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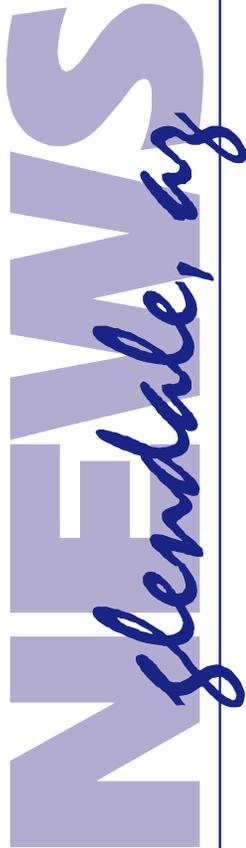
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EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION CHOOSES GLENDALE FOR NEW TECH SCHOOL AND HEADQUARTERS

GLENDALE, Ariz. – Opportunity is soaring for high school students interested in aviation technology as the Glendale City Council unanimously approved Western Maricopa Education Center (West-MEC) building an aviation technology school on 6.4 acres near the Glendale Airport. The 41,000 square foot facility is scheduled to open in the fall of 2011 and the strength of its work force is projected to include about 50 employees.

Construction has already begun at the site which has resulted in 200 construction jobs. West-MEC, a public high school district with more than 25,000 students, will use the new school to teach students to service and repair aircraft including engines, landing gear and electrical systems. Program completers may test for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Aviation Maintenance Technician certification. West-MEC anticipates initially 150 students per academic year with projection for growth including future buildup to include industry training for adults.

The new tech school is the second big news for West-MEC in Glendale. West-MEC has also chosen the Glendale Corporate Center at 99th Avenue and Camelback for its new corporate headquarters and training center. The two buildings on that site equal 42,500 square-feet and were purchased for \$5.1 million. The new facility will immediately be home to 27 West-MEC employees. In addition, West-MEC's focus is on career and technical education and the



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training center at the new corporate office will also be used by up to 300 people a day for professional development classes and seminars.

“West-MEC was experiencing phenomenal growth and had a need for more space for their students and administrators and we were pleased to help them transition into their two new homes in Glendale,” said Brian Friedman, Glendale Economic Development Director. “Education continues to be one of our top targeted industries that we consistently work with, which will attract new business, new jobs and new tax dollars to Glendale.”

“West-MEC selected this site for our training center and district corporate offices after considering its affordable cost, its ideal location and ultimately because of a long-standing and supportive relationship between West-MEC and the city of Glendale,” said Gregory Donovan, West-MEC Superintendent. “The city of Glendale is our partner in education and we look forward to bringing opportunities to Glendale and surrounding communities.”

For more information on West-MEC call (623) 435-4944 or visit www.west-mec.org and for more information on Glendale’s Economic Development Department call (623) 930-2983 or visit www.glendaleaz.com/economicdevelopment.

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