

Work Force

ARIZONA WOMEN'S EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT, INC. **AWEE**
works!

AWEE Helps Job Seekers During Economic Downturn

Everywhere you look, it seems words like "recession" and "economic slowdown" are popping up. The effects are starting to be felt here in Arizona, where the unemployment rate inched up by .3 percent compared to last year. Many Valley employees are starting to worry about their job stability and overall financial outlook.

According to a recent article in *The Arizona Republic*, "The Phoenix area now ranks 20th among 27 metropolitan markets for adding the most jobs. Just a year ago, it ranked seventh..."

AWEE is responding to the growing challenges facing job-seekers and employers by introducing new and expanded workforce development programs and by increasing our outreach to include a broader, more diverse group of participants.

In addition to AWEE's many programs preparing participants for successful careers, one popular way to find employment is by attending annual job fairs. Experts at Jobing.com offer these tips for finding success at a job fair:

Top 5 Success Tips for Job Fairs

1. Research the organizations you are interested in before the event.
2. Dress professionally - as if this were your personal interview time.
3. Create a 30-second "this is why you should hire me" commercial and be enthusiastic and confident!
4. Bring plenty of resumes to hand out to employers - be sure to proofread carefully to ensure your resume is error-free.
5. Follow up with the employer within 48 hours after the event - let them know you are serious about their job!

We live in a world where change is ever-present and where today's skills may not meet tomorrow's job requirements. In good times and bad, AWEE will continue to provide the ongoing workforce planning, training and support that's been proven to change lives and help those in search of careers. We hope these tips have been helpful! For more helpful tips, visit our website at <http://www.awee.org/helpfultips.html>.



awee works

After years of abuse, pain, drugs and finally prison, Laura Hughes was able to turn her life around with the help of AWEE. She took advantage of every opportunity for self-improvement, including participating in AWEE's pre-release program, Women Living Free. Laura was honored for her amazing transformation at AWEE's annual *Faces of Success* Luncheon in November 2007.

Today, she continues on her path to success. The biggest change is that she has regained custody of her 16-year-old daughter. "I'm very proud that my daughter is in there lying on my couch," says Laura. "And I don't ever want to take that for granted."



Laura Hughes

Although she has recently juggled being a full-time student, full-time mom and working two jobs, Laura admits that she has been in simplification mode since bringing her daughter home. When she learned that she would have custody after nine years, she had to make some quick decisions to simplify her life. She quit one job in order to work full time at just one place. She is happy to be home by 5 p.m. to make dinner and be there with her daughter.

She still does public speaking on domestic violence and is working toward her business degree, but she says things are less stressful now that she's making good money and has a great boss.

"I've waited a really long time to have my kids in my life and I made the decision to be here with them," says Laura. "I am right where I'm supposed to be."

TO YOUR CREDIT

Keys to Keeping, Building & Repairing Your Credit History

By Lisa Riley, Wells Fargo



Good credit is one of your most valuable assets. If you have not established credit, or you need to repair your credit, you need to begin now. To establish credit, begin with department store or gasoline cards. Charge small amounts and pay the entire balance due each month – on time. For many consumers, the issue isn't getting credit – it's getting out of credit trouble. For example, if you're near the credit limit on several credit cards, you may not qualify for additional credit – even if you make payments on time.

Here's how you can reduce high credit card balances and improve your credit history:

TAKE STOCK Make a list of every obligation, including minimum monthly payments and interest rates. If possible, transfer balances from high-interest cards to those that charge lower interest.

GET A CREDIT REPORT Obtain a copy of your personal credit report. Review the report carefully and correct inaccuracies immediately.

MAKE REGULAR PAYMENTS If at all possible, clear bad debts and outstanding balances and start making payments to your creditors. Pay at least the minimum balance, and be sure to pay on time. Don't skip payments.

STOP USING YOUR CARDS If you're overextended, don't close the accounts because you may have trouble opening new ones. Put the cards away and start paying down the balances.

GET HELP If you can't make regular minimum payments, contact your creditors to work out a payment plan. If you need further assistance, contact a Consumer Credit Counseling office in your area.

Lisa Riley is Regional President for Wells Fargo Regional Banking in the West Phoenix Metro area. Wells Fargo's free, online public service – called Hands on Banking® – teaches money skills for children, teens and adults in English and Spanish at www.handsonbanking.com.



Make Your Luncheon Reservation a Slam Dunk!

Register for your seat, table or sponsorship no later than **July 31** and we will enter you into a drawing for a chance at a sports memorabilia package. A suite for you and 17 of your friends for the September 3 Phoenix Mercury game is included.

AWEE Night at the Mercury

We have a surefire way for you to show your support for AWEE and the Phoenix Mercury - join us for the final home game of the season on **September 7**. Visit awee.org for more details on ticket packages and opportunities to support special courtside opportunities for some of AWEE's All Star participants.

Networking for Good

The annual Cocktails & Clothes event, hosted by the Friends of AWEE on April 22, was a tremendous success this year with nearly \$15,000 in revenue raised to benefit AWEE! This is a significant increase in funds raised over previous years.

The board, staff and participants of AWEE thank all who attended and gave financial and clothing support.



We Need Your Feedback!

AWEE is actively reaching out to our extended family of donors, volunteers, business partners and other supporters. Are we providing you with the best information possible?

Are you aware of all the available opportunities to make a difference and help us achieve our goals? We want to know! To help us gather this critical information, please take a few minutes to answer our brief questions about your attitudes and expectations regarding AWEE. Your responses will help guide us in reaching out more effectively to our stakeholders and, ultimately, in better serving all of our participants, partners and supporters throughout Maricopa and Yavapai Counties. Thank you!

Please fill out this questionnaire and mail or fax back to AWEE at 640 N. 1st Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85003 or 602.223.4338

How have you supported AWEE in the past? (choose all that apply)

- Volunteer
- Employer
- Other: _____
- Financial donor
- Pro bono services provider

How did you hear about AWEE? (choose all that apply)

- Newspaper article or calendar listing
- One of our participants, employers or partners
- AWEE newsletter or web site
- Other: _____

Which of the following items describe your current interest in AWEE and its mission?

(choose all that apply)

- Individual making a charitable financial donation
- Individual seeking employment
- Pro bono services provider
- Individual attending an AWEE event
- Business seeking qualified employees
- Community organization seeking partnership

What kinds of information would you like to receive from us? (choose all that apply)

- AWEE news and events
- Employer programs and incentives
- Programs to help me become employed
- Programs to help me advance my career options
- Programs specifically for women
- Programs specifically for men

If you'd like to volunteer, which areas interest you most? (choose all that apply)

- Share professional experience with AWEE participants
- Help with a special event
- Assist with the AWEE Clothing Boutique
- Host a reception on behalf of AWEE
- Other: _____

In an effort to conserve resources and costs, we would like to send our printed communications via email. May we add you to our e-mail list? (choose one)

- YES
- NO

If yes, please provide your email address: _____

First and Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Employment Industry: _____

Job Title: _____ Company Name: _____

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AWEE
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Arizona Women's Education
& Employment, Inc.
640 North First Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85003-1515

save the date

14th annual
Faces of **SUCCESS**
Luncheon

THURSDAY, NOV. 6, 2008 | 11:15 AM - 1:30 PM | ARIZONA BILTMORE RESORT & SPA

What do you see on the horizon? Arizona Women's Education & Employment (AWEE) looks forward to treating you, your friends and colleagues to **PRIZES, GIVEAWAYS AND A FABULOUS TIME** at this year's 14th annual Faces of Success Luncheon.

Help Arizona women, men and youth chart new courses of hope, dignity and self sufficiency with your sponsorship or table investment to this celebrated event. Your financial support will enhance AWEE's ongoing efforts of training, education and support services that have **HELPED MORE THAN 50,000 INDIVIDUALS** get back to work and change the course of their lives in a **NEW DIRECTION**.

For more information about sponsorships or early table registration, please **CALL 602.223.4345 OR VISIT AWEE.ORG.**



Presenting Sponsor

