



ARIZONA WOMEN'S EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT, INC.

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

\$300,000 GRANT ENABLES AWEE TO COUNSEL, PREPARE INCARCERATED OR TRANSITIONING VETERANS MOVING INTO THE WORKFORCE

PHOENIX, Ariz. (July 30, 2010): Arizona Women's Education and Employment (AWEE) has received a \$300,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to provide prerelease guidance and preparation for veterans currently incarcerated or in the process of transitioning into the workforce.

Through its Veterans Employment and Transition (VETS) Project, AWEE Career Development Specialists will work with up to 100 veterans over the next 12 months to plan for their release from jail or prison. Counseling begins before their release date to identify potential barriers to their transition including mitigating or eliminating the risk of homelessness.

Post-release programs include work-readiness workshops, on-the-job training, rapid job placement, peer monitoring groups, educational and vocational training and transportation assistance.

"This program is a different model than programs we have developed and proven successful for men and women transitioning from the Arizona State Prison System, but one certainly as important given the inherent challenges," said AWEE President and CEO Marie Sullivan.

AWEE staff will operate the VETS project out of donated office space at the Arizona Department of Corrections, 801 S. 16th St., every Tuesday through Friday.

“Having space within the Department of Corrections allows us to work closely with parole officers as well as to provide easier access for veterans wishing to enroll in the program,” Sullivan said.

AWEE, which has managed a number of re-entry programs for nonviolent female and male prisoners transitioning from the state prison and county jail systems, currently offers two additional programs. Passages is a program for individuals currently on probation or parole or who have completed their terms and are living in 85040, 85041 and 85042 zip codes in South Phoenix. Career Paths provides a continuum of post-release services primarily to men and women who participated in the Department of Corrections’ pre-release program.

For more information about these programs and all of the services AWEE provides, visit www.awee.org, write to AWEE at 640 N. 1st Ave., Phoenix, Ariz. 85003, call (602) 223-4333 or follow AWEE on Facebook and Twitter.

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About Arizona Women’s Education and Employment (AWEE)

AWEE has been transforming the lives of Arizonans into “faces of success” for nearly 30 years. Since our inception, we have helped create successful beginnings and renewed hope for more than 100,000 women, men and young adults. Gone are the days of simply moving people off welfare. Today, the nonprofit AWEE is Arizona’s preeminent workforce development organization, offering a diverse range of evidence-based training and support services throughout Maricopa and Yavapai counties. For more information, visit www.awee.org or call (602) 223-4333 in Phoenix or (928) 778-3010 in Northern Arizona.