Economic and Workforce Development in Mesa

City of Mesa

Education and Workforce Office Administrator, Sarah Tolar



Mesa At-A-Glance





Largest U.S. city Larger than Miami, Minneapolis, and Kansas City.



Largest city

in the Phoenix-Mesa Metro. 3rd largest in AZ.



1.2M +

workforce population within 30-minute drive



44%

Residents age 25+ with associates degree or higher



38 Median Age



Source: ESRI 2025

Industries of Opportunity

Industries / Sectors

- Healthcare / Biotechnology / Medical Devices
- Aerospace / Aviation / Defense
- Technology / Semiconductors / EV / Batteries
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Education
- Tourism







High Growth Occupational Trends

Education Requirements

High School Diploma/GED

Associate's Degree and/or Industry Certification

Bachelor's Degree

Bachelor's Degree + Master's/Doctorate

Occupation Title	2023 Estimates	2033 Projections	Percentage Change
Nurse Practitioners	4,971	8,881	78.7%
Physician Assistants	2,987	4,668	56.3%
Medical and Health Services Managers	7,031	10,820	53.9%
Solar Photovoltaic Installers	672	1,019	51.6%
Physical Therapist Assistants	1,008	1,508	49.6%
Occupational Therapy Assistants	939	1,396	48.7%
Data Scientists	2,389	3,540	48.2%
Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors	7,043	10,190	44.7%
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	55,725	79,537	42.7%



Mesa Workforce Development Strategic Priorities

- 1. Support Workforce Alignment & Growth
- 2. Build Intentional Connections
- 3. Enhance Internal Workforce Development Opportunities
- 4. Improve Post-Secondary Attainment



College and Career Academies

Mesa Public Schools

Assistant Superintendent, Tracy Yslas



Red Mountain High School



HEALTH & MEDICAL SCIENCES

9th Grade | Exploration

Life Skills

College & Career Exploration

Educational Path Development

10th & 11th Grade + | Career Connected Learning & Exposure

Core Subjects Through an Healthcare Lens

Graduation + Options

- Industry Cert | OSHA 10 Healthcare
- WBL | Job shadows, field trips, guest speakers, industry projects, mentorships
- College Ready| AP/IB/DE, ULC Courses; College visits
- Diploma Designations

Academy + Electives or EVIT Ex: AP Computer Science

12th Grade + | Focused Preparation

College & Career Focused

Coursework and WBL Experiences Internships / Apprenticeships

DE/AP/IB/ULCs, additional certifications aligned to careers

EVIT Aligned Programs

Dental Assistant, Emergency
Medical Technician; Massage
Therapy; Medical Assistant; Mental
& Social Health Technician; Nursing
Assistant; Pet Grooming; Pharmacy
Technician; Physical Therapy
Technician; Veterinary Assistant

Year 13 + | College & Career Launch

Seamless transition into:

Community College/University (certifications, majors aligned to sector) and/or

Career (employment, apprenticeships)

EVIT

Military

Entrepreneurship

Partners - Honorhealth, Banner Health, Sonora Quest Labs, CVS Pharmacy, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Mesa Fire & Medical; ASU, MCC, EVIT

City of Mesa Sector Alignment

Healthcare & Social Assistance; Biotechnology & Life Sciences; Health Information Technology; Behavioral & Mental Health Services: Public Safety & Emergency Services; Education & Training Services; Government & Regulatory Agencies; Healthcare Technologies

Westwood High School



9th Grade | Exploration

Life Skills

College & Career Exploration

Educational Path Development 10th & 11th Grade + | Career Connected Learning & Exposure

Core Subjects Through an Engineering, Design & Advanced Manufacturing Lens

Graduation + Options

- Industry Cert | OSHA 10;
 Autodesk Inventor; SolidWorks
- WBL | Job shadows, field trips, guest speakers, industry projects, mentorships
- College Ready| AP/IB/DE, ULC Courses; College visits
- Diploma Designations

Academy + Electives or EVIT Ex: AP Business & Personal Finance 12th Grade + | Focused Preparation

College & Career Focused

Coursework and WBL Experiences Internships / Apprenticeships DE/AP/IB/ULCs, additional certifications aligned to careers

EVIT Aligned Programs

Aircraft Mechanics, Aviation; Engineering; High Tech Manufacturing; Network Security; Software & App Design; Technology Device Maintenance; Automotive; Construction; Diesel Technologies; Electrical & Power Transmission; Welding; Fashion; Graphic Design Year 13 + | College & Career Launch

Seamless transition into:

Community
College/University
(certifications, majors
aligned to sector) and/or

Career (employment, apprenticeships)

EVIT

Military

Entrepreneurship

Partners - Boeing, Honeywell, CHASSE, Core, Able Steel, Empire CAT, Rummel Construction, AmKor, TSMC, Gulfstream, SkillUp, ASU, MCC, EVIT

City of Mesa Sector Alignment

Engineering & Architecture; Advanced Manufacturing; Information Technology & Engineering Technology; Aerospace & Defense; Production Design & Development; Construction & Skilled Trades; Energy & Utilities; Business & Entrepreneurship

Questions & Discussion









Mesa City Council and Mesa Public Schools Governing Board Collaborative Meeting

Closing Remarks



