

West-MEC Kicks Off 2024-2025 School Year

New Automation & Robotics Systems Program starts at Southwest Campus

PHOENIX (August , 2024) – [Western Maricopa Education Center](#) (West-MEC), a career and technical education (CTE) public school district in the West Valley, has kicked off its 2024-2025 school year.

Most programs began on August 1, after a two-month long summer break, with the remainder of courses starting later this month.

All programs available are taught with a focus on industry best practices and prepare students for certification and industry credential exams. In the 2023-24 school year, West-MEC students earned 7,061 credentials.

This year, the Automation & Robotics Systems Program is a new addition to the West-MEC Southwest campus. The program focuses on integrating artificial intelligence in the control of machines within manufacturing processes and provides students with the fundamental engineering principles and technical skills needed for managing industrial automation control systems and technologies.

“At the start of every school year, we are eager to welcome new and returning students; this year the Southwest campus is enthusiastic to welcome students to our Automation & Robotics Systems program,” said Aaron Parsons, West-MEC Southwest Campus Administrator.

After completing the one-year program, successful candidates will be prepared for entry-level employment, further training, and/or post-secondary education in occupations such as an electro-mechanical technician, robotics technician, control panel builder, mechatronics technician, and QA automation tester.

Demand for many of these career paths is set to grow in the next 10 years, in part thanks to the increasing adoption of automated testing practices across industries. Robotics engineering job opportunities, for example, are expected to go up, with an anticipated 19,920 new jobs to be filled by 2029.

West-MEC CTE programs are based on in-demand industry skills and open opportunities to various pathways, including direct employment, further education, and entrepreneurship. In addition to hands-on learning, students train in leadership and professionalism.

Parsons added, “West-MEC’s mission to empower all students to participate fully in the economy by providing and enhancing CTE is very important because we truly are training the next generation of workers, innovators and leaders in the West Valley.”

West-MEC serves over 49 schools with over 45,000 students through Central Programs within West-MEC's four campuses and Satellite programs within West-MEC's Member School Districts. Back-to-school information, including important dates, class timings, and guidelines, can be found on www.west-mec.edu.

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About West-MEC:

West-MEC is a career technical education public school district focusing solely on innovative career and technical education (CTE) programs that prepare students to enter the workforce and pursue continuing education. West-MEC CTE programs provide students with opportunities to earn college credit and industry credentials. West-MEC serves more than 45,000 students from 49 high schools across 3,800 square miles in the northern and western cities of the Phoenix Metropolitan area. West-MEC now also offers adult education programs. Visit www.west-mec.edu for more information about West-MEC's career-driven education opportunities, or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.