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Phoenix, Tucson, hold Construction Career Days

Alan M. Petrillo
HVACR Today

Two Construction Career Days—one in Phoenix and the other in Tucson—that were held during the same two-day period on Nov. 5 and 6 in their respective cities, were deemed a success by spokespersons for each of the events.

Rose Anne Canizales, president of the non-profit Association for Construction Career Development (ACCD) in Phoenix, the sponsor of Arizona Construction Career Days held at the Arizona National Guard, Papago Site, 5636 E. McDowell Rd., called the event “our farthest outreach in the state to date. We are ecstatic.”

The event saw more than 1,900 high school students attend from 79 schools in 13 counties.

At the other end of the state, Ramon Gaanderse, executive director of the Arizona Transportation Builders Association (ATBA), one of four sponsors of Southern Arizona Construction Career Days, called this year’s Career Days “a fantastic event.”

Gaanderse said that “we reached our goal



Students take part in one of the many hands-on association and company displays during the the Phoenix Construction Career Days event.

of 1,000 high school students at the event over the two days, and everything was fantastic. We had great weather, the students were excited to participate, and the feedback from teachers who attended was positive.”

Southern Arizona Construction Career Days was held at the Tucson Rodeo Grounds at 4823 S. 6th Ave. in Tucson. Other sponsors besides ATBA are the Alliance of Construction Trades, the Southern Arizona Home Builders Association and the Arizona Builders Alliance.

At the Arizona Construction Career Days in Phoenix, attending students had the opportunity to spend two days at work in the construction industry with real life applications, Canizales said. Hands-on demonstrations included estimating projects, constructing a toolbox, pipe design and building, CADD work, constructing brick walls and cement mixing and setting.

Community partners that help sponsor the Arizona Construction Career Days are the Army National Guard, the Arizona Department of Education, the Arizona Department

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Western Air Supply holds Gilbert store grand opening

Alan M. Petrillo
HVACR Today

Western Air Supply held a grand opening of its newest branch in Gilbert with an open house attended by approximately 400 people on Nov. 19.

Western Air Supply, owned by Ferguson, which also owns Air Cold Supply, was formed by Ferguson to be the distributor of the RUUD line of HVAC products under the Ferguson enterprise umbrella, according to Debra Weedon, marketing manager for Western Air Supply and Air Cold Supply.

The RUUD line of HVAC products was rolled out at Western Air Supply’s 6864 N. Grand Ave., Glendale store in March of this year.

“We specialize in the RUUD brand at the Gilbert branch in order to accommodate

customers in the East Valley,” Weedon pointed out.

The Gilbert open house featured 25 vendors who displayed their products and services during the event, as well as appearances by two Arizona Cardinals cheerleaders.

In addition, open house attendees participated in basketball shooting contests, a football throwing contest and a beanbag contest. A live DJ provided music during the event.

Besides the vendor exhibits, Western Air Supply provided a steak and chicken lunch for attendees, as well as raffle prizes that included tape measures, jackets, screwdrivers, coffee mugs and cups.

RUUD representatives also were present to meet with dealers during the event.

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Attendees are welcomed to the Gilbert Western Air Supply branch grand opening event held on Nov. 19.

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Project Focus: PC Center for Excellence in Healthcare

Jayne Cook
HVACR Today

On Oct. 29, students, faculty, and members of the community celebrated the unveiling of Phoenix College's (PC) Center for Excellence in Healthcare Education with a grand opening ceremony at 1:30 p.m. The Center for Excellence in Healthcare Education now houses the PC Health Professions, Fitness, and Wellness Programs as well as the college's Dental Programs, and is located on the 7th Avenue and Flower corner of the campus.

The ceremony drew over 100 people and attendees who toured the facility, enjoyed refreshments, and were addressed by Phoenix College Interim President Chris Haines; Dr. Rufus Glasper, chancellor of Maricopa Community Colleges; Department Chair of Dental Programs Adrianna Coronel; and Liz Logan, department chair of Health Professions, Fitness and Wellness.

"The new and updated infrastructure for teaching and learning is appealing and inspirational for our students as they navigate toward their goals," said Liz Logan, department chair for the Health Professions, Fitness and Wellness Programs.

The center consists of two renovated



The Phoenix College Center for Excellence in Healthcare Education was officially opened on Oct. 16.

buildings which now boast a state-of-the-art learning facility complete with innovative dental clinic, medical science labs, simulation labs and a massage therapy clinic. Also present in the center are collaborative work spaces for students, seminar spaces and multi-purpose, flexible classrooms. The facility aims to offer students an environment compatible to the workforce environment that they will become part of in the future.

Located at 3144 North 7th Ave., the Cen-

ter for Excellence in Healthcare Education was a project in plain sight of students and the community. Phoenix-based Oakland Construction spearheaded the visible project from start to finish.

Oakland Construction Project Manager Myles Morton said that when working with existing buildings, there are always complications that arise, but that the project went very smoothly overall.

One such complication was the existing

HVAC system and the space in which it had originally been installed. Morton said the entire mechanical system was revamped and took a lot of time and effort to work around the "structural footprint of the building," but that in the end, Comfort Systems, with Project Manager Roger Hord, did a wonderful job of making it work.

The electric work on the project consisted of gutting the old building and installing entirely new equipment.

"The Phoenix College Allied Health and Dental School Project consisted of a complete electrical renovation of all existing power, lighting and special systems throughout," explained Wilson Electric Project Manager Marty Szafranski. "The electrical distribution system was replaced and upgraded in its entirety and individual lighting control systems were implemented to improve efficiencies," he said. "Design and construction standards were set at very high levels from the beginning and maintained through the duration of the project to achieve overall success."

The Center for Excellence in Healthcare Center project finished on time and has impressed students this fall semester.

CCD

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of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and the Arizona Energy Consortium.

Steve Trussell, executive director of Arizona Rock Products Association, was master of ceremonies at the event, and keynote speakers included Major General Michael T. McGuire, Adjutant General of the Arizona National Guard; Rusty Bowers, State Representative from District 25; and former Arizona National Guard state commander Sgt. Major Max Butler (retired).

Olga Diaz, OJT workforce development program manager for the Arizona Department of Transportation, was presented the Visionary Leadership Award at the event.

Canizales pointed out that Doug Pruitt, chairman of Sundt Construction, "gave an

awesome, compelling speech about careers in construction" to the assembled students, predicting a shortfall in skilled construction workers in the next 10 years, and stressing the need for Arizona to have a skilled workforce in order to attract businesses to the state.

She added that having the Arizona National Guard as a community partner in the Career Days is an asset to the construction industry.

"What they do for the Career Days is amazing," she noted. "This year they provided 30 National Guard tour guides to take the students to the various venues. Major Gen. McGuire and his people show their strong support for the construction community."

In Tucson, the University of Arizona's Engineering Department and Pima County's Joint Technical Education District (JTED)

participated in the Southern Arizona Construction Career Days.

The event featured four main areas of construction—engineering, mining and aggregate construction, horizontal construction and infrastructure, and vertical construction and masonry. In each of the areas, demonstrations were given by participating construction

companies and service organizations, and students had the opportunity to do hands-on work.

Gaanderse said the Southern Arizona Construction Career Days is expected to continue to grow, and noted that the organizing committee hopes to attract 1,250 high school students to next year's event.



Tucson Construction Career Days attendees take part in a piping demonstration. The growing Tucson event expects to attract about 1,200 in 2016.

Grand opening

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Weedon noted that in terms of coming events, she expects approximately 35 contractors to attend the Western Air Supply RUUD Dealer Meeting that will be held in January or February of 2016 at a location to be announced.

Western Air Supply has 10 locations in Arizona—in west, south, and north Phoenix; Mesa, Glendale, Gilbert, Prescott Valley, northwest and southeast Tucson, and Yuma.

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