

# American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Yuma Private Industry Council

Issue 13  
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## MORE LAYOFFS IN YUMA COUNTY

The rapid response team has been busy at the Yuma Private Industry Council. In the last month, three companies have down-sized or gone out of business affecting 471 employees. In March, AEA Federal Credit Union announced the closure of its downtown branch; NCO Call Center announces its closure; and on April 4 the Fun Factory closed its doors.

The Yuma Private Industry Council worked with AEA, registering nine dislocated workers. Unfortunately YPIC was not notified in advance of the Fun Factory's closure; however, newspaper, radio and television advertisements will be used to try to assist those employees.

YPIC was notified well in advance of NCO pending closure on May 28, 2010 and will work on-site to assist the affected employees. Scheduled activities for NCO:

April 15

Met with managers and supervisors to explain rapid response services

Provided on-site WIA eligibility and resume assistance (24 managers/supervisors have applied for WIA services)

May 4 & 5

YPIC, Unemployment Insurance and Employment Services on-site

Provide WIA eligibility and resume assistance

May 11

On-site Job Fair to include Employment Services and five companies that have available customer service positions, two of which are call centers who need to hire approximately 250 employees

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## LANDSCAPER FINDS EMPLOYMENT

Gary D., a landscaper for 23 years with a degree in Agronomy was laid-off in October 2009. Gary reported, "My wife had been laid-off prior to me losing my job. We had expected her to be laid-off, but it was a complete surprise when I lost my job. I immediately started applying for other jobs



YPIC gave me the tools to find a new job.

but was having no luck. A friend, actually it was Sam (Chairman of the WIB) referred me to the Yuma Private Industry Council (YPIC)."

"I didn't know what to expect when I first went to YPIC, but I was pleasantly surprised when everyone treated me as

a person who needed help and not like just a number. I didn't have to wait long and Mary (eligibility interviewer) seemed very nice. I was then sent for a resume and met Lori. She made my resume sound so good! I started sending my resume out everywhere and in February, I was offered a job."

I now work for UNICCO and I'm the Operations Director at the Yuma Palms Mall. I oversee landscaping and exterior building and parking lot maintenance; I work closely with the property managers. I really like my job. I get to continue doing what I've always done, just on a larger scale."

"I guess I thought YPIC would find me a job, but now I know YPIC gave me tools (resume) to find a job. I really appreciate the help YPIC gave me. I've now referred some of my friends to YPIC."

### Numbers

ARRA funds spent to date: 84%

Youth: Received 2,233,610  
Spent \$2,150,909

Adult: Received \$1,287,729  
Spent \$1,036,772

Dislocated Workers:  
Received \$871,599  
Spent \$559,122

Rapid Response  
Received \$143,277  
Spent \$42,190

## FINDING A JOB WHILE ON PROBATION

Marco M. is a 23 year old Hispanic male, who was born and raised in Yuma. Unfortunately Marco made some life altering decisions a few years ago and is still paying for those decisions today. Marco spent two years in prison and is now on probation for three years. A condition of Marco's probation was to find a job and after almost violating probation because he could not find a job due to his criminal record, he came to the Yuma Private Industry Council for job search assistance.

Marco had worked the typical fast food jobs most teenagers work, and after prison could not get a job even in that industry. After coming to YPIC and being assigned a case manager, Marco chose two career fields he was interested in, electrician or chef. Marco was first placed on a Work Experience as an electrician's helper with a home lighting company. Marco enjoyed the work, but the company could not hire him due to the housing market slump. Marco then spoke with his case manager and asked if he could work in a restaurant kitchen, and YPIC was able to find an on-the-job training for Marco.

Marco has now worked at a local restaurant for two months. Marco said he really enjoys cooking and is learning so much about food preparation. "I've always liked to cook and never realized there were so many different types of food and ways to prepare food." Marco is determined to be successful at this job. Marco does not own a car so he rides a bike to and from work twice a day because he works a split shift; so Marco is riding about 24 miles a day.

Marco says he would now like to take a culinary arts class at the community college and is going to talk to his case manager about it. Marco said as a teenager, he was always in and out of Juvenile Hall and he dropped out of school. Marco reported his teachers always told him he was smart and could do better, but he never listened to them. One day while in Juvenile Hall he decided to get his GED and passed the tests very easily. "I have learned some difficult lessons the hard way, but now I want to make a life for myself and my child. My girl friend is expecting a baby and I need to be there for my child."



*My teachers always told me I was smart; I just had to prove it to myself.*

## NEW LOGISTICS PROGRAM

"Logistics is not a well-known profession but it has been an important part of the Yuma economy, and Arizona Western College now offers both certificated and degreed programs", Matthew Anderson, associate dean of business and liberal arts announced on April 15, 2010. "AWC is offering a wide range of courses to prepare employees. Not only is there a basic and advanced certificate program but an associate of

applied science degree that prepares graduates for supervisory positions in warehouse management. Graduates will be prepared to move into jobs in import/export, inventory, transportation commodities, process engineering and quality control. Logistics has an important regional significance and with the AWC program, we'll have a trained work force that can be hired immediately."

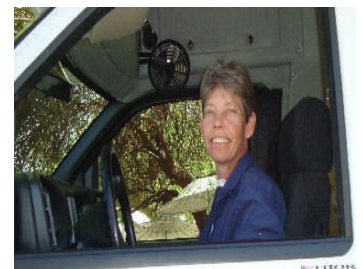
*"This program will prepare graduates for supervisory positions."*

## FROM WAITRESS TO BUS DRIVER

Angela W. has worked for the Yuma County Area Transit (YCAT) bus system for a month now; Angela is excited about this new job and career change. Angela had worked as a waitress for most of her life and about 2 years ago decided she wanted to change careers and work in retail. The retail job she found didn't last long once the recession started and after seeing a commercial about the truck driver training offered by the Yuma Private Industry Council, she came to YPIC for training. Angela said she thought having a job where she could sit down would be a good change for her.

Angela started the CDL classes, but due to her small stature she was having problems "double clutching". The CDL instructors suggested she try driving a bus. Angela changed her focus and was successful in bus driver training. Upon graduation, YCAT hired Angela right away.

Angela is divorced and has two children, one still at home. She said getting the training and the new job has given her more income than she had before and is making her and her child's lives easier.



*Angela driving her new bus.*

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Yuma Private Industry Council  
opening doors between job seekers and employers

We're on the  
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The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. The Recovery Act is intended to preserve and create jobs, promote the nation's economic recovery and assist those most impacted by the recession. Yuma County was awarded \$4.5 million for activities authorized under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) which will be administered by the Yuma Private Industry Council (YPIC). The Yuma Private Industry Council is a private non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide job seeker and employer services in the Yuma County labor market. Incorporated in 1988, YPIC serves as the Private Sector partner in the Public/Private Workforce Development Partnership with the Yuma County Board of Supervisors. With the advent of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), the Yuma County Board of Supervisors designated YPIC as the official operator of the "One-Stop" delivery system for workforce development services in Yuma County. The Yuma County Board of Supervisors also appoints the Workforce Investment Board which is housed in the organizational framework of YPIC. The Board draws membership from the community and is made up of representatives from all areas of the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

Newsletter Created  
and Written  
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## SUCCESSES & UPCOMING EVENTS

- 59 private and 27 Federal resumes were completed by the YPIC resume writers in January.
- Advanced Call Center Technologies, located in San Luis, AZ, had a need for 12 new employees and turned to the Yuma Private Industry for assistance. A Job Fair was held at YPIC's location April 7, 2010. During the Job Fair, applicants completed orientation, on-line applications, a typing test, and first and second interviews. ACT hired 15 new employees.
- During March, the YPIC Business Services Officer received 48 job postings from private employers in Yuma County.
- On February 24, 2010 the Yuma Private Industry Council hosted a Job Fair. After the Job Fair, a survey was emailed to all the participating employers. Of the employers that responded, 45% stated they hired new staff as a result of the Job Fair, resulting in approximately 36 new jobs for the unemployed.
- As a result of the March 18<sup>th</sup> Lunch & Learn, the Business Services Officer received 3 job posting.
- In an effort to better serve the south county communities, YPIC is opening a new office in Somerton, AZ. YPIC has had a presence in Somerton since 2002, but had outgrown its office. A new office has been built and YPIC will open the doors for business on May 3, 2010.
- The unemployment rate in Yuma was 29.6 percent in February, up from 27.1 percent in January. That's a 6.1 percent increase from February 2009. To read more about the unemployment rate, please go to: <http://www.yumasun.com/news/percent-57244-morales-january.html>
- 7 ARRA participants found permanent employment in March

The Career Resource Center, Yuma Private Industry Council's One Stop had 2380 customers in March, up from the 1825 customers in February 2010.

342 indicated they were dislocated workers

175 indicated they were Veterans

64 indicated they were Migrant workers

160 indicated they were in-school youth

362 indicated they were out-of-school youth