

AGUA FRIA
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
PRESS RELEASE

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West-MEC Career Academy at Agua Fria High School

Opens with Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

(Avondale, Ariz. - October 22, 2025) Western Maricopa Education Center (West-MEC) and the Agua Fria High School District officially opened the new West-MEC Career Academy at Agua Fria High School with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Tuesday, October 15, 2025, on the Agua Fria High School campus.

The Academy, first announced in January 2024, moved from vision to reality as students gained access to state-of-the-art labs and industry-standard equipment designed to prepare them for careers in welding, plumbing, electrical work, automotive technology, and diesel mechanics.

“With the opening of the West-MEC Career Academy, we’re creating new pathways for students to pursue high-wage, high-demand careers,” said Mark Yslas, Superintendent of the Agua Fria High School District. “By establishing this Career Academy on the Agua Fria High School campus, we are breaking down barriers that have historically limited student access to quality career programs. Through strong partnerships with our community and industry leaders, the Academy will equip students with the skills, confidence, and opportunities they need to launch successful futures.”

In partnership with local businesses and industry leaders, the Career Academy ensures that training is aligned directly with the workforce needs of the West Valley. The first student cohort began this fall, gaining hands-on training that will lead to professional licensing and certifications. Students in the West Valley will gain a competitive edge through practical, hands-on training that prepares them for essential careers in Arizona’s growing industries.

“The partnership between West-MEC and Agua Fria has reached an exciting milestone with the opening of the Career Academy,” said Dr. Scott Spurgeon, West-MEC Superintendent. “More than just a campus, this collaboration highlights how strategic partnerships expand opportunities for students. The new academy opens doors for students who previously lacked access to West-MEC’s innovative programs, giving them the opportunity to gain valuable skills and earn workforce credentials that prepare them for a successful future.”

Community leaders, students, and industry partners attended the ceremony, reflecting the broad community support for this milestone achievement.

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Agua Fria Union High School District was established in 1955. Today, the district serves the communities of Avondale, Buckeye, Goodyear, and Litchfield Park, with six high schools: Agua Fria, Canyon View, Desert Edge, Goodyear, Millennium, Verrado, and Agua Fria Online. Additionally, the District offers two alternative programs: Coldwater Academy and New Directions. More information can be found at www.aguafria.org