

January 6, 2009 Green Collar Career Fair

Green Collar Career Fair and Expo to Bring High-Growth Employment Opportunities to Arizona Workers

Workforce Development Event Sponsored by Arizona Women's Education & Employment, Inc. (AWEE), Phoenix Workforce Connection (PWC), the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) and Aspire Workforce Development Initiative

When President elect Obama takes office in January, he has pledged to build national momentum around the creation of a dynamic and fast-growing "green economy that will combat climate change through investment in new clean energy technology."

By all accounts, the seeds of this economic revolution have already taken root. Today, more than 8.5 million Americans are employed by the solar energy field alone, according to the American Solar Energy Society. More broadly, the "green industrial cluster"—which encompasses such areas as recycling operations, wastewater treatment, development of clean technology, construction of green buildings and solar panels—is already the fifth largest market sector in the United States. Going forward, the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics ranks environmental science and protection among the 30 fastest-growing occupations in the period 2006-2016.

What do these trends mean for Arizona workers who are currently facing unemployment as well as those who are soon to enter the workforce? Which green economy careers present the best immediate and long-term opportunities? How can workers prepare themselves to take part in this burgeoning industry?

The answers will begin to emerge on Tuesday, January 6, at the **Green Collar Career Fair and Expo** co-sponsored by Arizona Women's Education & Employment, Inc. (AWEE), Phoenix Workforce Connection (PWC), the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) and the Aspire Workforce Development Initiative.

WHAT: Green Collar Career Fair and Expo. At this "first-of-its-kind" Phoenix event, adults, ex-offenders and young people 16 and over can learn about careers in the alternative energy and environmental sectors, meet recruiters from Arizona green businesses and view presentations showcasing the green products and technologies that are fueling the industry's growth. Also on hand will be several schools and universities that offer training and degree programs to provide workers with the skills and credentials they need to pursue green industry careers.

WHEN/WHERE: Tuesday, January 6, 2009, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. At the Travis L. Williams Family Service Center, 4732 S. Central Avenue, Phoenix AZ 85040

WHO: The free event is open to all adults, ex-offenders and young people 16 and over interested in learning about green careers. AWEE also invites green businesses and academic institutions that offer related coursework and training to contact Anne Marie Sonnier at 602-223-4348 about participating.

- **Arizona Women's Education & Employment (AWEE)** has been successfully investing in women, men and youth adults through life and career success planning, training and support for more than 27 years. To date, AWEE has served and supported nearly 60,000 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.
- **Phoenix Workforce Connections (PWC)** is the premier resource center for workforce, employment, training and career information in the Phoenix metropolitan area.
- **The Arizona Department of Economic Security** is charged with promoting the safety, well-being, and self sufficiency of children, adults, and families in Arizona.
- **The Aspire Workforce Development Initiative** targets youth ages 14-21, who have dropped out or are at risk of dropping out of school. Through one-on-one case management, tutoring and academic support, job training and career exploration, youth are encouraged to plan for their future and work hard to succeed.

CONTACT: For more information about attending the Green Collar Career Fair and Expo—or to reserve space as a business or academic exhibitor— please contact Anne Marie Sonnier, Job Developer at AWEE, at (602) 223-4348.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program Auxiliary Aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Please contact (602) 262-6776 or City TTY Relay/(602) 534-5500 as early as possible to coordinate the needed arrangements.