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West-MEC Celebrates Southeast Campus Grand Opening and Future Construction

PHOENIX, July 21, 2026 — Western Maricopa Education Center celebrated a major milestone today with the grand opening of its new Southeast Campus and the ceremonial groundbreaking for Phase II of the project.

West-MEC leadership, Governing Board members, elected officials, industry partners, and community leaders gathered to mark the occasion with a ceremonial groundbreaking for Phase II, highlighting the district's continued investment in expanding educational opportunities and meeting Arizona's growing workforce needs. Guests then celebrated the completion of Phase I with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony before touring the campus's state-of-the-art classrooms and industry-standard training labs.

Located on a 30-acre site along the Loop 101 corridor, the Phase 1 spans 250,000 square feet and was intentionally designed to connect education with one of the fastest-growing economic regions in the Phoenix metropolitan area. With more than 1,000 feet of freeway frontage, the campus serves as a visible symbol of workforce development, showcasing student achievement while strengthening partnerships between education and industry.

"The Southeast Campus represents a bold step forward in West-MEC's mission to expand access to high-quality career and technical education in Arizona," said West-MEC Superintendent Dr. Scott Spurgeon. Upon completion, it will be the largest campus in our system, preparing students for in-demand careers while helping meet the workforce needs of Arizona employers. We are excited to welcome our first students this fall and continue expanding opportunities through Phase II, further strengthening the region's workforce and economy."

The Southeast Campus will welcome its inaugural class of students on July 28, launching a new chapter of career and technical education for surrounding communities. Phase I will offer programs in Advanced Manufacturing, Artificial Intelligence, IT Security, Medical Assisting, Physical Therapy, and Welding Technology, providing students with hands-on learning in industry-standard lab spaces. Future phases will expand the campus with additional pathways in healthcare, public safety, construction trades, energy systems, culinary arts, supply chain, and hospitality, creating one of Arizona's most comprehensive career and technical education destinations.

DLR Group, the project's architect, emphasized the campus's role in supporting both students and the region's continued growth.

"The Southeast Campus reflects West-MEC's commitment to aligning education with the needs of a rapidly growing region," said Matt Brehmer, AIA, Principal and Architect at DLR Group. "By delivering flexible, career-focused environments, the campus creates opportunities for students to gain real-world skills, connect directly with industry, and support continued growth in the West Valley."

As construction on Phase II progresses toward its anticipated fall 2027 opening, West-MEC will continue to share project milestones, future program announcements, and construction updates as the Southeast Campus grows into a comprehensive workforce training hub serving students, employers, and communities throughout the West Valley.

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About West-MEC:

West-MEC is a premier public school district specializing in Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs that equip students with skills to succeed in today's workforce. Students earn industry-recognized credentials and college credit in high-wage, in-demand career pathways, allowing them to enter the workforce, military, or continue their education immediately after graduation. West-MEC serves more than 49,000 high school students on its campuses and through partner districts. Its reach spans over 130 schools and nearly 3,900 square miles, from Paradise Valley to Wickenburg, south to Gila Bend, and west to Saddle Mountain. West-MEC also offers adult education programs to support lifelong learning and workforce development. Learn more at west-mec.edu or follow West-MEC on social media.