

PRESS RELEASE

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Put Your Passions to Work in a New Job

Career Guidance: Unsure of Direction, Changing Jobs, Advancement / Training
Workforce Wednesdays October 2022

Finding a job that can provide personal fulfillment as well as pay the bills is a dream for many people who don't know how to take the next step in their career path. Fortunately, with a variety of tools and resources available to those who may be looking to make a change, Maricopa County's ARIZONA@WORK program can help.

"Maricopa County not only provides hands-on assistance for people who are currently unemployed, but we can also help those who may be hoping to take a step up in their careers, all at no cost," said Maricopa County Supervisor Clint Hickman, who represents Wickenburg and District 4. "A great place to start that search is at our ARIZONA@WORK office at the Wickenburg Library."

Jessica was one such job seeker who started her search for a better career opportunity at the Wickenburg Library. She had been working in temporary positions in manufacturing and retail but wanted a better, permanent full-time job. Initially, she thought she might apply for a position at a local school.

"I've worked with so many people who thought that they wouldn't be able to advance their career without leaving the area, but they do," said Julie Pellam, Workforce Development Coordinator for Maricopa County's ARIZONA@WORK program in Wickenburg. "Many times, they've found that an employer who they might not have considered is actually a great fit for them," she added.

Jessica made a short list of possibilities, but she thought that working for the school seemed to be the closest to what she was hoping to find. She intended to apply for the school job at the Wickenburg job fair, but while she was there, she unexpectedly came across another opportunity offered by a local museum.

"When I went by the museum table, I asked someone to explain the job in detail. I met a wonderful woman who passionately described this perfect position," Jessica said. "I am now her assistant!"

Jessica said that she had hoped to find a job where she could incorporate her passions, which include elementary education, art, old western films, animals, and crafts. "All of these are a part of my new position. I have a flexible schedule, will meet wonderful people, and will be free to use my creativity."

"I am at the point in life where I didn't want a job just for a paycheck, I wanted something I could be passionate about. I found it!"

What advice would Jessica give to others who are searching for their next job?

"Anybody can find a job. The benefit of attending a job fair is the ability to explore multiple companies and being able to ask the right questions. By doing so, you can find something better than a job," she said. "You have the opportunity to find a career that is the perfect fit for your particular set of skills, education, interests, and availability."

ARIZONA@WORK Maricopa County not only coordinates job fairs like the one where Jessica found her dream job, but also provides coaching to help you define your interests, capitalize on your skills, and plan a direction for your career.

If you are hoping to take a step up in your work and learn how your passions, education, and skills may be a good fit for a new type of role, visit the ARIZONA@WORK Maricopa County office at the Wickenburg Library. Julie's expert assistance may help you find the perfect job.

Assistance with creating resumes, interviewing and other job search skills is also provided in Wickenburg at no cost through Maricopa County's ARIZONA@WORK program. To learn more about these services, call (602) 733-2220, visit www.arizonaatwork.com/maricopa, email Julie.Pellam@maricopa.gov or drop by the Workforce Career Center at the Wickenburg Library at 164 E. Apache Street.

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