DESTINATION HEALTH: PHOENIX BIOMEDICAL CAMPUS

The Phoenix City Council recently approved a partnership with Arizona State University (ASU) to advance a destination health solutions project on approximately seven acres (four city blocks) of city-owned land located on the Phoenix Biomedical Campus (PBC), a 30-acre urban research, clinical and academic campus in the heart of Downtown Phoenix.

At full build-out, the project will include 1.5 million sq. ft. of lab space, nearly doubling the current footprint of the PBC. ASU plans on a partnership with NantWorks for the development of a portion of the site. The partnership will create the Chan Soon-Shiong Institute for Molecular Medicine at ASU, a NantWorks and ASU decision support center and molecular tumor board supporting both research and commercial diagnostic activities. The project will also include the NantWorks mission-control facility to monitor patient’s health status through connected devices, NantHealth’s high-tech manufacturing facilities to produce novel immunotherapies for cancer and other disorders, in addition to the NantOmics diagnostic facilities for rapid, next-generation sequencing.

The partnership received approval from the Arizona Board of Regents in June. The initial phase will include at least a $75 million investment from NantWorks for the development of a 200,000 sq. ft. facility that will be completed by the end of 2017.

Visit BiomedicalPhoenix.com for more information.
INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY IN WIOA

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), which went into effect on July 1, 2015, provides new opportunities for the workforce system to work together with Career and Technical Education (CTE). This new collaboration will provide more efficient and effective education and training to improve employment outcomes for individuals and meet employers’ workforce needs. The CTE strategy provides young people with the academic, technical and employable skills and knowledge to pursue postsecondary training or higher education to enter a career field prepared for ongoing learning.

Today’s economy demands an educated workforce and jobs in this economy require more complex knowledge and skills than jobs of the past. Phoenix Workforce Connection is actively involved in the Arizona Career and Technical Education Commission and works with Career Ready Education Stakeholders. This group of business and education representatives meet regularly to work diligently as advocates for accountability and excellence in Arizona CTE. Alignment of planning efforts is underway in the areas of labor market information, career pathways, integrated education and training, employer engagement, work-based learning and performance measures and shared data.

WIOA reinforces partnerships and strategies to provide job seekers and workers with high-quality career services, education and training, and supportive services to get good jobs and stay employed. It also helps businesses find skilled workers and access other support, including education and training for their current workforce.

PHOENIX YOUTH RISE (REACH AND INVEST IN SUMMER EMPLOYMENT)

The Phoenix Youth RISE (Reach and Invest in Summer Employment) program received 313 applications for 110 internship opportunities for participants between the ages of 16 – 24. The youth took part in summer internships after completing a two-day work readiness workshop to help them enter the workforce for the first time. The program had 51 employers, some of which hosted multiple youth. The city contracted with Arizona Call-A-Teen Youth Resources (ACYR) to provide work site management and ensure the youth are paid timely. The young adults completed a 5-week internship program to obtain on-the-job-training and real world work experience.

Also this summer, city staff worked with Wells Fargo to fill 9 internships for a 6-week paid experience. Wells Fargo is a supporter of summer interns and has developed an intern program that allows individuals ages 18 to 24 who are enrolled in school for the fall semester to learn about the financial industry.

CED staff also recruited students for the Jerome E. Miller (JEM) Leadership Academy. Through this program, fifteen high school youth are provided a 3-week learning opportunity where they will receive a college credit from Gateway Community College and have the opportunity to job shadow managers at City Hall.
PHOENIX SISTER CITIES
BEST OVERALL PROGRAM

For its dedication to creating and enhancing global connections, Phoenix Sister Cities has received the 2014 Best Overall Program in the United States for a city with a population over 500,001 from Sister Cities International. This is the ninth time that Phoenix has received this award.

The award recognizes programs with outstanding accomplishments in advancing the goals and mission of the sister cities movement. Criteria for the award is based on the overall program, including level of activity of all sister city affiliations, for its diversity, content and scope of exchanges, programs and activities; use of its volunteer base; budget and funding sources; and the program's impact on the community.

Through more than 50 events, exchanges, and activities during the year, PSC is being recognized for sustaining and increasing participation in youth and education programs, creating economic development initiatives, strengthening municipal cooperation for the mutual benefit of Phoenix and its sister cities, playing an active role in the development of arts and culture events and activities; and sustaining PSC’s inclusion of people with disabilities in programs and exchanges through its Disability Awareness Committee.

YOUTH AMBASSADOR EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Phoenix Sister Cities fosters global understanding and leadership potential in Phoenix high school students through the Youth Ambassador Exchange Program (YAEP). Phoenix Sister Cities invests in future generations by assisting Phoenix youth find their place in the global community by applying for a Youth Ambassador position for one of Phoenix’s ten Sister Cities (Calgary, Canada; Catania, Italy; Chengdu, China; Ennis, Ireland; Grenoble, France; Hermosillo, Mexico; Himeji, Japan; Prague, Czech Republic; Ramat Gan, Israel; Taipei, Taiwan).

Each Youth Ambassador will spend approximately three weeks in their assigned Sister City and will live with a host family and an international counterpart. While abroad, Youth Ambassadors can expect to learn about their host city, host family and themselves. This year, 26 Youth Ambassadors were selected from Phoenix to serve nine countries, along with their direct international counterparts, totaling 52 global youth.

Upon return to Phoenix, the Ambassadors’ international counterparts will visit Phoenix for approximately three weeks to live with their host brother or sister.

YAEP students become part of the global community and learn about many different cultures, while making great friends from around the world by participating in a life-changing experience.
Congratulations to Eric Johnson who was recently promoted to Deputy Director of Community Development! In his new role, Johnson will oversee a staff of seven professionals leading the city’s negotiations on Central City, Downtown redevelopment, transit-oriented development, mixed-use infill development, Arizona State University Downtown Campus, Phoenix Biomedical Campus, administration of the city’s business improvement district, tax abatement programs and other strategic initiatives. Johnson’s career with the City of Phoenix began in 2004.

Eric’s background includes over 17 years of planning, code enforcement, transit and economic development experience in the public sector. Since he joined the Community & Economic Development Department in 2008, he has lead several of the city’s high profile economic development efforts including the $500 million CityScape mixed-use, multi-block, public private partnership; the $185 million Freeport McMoRan Center and Westin Hotel; the $8.5 million Legends Entertainment District public private revenue sharing partnership; the $1.4 billion regional METRO Light Rail project; and the 2015 Verizon Super Bowl Central event.

He holds a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Colorado at Denver and a Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Johnson also retains certification from the American Institute of Certified Planners.

#CEDTALENT

JULY/AUGUST NEWS BRIEFS

- Congrats to Phoenix-based About Blind Cleaning for winning the Pacific Southwest Minority Supplier of the Year award for Phoenix and San Diego!
- Assured Engineering Concepts, LLC, a veteran owned and operated firm, celebrated its one-year anniversary this summer.
- DNKB, a veteran owned contract manufacturer and assembler, received their ISO9001/AS9100 quality management certifications, which will provide additional opportunities in aerospace, medical device and other commercial industries.
- VincentBenjamin Group, a professional talent-acquisition firm, was named to the Inc 500 list for the second year in a row recently moved into new headquarters at the Esplanade and plans to add 40 additional high-paying jobs to the Phoenix economy.
- Pinnacle Transplant Technologies, a company which takes donated human tissue to create scaffolding products used in spinal and dental surgeries, received a Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce Impact Award for business of the year.
- ViaWest, a hybrid colocation data center, was chosen by Grand Canyon University to provide an innovative partnership consisting of IT solutions and an opportunity to prepare students with real-world experience in technology through internships and tours.
- Canadian firm Pethealth Inc. purchased Vestafy, a recent graduate of the SEED Sport incubator program. Before Vestafy founder Steve Zeidman’s product made it to market, Pethealth Inc. bought his company, which created software to track animals from intake to adoption focusing on the animal welfare community. Pethealth Inc., is one of the largest providers of medical insurance for dogs and cats in the US, Canada and United Kingdom.
Welcome to the summer edition of the Phoenix is Hot newsletter! We are more than half way through 2015 and I hope this year is already proven to be productive and prosperous for you.

For this issue, I would like to highlight an important economic milestone with a company that continues to positively impact our community. We are thrilled with Banner Health’s decision to relocate their corporate headquarters to Midtown.

“Midtown is the ideal location for any large employer in the Valley, such as Banner Health. It provides good access from any corner of the Valley and to any corner,” said Kip Edwards, vice president of Development and Construction for Banner Health.

The corporate headquarters relocation will allow Banner to renovate their current Corporate Center Phoenix building at 12th Street and McDowell Road into space for the Banner – University Medicine Institutes. These institutes have a three-part mission of clinical delivery, education and research.

The Banner - University Medicine Division is comprised of Banner – University Medical Center Phoenix, Banner – University Medical Center Tucson and South and Banner – University Medical Group and health plans.

Banner’s three academic medical centers will serve the University of Arizona (UA) College of Medicine in Phoenix and Tucson and serve as a catalyst to create a system of high-skilled and high-paying jobs.

Patients treated at these institutes will be seen by top-level providers who not only care for patients but who also serve as faculty with the UA College of Medicine – Phoenix and conduct research into their specific areas.

Once completed, there will be an infusion of Banner employees into the community that will benefit local businesses by bringing additional people to the area daily as restaurant and retail patrons.

In the heart of the Central City, Midtown is located on the northern end of the Phoenix Innovation Corridor. The submarket is home to more than 13.6 million square feet of iconic office space, a wide array of local shops and restaurants, diverse housing options and excellent public transportation. This market draws from more than 2 million people within a 30-minute commute and is easily accessible to all of Metro Phoenix. Midtown offers the authentic experience sought by today’s employers and their workforce.

Since Banner’s announcement, we are seeing a tremendous amount of activity in Midtown and a significant reduction in vacancy rates. To learn more about opportunities in Midtown, call or email me.

As always, I look forward to working with you and can be reached by phone at 602-534-9049 or email at christine.mackay@phoenix.gov.

The Community and Economic Development Department implements Phoenix’s vision for economic prosperity through its high value-added economic development programs, partnerships, and innovative opportunities to create quality jobs for the community.