automotive Technology program at Gilbert High School was named

a top 20 finalist in Tomorrow's Tech "2018 School of the Year" competition.

And, three students in satellite programs in the EVIT Career Technical Education District were selected as Arizona nominees for the U.S. Presidential Scholars in Career and Technical Education:

Geethika Ameneni, Bioscience, Red Mountain High School, Mesa Public Schools  
Adrian Kwiatkowski, Bioscience, Red Mountain High School, Mesa Public Schools  
Ruth Nyagaka, Business Operations and Marketing, Williams Field High School, Higley Unified School District

The national U.S. Presidential Scholars will be announced in May.



Above: Amy Dillard

Below: Meg Giancesello



# EAST VALLEY FAMILIES CHOOSE EVIT!

nearly  
**9 out of 10**  
parents would  
recommend EVIT to  
other parents  
& students

**engaged  
students**



**98%**  
high school  
graduation rate

**92%**  
students placed  
in jobs, college  
or military

**2 out of 3**  
students go  
on to college

**industry  
support**

nearly  
**9 out of 10**  
business partners  
say EVIT training meets  
industry standards

**over 96%** of East Valley students who attend EVIT would recommend EVIT to a friend or family member

EVIT provides the **ADVANCED** career and technical education for East Valley **11th and 12th grade students** with over 40 **TUITION-FREE** programs offered at two central Mesa campuses and branch campuses in Apache Junction and Fountain Hills.  
For a full listing go to [evit.com/programs](http://evit.com/programs).

Students attend 2 schools -- a half-day at their high school for academics, a half-day at EVIT for career training.  
**Internships** and prep for **state/national licensing & certifications**. Over 270 **dual enrollment college credits**.  
**FREE** transportation provided by East Valley school districts.

**evit  
expo**

save the date  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 26  
EVIT MAIN CAMPUS  
9 am - 1 pm

**evit**

CAREER AND COLLEGE PREP  
480-461-4000 • [www.evit.com](http://www.evit.com)  
Main Campus: 1601 West Main Street  
East Campus: 6625 South Power Road

passion. path. purpose.

**ENROLL TODAY**  
by going to [evit.com/admissions](http://evit.com/admissions)

