



## EDUCATION

# MESA, AZ

*THE OPTIMAL LOCATION FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING*

"When we opened the doors to Benedictine University ten years ago in Downtown Mesa, I don't think we could have ever dreamt what our partnership with the city could do for our students. The support and encouragement we continue to receive from the City of Mesa provides Benedictine students with a one-of-a-kind experience inside and outside of the classroom. The city's emphasis on innovative thinking, education, and collaboration with local businesses and community provides Benedictine students with endless possibilities for engaged learning, career-focused internships, employment opportunities, and social experiences."

**- Charles Gregory, President, Benedictine University**

# Mesa is home to 14 colleges and universities with nearly 40,000 students currently enrolled in higher education.

Quality higher education is a top priority for the City of Mesa. City leadership is committed to expanding higher education institutions and developing a talented and skilled workforce that provides a pipeline for the quality jobs of the future.

As part of this priority, the City of Mesa has created the Education and Workforce Office, which is tasked to build partnerships among educational experts, industry leaders, nonprofit organizations, city services, and community resources to continue to enrich and advance education and workforce opportunities for Mesa's students and residents. [www.mesaaz.gov/residents/education-workforce-office](http://www.mesaaz.gov/residents/education-workforce-office)

Additionally, Mesa's Office of Economic Development has produced a workforce development strategy outlining how the City along with its partners, can provide resources to meet the needs of residents and the business community.



➤ A.T. Still University at Mesa



➤ Arizona State University's Media and Immersive eXperience (MIX) Center in Mesa

# World-Class Universities

## ASU @ Mesa City Center

ASU @ Mesa City Center in Downtown Mesa is a joint venture between the City of Mesa and Arizona State University that includes the Media and Immersive eXperience (MIX) Center and The Studios that houses the Edson Entrepreneurship and Innovation Institute.

The MIX Center, a five story, 115,000-square-foot academic building, houses the Herberger Institute of Design and the Arts academic programs related to digital and sensory technology, entrepreneurial support, experience design, film production, and immersive media. Also housed at the MIX Center is the Sidney Poitier New American Film School which provides the opportunity for film to innovate with new technologies in VR, advanced visual effects, and diversity in storytelling and storytellers. [cfo.asu.edu/MesaCityCenter](http://cfo.asu.edu/MesaCityCenter)

The Edson Entrepreneurship and Innovation Institute at the Studios offers a shared space for ideas between local entrepreneurs, industry leaders, and students and hosts a variety of community events, training programs, workshops, seminars, and mentorship pairings to support individual and group creative, entrepreneurial, and business development for the Mesa community. [entrepreneurship.asu.edu/spaces/the-studios-at-mesa-city-center](http://entrepreneurship.asu.edu/spaces/the-studios-at-mesa-city-center)

## ► ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY'S POLYTECHNIC CAMPUS

ASU's Polytechnic campus, with an enrollment of more than 5,800 students from around the world, is located on 600 acres adjacent to Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport in Mesa. The campus provides more than 94 undergraduate degrees and 38 graduate degrees, most with an applied emphasis.

ASU schools and colleges offering degrees and programs at the campus include the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering; the W. P. Carey School of Business, including the Morrison School of Agribusiness; the College of Integrative Sciences and Arts; Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College; the College of Health Solutions; the College of Global Futures' School of Sustainability; Barrett, The Honors College; and University College. Elementary and high school students also attend school at two ASU Preparatory Academy sites on the campus.

## ASU Polytechnic Innovation Zone

Within the southern portion of the Polytechnic campus is the 300-acre ASU Polytechnic Innovation Zone, which specializes in hands-on exploration of innovative solutions in aviation, renewable energy, human-technology integration, comprehensive commercial printing and design services, and on-demand digital manufacturing, as well as developing solutions for better health outcomes. [economicdevelopment.asu.edu/innovation-zone/asu-polytechnic-innovation-zone/](http://economicdevelopment.asu.edu/innovation-zone/asu-polytechnic-innovation-zone/)



► Arizona State University  
Polytechnic Campus in Mesa

## Labs, Facilities and Capabilities

### Engineering and Manufacturing

The Polytechnic School, one of the six Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering at ASU, is home to the largest additive manufacturing research facility in the southwestern United States. The 15,000-square-foot 3D printing research center – known as the **Innovation Hub and Manufacturing Research Lab** – has \$2 million worth of plastic, polymer, and metal 3D printing technologies and supports a wide range of research, material and process development, and educational training. ASU's Fulton Schools have long been recognized for educational and research programs in engineering, manufacturing, robotics, and automation.

**ASU offers the only four-year manufacturing engineering program in Arizona accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), one of only 22 accredited manufacturing engineering programs in the country.**

- The Polytechnic School's **Manufacturing Lab Makerspaces** in the Simulator Building empower students to master CNC machine tools, computer-aided design, sheet metal work, casting, metrology, welding, automation, assembly, and machining.

- The **Azeredo Lab** sheds light on the physical mechanisms underlying multi-material and multi-scale processing methods for applications in advanced manufacturing, energy, and optics.
- There are four **Engineering Design Studios** in The Polytechnic School and they house engineering prototyping equipment to support design and fabrication of students' innovative ideas.
- **Bio-inspired robotics labs** support research on mobile robot navigation and wearable robotics to extend human performance, as well as developing robotic orthoses and prostheses that help people recover from strokes and regain mobility.
- **Human systems engineering labs** combine engineering and psychology to design systems consistent with human capabilities and limitations. Students and researchers design technology that works for humans. For example, the **Center for Human, Artificial Intelligence and Robot Teaming** strives to develop and deploy technologies, tools and best practices for the composition, training, management, and evaluation of human, AI, and robot teams working together to support national security. The **Sustainable Learning and Adaptive Technology for Education (SLATE) Lab** studies how computer-based tools can support effective learning processes and strategies.

### Engineering Education

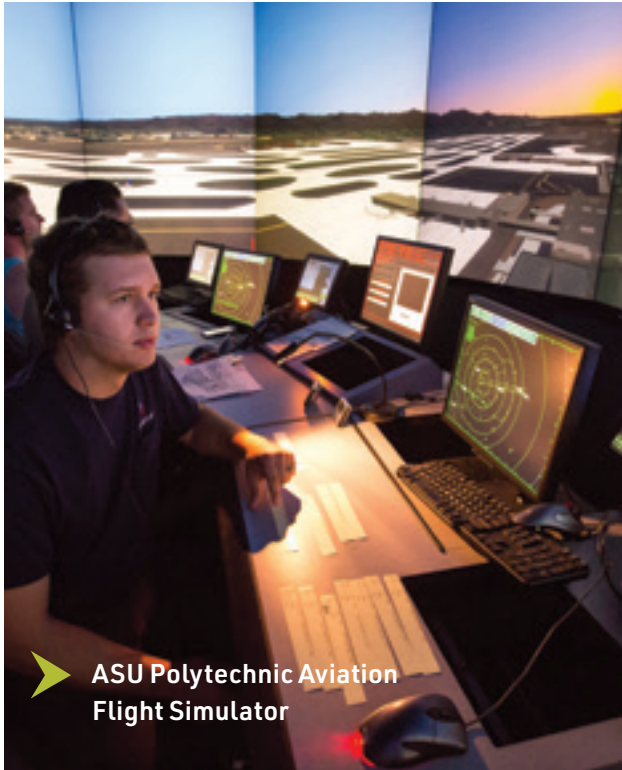
The **STEAM Labs** challenge students to learn and apply the engineering design process to build

chain-reaction STEAM machines in a project-based, cooperative learning environment. The program integrates arts and STEM and creates pathways for students to understand careers in engineering. The **Shifting Perceptions, Attitudes and Cultures in Engineering Lab** aspires to elevate the experiences of marginalized populations, dismantle systemic injustices, and transform the way inclusion is cultivated in engineering through the implementation of novel technologies and methodologies.

### Graphics Technology, and Communication

The **Commercial Photography Studio** maintains industry-standard equipment and involves students in advertising and observational image capture, including high-speed video and thermal imaging. In the **Make Media Lab**, students shoot their own videos and photos to support entrepreneurial startups and class projects. The **Device and Usability Learning Lab** provides a unique learning environment for user-centered design, user experience, usability testing, heuristic evaluation, accessibility testing, and click tracking analytics.

The **Communication Research and User Experience Lab (CRUX Lab)** supports the interdisciplinary work of faculty and students in design, engineering, technical communication, and user experience to assess the effectiveness, responsiveness, and engagement of web designs and other communications.



ASU Polytechnic Aviation Flight Simulator

## Aviation

**Flight Simulators, the Powerplant and Structure Lab and a fleet of aircraft at Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport** support leading edge preparation for careers in aviation and air-traffic control. The **Altitude Chamber** facility allows research and training in the physiological effects of oxygen deprivation.

## Agribusiness

At the Polytechnic campus, the W. P. Carey School of Business offers bachelor's degrees in **global agribusiness and food industry management** through the Morrison School of Agribusiness, as well as degrees in business administration, communication, human resources, management,

sustainability, technological entrepreneurship and management, and technology.

The **Morrison School of Agribusiness's Food and Agribusiness Lab (FAB Lab)** serves as a hub for multidisciplinary research related to the global food value chain. Members of the FAB Lab focus on the analysis, innovation, and development of global food value chains, researching producer-to-consumer food issues, including the development of efficient food distribution, and retailing systems that can support food security on a local, state, and global basis.

The Morrison School of Agribusiness **Behavioral Economics and Policy Research Laboratory (BEPO Lab)** conducts research to better understand consumer and farmer behavior and purchasing decisions. Its broad research agenda focuses on theoretical advancement, method testing, and practical applications. Facilities combine a large state-of-the-art survey room with options for focus groups, shelf simulations and computer simulations; a kitchen to prepare food for taste tests; and an eye-tracking laboratory.

A 320-square-foot closed "cleantech" zero-waste vertical farming system developed by the College of Integrative Sciences and Arts faculty and Fulton Schools of Engineering faculty in conjunction with the **Environmental and Resource Management Lab** – a part of **Arizona Center for Algae Technology and Innovation (AzCATI)** – breaks down food waste from ASU Dining Services, transforms it into liquid fertilizer and bio-gas, which then supports

production of 1,200 heads of lettuce per month for ASU Dining Services. It is a model for zero-acreage, low-water-use farming in any climate.

Energy labs, including the **Laboratory for Energy and Power Solutions**, take energy innovations from concept to construction with a focus on energy access, microgrids, grid modernization, resilient infrastructure, and workforce development.

## Supporting a Healthy Community

Faculty in **Counseling and Counseling Psychology** support the professionalization of students in psychology and applied counseling and psychological science. The concentration in Substance Abuse and Addictions—the **only undergraduate degree of its kind in Arizona**—is an approved program under the Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners (AZBBHE), providing a pathway to licensure as a Licensed Substance Abuse Technician (LSAT) in Arizona.

Physics faculty in the College of Integrative Sciences and Arts' Computational Optics Group explore interactions of light with matter at the nanoscale and how molecules and molecular aggregates can be manipulated using laser radiation. The research has exciting implications for many areas of science and medicine. [campus.asu.edu/polytechnic](https://campus.asu.edu/polytechnic)



▶ Alverno College Mesa Campus

### ▶ ALVERNO COLLEGE

Well known for the caliber of its nursing school graduates, Alverno College is a fully accredited Catholic, Franciscan college in Milwaukee, Wisconsin with a campus in Mesa. The Mesa campus offers a Direct Entry Master of Science in Nursing program. Graduates will be awarded both a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science in nursing. The 18- to 20-month, full-time program is designed for students who already hold a bachelor's degree in a non-nursing field and will prepare them to sit for the NCLEX licensing exam. [Alverno.edu](http://Alverno.edu)

### ▶ A.T. STILL UNIVERSITY

A.T. Still University of Health Sciences (ATSU) offers doctoral programs in osteopathic medicine and dental medicine at its residential campuses in Kirksville, Missouri, and Mesa, Arizona. Additional residential and distance learning doctoral or master's programs are also offered, including athletic training, audiology, biomedical sciences, health administration, health education, health sciences, kinesiology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, physician assistant studies, and public health. In Mesa, ATSU enrolls more than 1,700 students per year in its **Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health, Arizona School of Health Sciences, and School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona**. ATSU features an innovative virtual anatomy lab offering standard anatomy practicum, but without actual cadaver dissection. The lab is the first of its kind for any medical school in Arizona and can simulate everything from bones to blood vessels in 3D.

ATSU's Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health, the first dental school in Arizona, boasts four public clinics where patients receive quality, affordable dental care including general dentistry services, pediatric services, special care dentistry, and orthodontics. [www.atsu.edu](http://www.atsu.edu)

### ▶ BENEDICTINE UNIVERSITY AT MESA

Benedictine University at Mesa offers 28 different majors and minors, including Accounting, Communication Arts, Computer Science, Criminal



▶ Benedictine University Mesa Campus

Justice, Entrepreneurship, Fine Arts, Graphic Art & Design, Health Education and Promotion, Health Science, Management and Organizational Behavior, Nutrition, Political Science, Pre-Chiropractic, Pre-Dentistry, Pre-Medicine, Psychology, Social Sciences, Spanish, and Theology. Benedictine also offers an MBA program at its Mesa campus. [ben.edu/mesa](http://ben.edu/mesa)

Benedictine has recently entered into a partnership with CO+HOOTS, a business innovation accelerator, to develop an Entrepreneurship and Entrepreneurship Leadership program at Benedictine campus in Mesa. This educational relationship provides real world experiences for students, creates jobs, and prepares Benedictine students for a future beyond the classroom.

### ► **NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY**

Northern Arizona University (NAU) serves students at the Flagstaff campus, online, or through NAU at Mesa Community College (MCC). In partnership with MCC, NAU offers affordable and streamlined bachelor's degree pathways with some programs accepting up to 90 community college credits.

#### **Generating New Nursing Professionals**

In a unique partnership with MCC, NAU created a Concurrent Enrollment Program (CEP) to help nursing students earn an Associate of Applied Sciences in Nursing and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the same time.

#### **Developing New Teachers and School Leaders**

NAU is well-known as a leader in teacher education and is the only public university in Arizona accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). Through an innovative partnership with MCC, NAU provides a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a dual major in Elementary and Special Education. NAU also provides graduate degree programs to advance current teachers in their classroom skills, or to prepare teachers for leadership positions. Programs include the following options:

- M.Ed. in Educational Leadership
- M.Ed. in Bilingual Multicultural Education
- M.Ed. in Elementary Education
- M.Ed. in Educational Technology

#### **Serving the Public Safety Community**

NAU has made a strong commitment to serving public safety officials, or those seeking a career in criminal justice or fire services. Classes are taught by faculty with real-world experience in these fields and program options include the following:

- Justice Studies – accepts up to 90 transfer credits.
- Emergency Management – accepts up to 90 transfer credits.
- Master of Organizational Leadership – with emphasis in Organizational Leadership, Project Management, and Criminal Justice Administration

#### **Expanding the Hospitality Workforce**

NAU's School of Hotel and Restaurant Management (SHRM) is opening the Mesa Workforce Development Center (MWDC) in Fall 2024 in a new state-of-the-art, two-story building adjacent to the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport. The facility will include a **training restaurant, high-tech classrooms, flexible space, food and beverage training labs, and office space.**

The MWDC will provide credit hotel restaurant management and hospitality degree programs, as well as noncredit credentials, including shorter and more affordable offerings to address the strong demand for workforce solutions in the hospitality industry. This facility will offer many education options for all levels of experience. [nau.edu/statewide-campuses/nau-mesa-community-college/](http://nau.edu/statewide-campuses/nau-mesa-community-college/)



# Community Colleges and Post Secondary Education

## ► MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mesa Community College (MCC), one of 10 colleges in the Maricopa County Community College District, is host to more than 30,000 students annually and offers degree and certificate programs at its two campuses, additional locations, and a combination of online formats.

MCC offers more than 300 degrees, transfer, career, and certificate programs within fields of study that include Applied Technology; Behavioral Science and Human Services; Business, Entrepreneurialism, and Management; Computer and Information Technology; Culture and Society; Education; Health Sciences; STEM; and Visual and Performing Arts.

MCC is one of the largest transfer providers to ASU, while many programs prepare students for immediate entry to the job market. Traditional, online and

hybrid courses provide flexibility for students. Additionally, MCC Community Education offers hundreds of non-credit classes providing opportunities for lifelong learning. [www.mesacc.edu](http://www.mesacc.edu)

In addition, MCC offers the **Mesa College Promise** program, an education initiative that promises Mesa high school students free tuition to Mesa Community College. To be eligible, students must be Mesa residents, attend Mesa Community College, and fill out the federal FAFSA form. The program provides more access to secondary education for Mesa residents and helps to ease the financial burden of obtaining a degree. [www.mesacc.edu/mesa-promise](http://www.mesacc.edu/mesa-promise)

## ► CHANDLER-GILBERT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Chandler-Gilbert Community College (CGCC) is a comprehensive community college with campuses in Mesa, Chandler, and Gilbert. With nearly 20,000 students across four locations including the Williams Campus in Mesa adjacent to the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, CGCC is one of the fastest-growing Maricopa Community Colleges. CGCC offers 70 degree programs and certificates in some of today's most in-demand career fields such as aviation, computer and information technology, law enforcement, education, nursing, and many others.

Working with community and industry partners, CGCC also provides cutting-edge training and programs in areas such as Unmanned Aircraft Systems and Artificial Intelligence. [cgc.maricopa.edu](http://cgc.maricopa.edu)





## ► CAE OXFORD AVIATION ACADEMY

CAE is the largest flight training network in the world, training approximately 135,000 crew members annually. CAE serves more than 3,400 airlines, aircraft operators, and manufacturers across the globe. One of its nine global flight academies is based at Falcon Field Airport in north Mesa. CAE runs full cadet programs with JetBlue Airlines, American Airlines, and Southwest Airlines for prospective pilots in the U.S. [www.cae.com/becomeapilot](http://www.cae.com/becomeapilot)



# AzAMI – Arizona Advanced Manufacturing Institute

Based at MCC, AzAMI is a unique center of excellence created to help Arizona business and industry partners stay competitive and to provide a pipeline of skilled, career-educated, and ready-to-work employees. AzAMI core programs include:

- Automation Mechatronics and Robotic Technology
- Aerospace Manufacturing Technology
- Additive Manufacturing Processes
- Competency Based Stackable Credentials
- Electronics Technology
- Electrical/Mechanical Drafting
- Machinist Apprenticeship
- Manufacturing Engineering
- Welding Technology

From enrollment to employment, AzAMI connects workforce opportunities with local and regional businesses, building a technically trained, talent supply chain of motivated and skilled individuals. AzAMI provides industry certifications; stackable credentials that are competency based with degree and certificate programs; flexible models of delivery; and portable labs for on-site training. AzAMI creates a rich menu of innovative and customized services. [www.mesacc.edu/azami](http://www.mesacc.edu/azami)



## Mesa Center for Higher Education

The Mesa Center for Higher Education is home to LaunchPoint (Mesa's Technology Incubator), Benedictine University at Mesa, and is located in Downtown Mesa. The 53,000-square-foot building boasts 13 classrooms, six fully equipped science and engineering labs, offices, conference rooms, and numerous student study and gathering spaces. [www.MesaCenterForHigherEducation.com](http://www.MesaCenterForHigherEducation.com), [www.LaunchPointMesa.com](http://www.LaunchPointMesa.com)



# Award-Winning K-12 Schools

The City of Mesa is home to many of the best primary education schools in the state. Mesa is served by four school districts and the East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT). Mesa Public Schools serves the largest portion of the City. Gilbert Public Schools, the Higley Unified School District, and the Queen Creek Unified School District each serve a portion of southeast Mesa. These districts tout average ACT and SAT scores that beat both the state and national averages.

## ► MESA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mesa Public Schools (MPS) is an award-winning district recognized nationally for student achievement in academics, sports, creative and performing arts, and career and technical education. As the largest school district by student enrollment in Arizona, MPS educates more than 64,500 students in 82 schools and programs. MPS also offers special programs to meet the needs of every learner, including back-to-basics, Montessori, International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement (AP), and online learning. [www.mpsaz.org](http://www.mpsaz.org)

## ► GILBERT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Based in the neighboring Town of Gilbert, Gilbert Public Schools (GPS) has more than 40 schools, 10 of which are located in southeast Mesa. GPS

is known for its competitive atmosphere and has received the grade "A" from the Arizona Department of Education. [www.gilbertschools.net](http://www.gilbertschools.net)

## ► HIGLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Higley Unified School District (HUSD) covers portions of southeast Mesa, east Gilbert, and north Queen Creek. HUSD has 16 schools and received an "A" rating from the Arizona Department of Education.

[www.husd.org](http://www.husd.org)

## ► QUEEN CREEK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Based in the neighboring town of Queen Creek, Queen Creek Unified School District (QCUSD) also serves students in southeast Mesa. QCUSD is a growing district with more than 12,000 students and 14 schools, and has consistently ranked among the best districts in Arizona. [www.qcusd.org](http://www.qcusd.org)

## ► MESA CHARTER SCHOOLS

Charter schools were authorized by the Arizona Legislature in 1994, and the first charters opened in 1995. Charter schools are public schools that are innovative while still being held accountable for improved student achievement. The schools are funded by the state and free to all Arizona students. They vary in mission and model, serving a wide range of students. The City of Mesa has 54 public charter schools providing students an array of educational choices including college preparatory, STEM, arts, technology, and back-to-basics, to name a few.



East Valley Institute of Technology -  
East Mesa Campus

## ► EAST VALLEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT) is considered a model for high-quality career and technical education by the U.S. Department of Education and has been recognized multiple times as an A+ School of Excellence by the Arizona Educational Foundation. EVIT provides more than 40 advanced career training programs tuition-free to more than 5,000 East Valley high school students and tuition-based to adults, with financial aid available to those who qualify.

### High school programs include:

- 3D Animation
- Aesthetics
- Automotive Technologies
- Aviation
- Banking
- Behavior, Mental & Social Health Services
- Cisco Networking Academy & Cyber
- Computer Programming, Coding and Mobile App Design
- Construction Technologies
- Criminal Justice
- Culinary Arts & Commercial Baking
- Digital Device Diagnostic and Repair
- Early Childhood Education & Education Professions
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Fire Science Academy
- Future Engineers
- Graphic Design
- Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning
- Human Anatomy & Physiology for Medical Careers
- Multimedia Technologies
- Machining Technology
- Medical Assistant
- Nursing Assistant
- Pharmacy Technician
- Physical Therapy Technician
- Veterinary Assistant
- Video Production
- Web Design
- Welding

### Adult education programs include:

- A++ Certification & BICSI Training
- Classic Automotive Restoration
- Collision Repair
- George Brazil School of Plumbing Service & Repair Technician
- Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC)
- Laser Aesthetics
- Practical Nursing
- Sterile Processing Technician
- Surgical Technology
- Welding

Every EVIT program provides hands-on training and nearly every program prepares students to earn industry certifications and licenses. Students who complete EVIT programs have a 98% high school graduation rate, two out of three go on to college and 94% are in jobs related to their training, college, or the military within a year of finishing their program.<sup>1</sup>

EVIT Culinary is the only high school culinary program in Arizona that is nationally accredited by the American Culinary Federation. EVIT Automotive places more students in jobs than any other high school automotive program in the nation. EVIT Welding is a nationally accredited testing site for the American Welding Society.<sup>2</sup> [www.evit.com](http://www.evit.com)

# Empowered to Help Build Your Business

The City of Mesa Office of Economic Development works closely with clients throughout all phases of the development process and looks forward to helping you build and grow your company in Mesa.

## SOURCES

1 [https://www.evit.com/news/what\\_s\\_new/evit\\_gives\\_hs\\_students\\_headstart\\_toward\\_career,2023](https://www.evit.com/news/what_s_new/evit_gives_hs_students_headstart_toward_career,2023)

2 [https://www.evit.com/high\\_school\\_career\\_training/hs/culinary\\_arts,2023](https://www.evit.com/high_school_career_training/hs/culinary_arts,2023)

## STAY CONNECTED WITH US:

-  Mesa-Economic-Development
-  MesaEconDev
-  Mesa Business Builder
-  CityofMesa

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