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**AWEE WINS \$120,000 GRANT FROM THUNDERBIRDS CHARITIES TO LAUNCH ENHANCED WEB-BASED VERSION OF ITS CAREER TRAINING WORKSHOPS**

*Thunderbirds Charities Academy to Offer Arizona Workforce Organization's Work Skills Training Workshops via the Internet while Promoting Computer Literacy and Soft Skills*

**PHOENIX, Ariz. (June 16, 2008)** -- Arizona Women's Education & Employment (AWEE), Arizona's premier workforce development organization, announced today that it has received a \$120,000 grant from Thunderbirds Charities to launch Thunderbirds Charities Academy, an enhanced online version of AWEE's highly regarded career training workshop series. The grant will enable AWEE to respond to the burgeoning demand from job-seekers and employers alike for broader access to its growing array of work skills training workshops.

"We greatly appreciate the generosity of this preeminent group of community leaders and the confidence they are demonstrating in the efficacy of our workforce development programs," said Marie Sullivan, president and CEO of AWEE. "This grant will enable us to significantly increase the number of women and men we serve each year while improving key measures of program success, including wage increases, job retention and workshop completion rates. Thunderbirds Charities Academy provides a wonderful opportunity to leverage the virtual world of the Internet to meet the needs of real people."

"We're thrilled to have this opportunity to help Arizona Women's Education & Employment," said Thunderbirds Charities president and Thunderbirds Big Chief Tim Louis. "We feel strongly that AWEE's Thunderbirds Charities Academy will allow many individuals in our community to succeed in becoming vital members of the Arizona workforce."

Thunderbirds Charities Academy's curriculum will be designed to help individuals master the job search, office and technology skills they need to successfully navigate today's increasingly competitive labor market. It will also emphasize the development of critical "soft" skills—such as the ability to work in teams and communicate effectively—that business leaders say are critical to workplace success.

The Academy will be hosted online on a new secured section of the AWEE Web site ([www.awee.org](http://www.awee.org)). The workshops will also be accessible from computer classrooms at various AWEE locations and from the homes of students with Internet access. Thunderbirds Charities Academy will be launched in multiple phases.

### **About AWEE**

Arizona Women's Education & Employment has been successfully investing in women, families and this community through life and career success planning, training and support for more than 27 years. To date, AWEE has served and supported nearly 50,000 individuals in their quest to attain quality jobs that create positive changes and successful beginnings for themselves and their families. The organization is currently placing almost 80 percent of its participants into new and better jobs paying an average of almost \$11 per hour, with an average wage increase of 125 percent after four months of work. For more information, contact AWEE at (602) 223-4333 or visit [AWEE.org](http://AWEE.org).

### **About Thunderbirds Charities**

Thunderbirds Charities, a nonprofit organization formed in 1986, together with the Thunderbirds and the Thunderbirds Foundation, distribute monies raised through the FBR Open golf tournament to local charities in need. The Thunderbirds Charities Board consists of 15 board members from varying professional backgrounds. The mission of Thunderbirds Charities is to assist children and families, help people in need and improve the quality of life in our communities. The organization's giving is directed toward organizations based or with a significant presence in Arizona. For more information on the Thunderbirds, the 2009 FBR Open or Thunderbirds Charities, call the Thunderbirds office at (602) 870-0163 or visit [www.fbropen.com](http://www.fbropen.com).

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