



Please note that our office will close at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 24, and will be closed all day Wednesday, Dec. 25, in observance of Christmas.

Share your news with us!

Did your company appear in the news? Do you have new employees you would like to introduce? Have you won an award? To be featured in our member spotlights section, please send your 50-word submission to sachiyo@tempechamber.org. All submissions are subject to editing to meet guidelines and formatting requirements. Submit your news by 10 a.m. on the Thursday of the week prior to the week in which you want your announcement to appear.

Check out our new [advertising opportunities](#), and learn how your ad can appear here!

State of the Schools

On Dec. 18, a panel of educators met to discuss the state of education in Arizona. With a focus on Tempe schools and elementary education in particular, the panel also addressed statewide issues, including funding, the new career and college readiness standards, online education and student preparation.



[Read more news from the Chamber on our blog!](#)

More giving, less taking

By Mary Ann Miller, President/CEO, Tempe Chamber



The Tempe Chamber hosted its annual State of the Schools Address in order to help the business community learn how it can best assist in ensuring that Arizona's schools and students are among the nation's best. The panel consisted of Christine Busch, Tempe Elementary School District; Jay Heiler, Arizona Charter Schools Association; Jennifer Johnson, Arizona Dept. of Education; and David Schauer, Kyrene School District. The discussion was moderated by Deb Duvall, Arizona School Administrators.

2014 Business Excellence Awards



Finalists Announced

The Tempe Chamber is pleased to announce the finalists for the 2014 Business Excellence Awards. These awards promote the advancement of responsible business leadership in the

community and publicly recognize local businesses demonstrating a passion for excellence.

Through the awards, the business community honors companies whose practices in business growth, employee development, community involvement and customer service exemplify excellence. The six finalists admirably embody those characteristics and are being recognized for that distinction.

The 2014 finalists are **Caliente Construction; The Dhaba; Landings Credit Union** (formerly Tempe Schools Credit Union); **Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine; Sun Sounds of Arizona;** and **Tempe Mission Palms Hotel.**

Last year's recipients of the Business Excellence Awards were AlphaGraphics at Kyrene and Elliot and Statera.

The recipients will be announced and honored at the Breakfast for Chamber Champions on Feb. 28 at the Embassy Suites Tempe, 4400 S. Rural Rd. For details and to register, [click here](#).

Be the voice of your community

Tempe Community Council (TCC) and the City of Tempe are looking for citizens to engage in a human services grant review process known as

of Commerce

I come from a Black Friday family. We'd eat dinner early on Thanksgiving, then look at all the ads while plotting our strategy. Stores that gave a gift to the first hundred people would have a leg up. Tom would go to Pennys, while Sandy would take Mervyn's. Mom worked retail so she usually had to work. When Dad was healthy, he'd go to Kmart while I took charge of Target. And we'd do it all over again the day after Christmas.

And it was fun. There was camaraderie in the line. Sometimes one person would make a coffee run and take orders from a bunch of people. You'd discuss what you were looking for while in line and grab one for that person if you got to that counter before they did. Every once in awhile someone would complain about the line and you'd think, "What the heck did you expect?"

And then it started to change...

[Read the whole article here.](#)



Tempe Leadership Class XXIX project to benefit United Food Bank, those in need

Please join Tempe Leadership Class XXIX's project, Fresh Truck, in partnership with United Food Bank of Arizona (UFB) in helping to get fresh food to people in need. By donating your 2013 Working Poor Tax Credit to the UFB, you will be helping serve fresh food to those who really need it. You will need to do this by Dec. 31 for the 2013 tax credit. You can also donate starting Jan. 1 for the 2014 tax year. For instructions on how to donate and more information, contact Daniel Milner at danielmilner@tempechamber.org or (480) 736-4287.

Breakfast with the Governor

The East Valley Partnership, East Valley Chambers of Commerce Alliance and Mesa Community College invite you to join them at the 2014 East Valley Breakfast with the Governor on Thursday, Jan. 16, 7:30 to 9 a.m. This annual event gives East Valley business, education, civic and political leaders the opportunity to hear the Governor's vision for the upcoming year. Cost is \$50 for EVP/EVCCA members and \$60 for non-members. The event will be held at the Hilton Phoenix East/Mesa, 1011 W. Holmes Ave., Mesa. Go to www.evp-az.org to learn more and register.

Ribbon cuttings

Agency Review. As a participant, you will work with your fellow community members to review human services applications and make funding recommendations to the Tempe City Council. If you are interested in participating and live or work in Tempe, contact Caterina Mena at caterina_mena@tempe.gov or (480) 858-2311. Learn more at <http://www.tempecommunitycouncil.org/agency-review/>.

Member spotlights

The Watershed, Tempe's newest kitchen, bar and lakeside patio, brings a little Newport Beach, San Francisco and New Mexico to the table. Phase one renovations of one of the most unique locations in the East Valley are complete and include a 200-person patio and an indoor "Captain's Lounge." The menu can best be described as modern American with twists on familiar classics. For more information, go to watershedaz.com.

James Tevault recently joined the staff at the Tempe Tourism Office as the director of sales. Originally from Texas, Tevault has lived in the Phoenix area for 26 years. He has over 20 years of experience in the hospitality industry, including 10 years of hotel operations and sales in Tempe, Mesa, Scottsdale and Phoenix. The Tempe Tourism Office also recently launched a new branding campaign, including an updated logo, new advertising creative and tagline. The logo reflects the new tagline, "Refreshingly Arizona." The Tempe Tourism Office team wanted to visually connect the city of Tempe with the state of Arizona in the ad creative and logo. For examples of the new logo and advertisements, visit <http://www.tempetourism.com/membership/>.

Zion & Zion was announced as the #1 Best Place to Work at the Phoenix Business Journal's "Best Places to Work" awards luncheon recently. This is the third time Zion & Zion has made the list in the 50 employees and under category and the second award this year Zion & Zion has received for its workplace culture. The award recognizes Valley companies based on an employee satisfaction survey from Quantum Workplace, ranking work environment, leadership, company culture and management practices. Learn more at www.zionandzion.com.

Staples Foundation, the private charitable arm of Staples, Inc., has awarded \$3,500 to Bethany Christian School under a program that lets Staples associates direct donations. With the hands-on tools and resources provided by the grant, the Bethany Christian middle school students can truly experience science as they develop competency in scientific thinking and skills, preparing them well for future success in life and learning.

Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine (SCNM) will officially break ground Jan. 8 on a new



All About Compression



Chick-fil-A



Main Event



SCAN Health Plan Arizona

campus expansion supports the college's record-enrollment numbers, growing patient volume in the medical center, as well as future plans to add new degree programs and community classes to match the growing interest in naturopathic medicine. For information about SCNM, visit www.scnm.edu.

On Nov. 11, the City of Scottsdale fire stations No. 1 and 8, LEED Platinum facilities constructed by Caliente Construction, received the USGBC Heavy Metals Platinum Award as two of the top five sustainable, energy-efficient emergency/fire and police facilities in Arizona. On Nov. 12, the ASU Downtown Student Engagement Center, an innovative renovation of lower levels of the historic 1936 City of Phoenix Post Office constructed by Caliente Construction, was awarded the ENR Southwest's Best Project Award for Renovation/Restoration.

Qualcomm Life Ecosystem Collaborators announced NuWave Commerce as the 2013 Global 2net Connect App Developer Challenge winner. NuWave Commerce has leveraged Qualcomm Life's 2net Connect APIs to develop a companion application for activity and medical devices that aggregates biometric data from multiple types of devices and sensors and processes it in new innovative ways, allowing people to live healthier, more active lifestyles. NuWave Commerce is a premier web design and development firm based in Chandler. To learn more, visit www.nuwavecommerce.com or call (480) 656-8383.

Margo Brown of Wave Productivity completed training with The Coach Approach. The Coach Approach program highlights core coaching skills specifically for those in the field of productivity and organization. This training focuses on solutions to becoming more goal-oriented, productive and organized. Looking to become more efficient and productive in your office? Contact Margo at (602) 677-8275.

ActionCOACH (<http://actioncoachaz.com>) has announced the expansion of its Arizona services led by two accomplished business leaders: Kevin Alft, Regional CEO of ActionCOACH, and Sheila Kloefkorn, president and CEO of KEO Marketing and new firm owner in the ActionCOACH network. ActionCOACH is a leader in business and executive coaching and has already helped hundreds of business owners in Arizona grow by providing the right mix of business education and proven business tools and strategies.



Sol Diablo Cantina

Renewals and new members

Check out our newest members and see what members have renewed their membership with the Tempe Chamber.

[Read more](#)

Our leaders

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