



In order for Arizona to remain competitive, the business community must focus on investing in the future of the workforce.

According to the November 30, 2010 report by the Arizona Commerce Authority:

“When it comes to job creation, projections show Arizona will experience imbalanced job growth through 2018 with only 11,000 new manufacturing jobs, and an inordinately high number of low paying jobs requiring only minimal education - positions most susceptible to economic downturns”

Two keys to promoting education is developing an educated and sustainable workforce for Arizona to build a stronger business climate, as well as building and maintaining world-class facilities for those students to learn and live in.

According to the ACT College Readiness report, 78 percent of high school graduates did not meet the readiness benchmark levels for one or more entry-level college courses in mathematics, science, reading and English.

Investing in workforce development

AGC has and will continue to work with elected officials, agency representatives, other business leaders and the community to promote training and development of Arizona’s future workforce.

The universities and the Arizona Board of Regents continue to work with the business community and AGC members to build world-class facilities and recruit educators for math and science for research and development--critical to continue much needed research and development to strengthen Arizona’s economy.

During a recent period during which two high-rise buildings were constructed in Los Angeles, over 5,000 were built in Shanghai

Knowing that not all students are college-bound, it is critical to prepare these students for long-term careers. The legislature determines how much of the career and technical education programs are funded in Arizona. AGC urges the legislature to continue funding these critical programs to ensure a diverse workforce is trained and maintained to promote Arizona’s economy.

Del E. Web School of Construction

AGC has an active role in investing in the future of the construction workforce in Arizona. AGC has been in partnership with Arizona State University officials to build a facility to house the ASU Del E. Web School of Construction (DEWSC) for several years. The construction industry has raised over \$19 million in funds from AGC members and industry partners. AGC members are so dedicated to giving back, they teach courses at DEWSC.

Capital Improvements

In the 2009 budget, \$1 billion in bonds, backed by the state lottery, helped to finance the building and deferred maintenance of capital construction projects for higher education in Arizona known as the SPEED package (Stimulus Plan for Economic and Educational Development). This proposal included lifting the advertising cap for the Arizona Lottery to help finance 30 years of bonds authorized by the State Board of Regents, helping to pay for universities to construct and maintain buildings. The fiscal impact of the Phoenix Biomedical Campus was estimated between \$1.1 billion and \$2.1 billion alone.

Due to budget concerns the SPEED package was put on hold once the Phoenix Biomedical Campus project was approved by the Joint Committee on Capital Review. The Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) and universities continues to address and promote deferred maintenance projects as well as new construction projects.

Many deferred maintenance projects address public safety concerns: updating outdated facilities, including dormitories and learning building on the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, Northern Arizona

University and community college campuses across the state. Many of which have not been updated since the Arizona Legislature put a hold on capital projects funds.

Some believe that investing in capital projects was not the authority of the Arizona legislation. AGC believes funding new construction and much needed deferred

maintenance projects is outlined in the constitution of the state of Arizona. Specifically citing Section 10:

Section 10. The revenue for the maintenance of the respective state educational institutions shall be derived from the investment of the proceeds of the sale, and from the rental of such lands as have been set aside by the enabling act approved June 20, 1910,

or other legislative enactment of the United States, for the use and benefit of the respective state educational institutions. In addition to such income the legislature shall make such appropriations, to be met by taxation, as shall insure the proper maintenance of all state educational institutions, and shall make such special appropriations as shall provide for their development and improvement.

AZAGC Message:

- Fund and allow use of outside funding sources for university capitol projects – including new construction and deferred maintenance projects;
- Support math, science and technology research education programs to move Arizona forward;
- Promote career and technical education opportunities for all Arizonans;
- Work with local school board to address public safety issues which can be addressed updating facilities;
- Fund the Del E. Web School of Construction building on the Arizona State University campus.