



we are

evit

Issue 3 • Volume XIV • February 2015



# inside the cover

Usually, there are no dances at EVIT. The only prom, homecoming or other dances students have the opportunity to attend are those held at their home high school – even though many say they would prefer to participate in such events at EVIT.

So this year, Steve Grosz, radio/audio instructor and advisor to the students’ Executive Club Council, took their case to the EVIT management team. Grosz pointed out that EVIT students often say they fit in better at EVIT than they do at their home school. For some of them, an EVIT dance would likely be the only school dance they’ll ever attend. So the first ever EVIT Ball was approved – with a twist: The “Winter Wonderland” dance became a charity ball, with a portion of proceeds donated to Mesa United Way.

About 175 EVIT students attended the EVIT “Winter Wonderland” Charity Ball on Jan. 30 in the Culinary Banquet Hall, and \$500 was raised for the United Way. School administrators said the event went over so well, it will probably be offered again next year.



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**EDITORIAL**  
CeCe Todd  
Public Information Officer

**DESIGN**  
Patrick Jervis, Creative Director

**PHOTOGRAPHY**  
EVIT Multimedia Technologies  
Patrick Jervis  
Terri Pearson

**PUBLISHER**  
East Valley Institute of Technology  
Public Information & Marketing Office  
publicrelations@evit.com



the real prep school  
**evit**  
CAREER AND COLLEGE PREP

**Dr. A. Keith Crandell (Main) Campus**  
1601 W. Main Street  
Mesa, AZ 85201

**East Campus**  
6625 S. Power Road  
Mesa, AZ 85212

(480) 461-4000 • www.evit.com



EVIT gives students skills for life

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## UPCOMING events

- **Mar. 2, 4:30 p.m. –**  
EVIT Governing Board Meeting, Main Campus
- **Mar. 3, 6 p.m. –**  
EVIT Interior Design Workshop begins
- **Mar. 30, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. –**  
EVIT Career and College Fair, Main Campus
- **Apr. 30, 6 p.m. –**  
EVIT Fashion Show, Main Campus



## evit gives students skills for life

The skills Danielle Panessa learned at the East Valley Institute of Technology have been the gift that keeps giving. In her last two years at Mesa's Red Mountain High School, Danielle was also enrolled in the Human Anatomy & Physiology for Medical Careers program and Nursing Assistant program at EVIT. In 2011, she passed her state certified nursing assistant exams and became a CNA at Sunrise Assisted Living. Eight months later, she was promoted to medication care manager. In January, she will start classes in Mesa Community College's nursing program, working toward her ultimate goal of becoming a surgical nurse.

None of that, she says, would have been possible without the foundation in health care skills that she gained at EVIT.

"I have continually used the skills I learned at EVIT and I loved the time I was able to spend learning there," Panessa said.

EVIT, a career and technical school for high school students and adults, provides occupational training in nearly 40 different programs. Working closely with hundreds of local business and industry advisors, EVIT not only prepares students for jobs, but for college. In fact, two out of three EVIT students go on to college or other post-secondary training.

"EVIT gives back to our community every day. In the way that we work with business and industry, we feed the economic development engine on the train of education," said Superintendent Sally Downey. "That is the uniqueness of EVIT."

EVIT showcased how it gives back during the EVIT Gives Back Expo in January.

While the Expo gave EVIT the opportunity to provide the community with information, free services and family fun, the school "gives back" all year long by training the community's future workforce. For instance, EVIT's automotive program places more students in jobs than any other high school automotive program in the nation, Downey said. And, the school's welding program has a 100 percent success rate in placing students in jobs, college or the military.

Most EVIT programs prepare students to test for professional credentials. For example, each year well over 90 percent of cosmetology students pass state exams to earn their license from the Arizona State Board of Cosmetology. Other examples of credentials EVIT students can test for: national certification as a Junior Culinarian, the national Child Development Associate Credential, American Welding Society certification, state and national certifications as emergency medical technicians, pharmacy technician certification, and much more.

A growing number of EVIT programs also provide students with the opportunity to earn dual enrollment college credit: 3D Animation, Early Childhood Education, Fashion, Interiors & Textiles, Information Technology & Engineering Careers, Multimedia Technologies, Radio/Audio Production, Video Production, Culinary Arts & Commercial Baking, Automotive Technologies, Aviation, Law Enforcement and Precision Machining Technologies.

But skills, certifications and college credit aren't the only ways EVIT gives back to students.

Queen Creek High School alumna Holli Lukens completed EVIT's fashion program in 2010. But she maintains that what she gained from that experience went far beyond sewing skills.

"I learned about life," she said. "EVIT helped me face the world with confidence."



# evit gives back annual expo



On Sat., Jan. 24, EVIT hosted its annual expo themed "EVIT Gives Back." Thanks to everyone that came out for the festivities! We look forward to seeing you next year

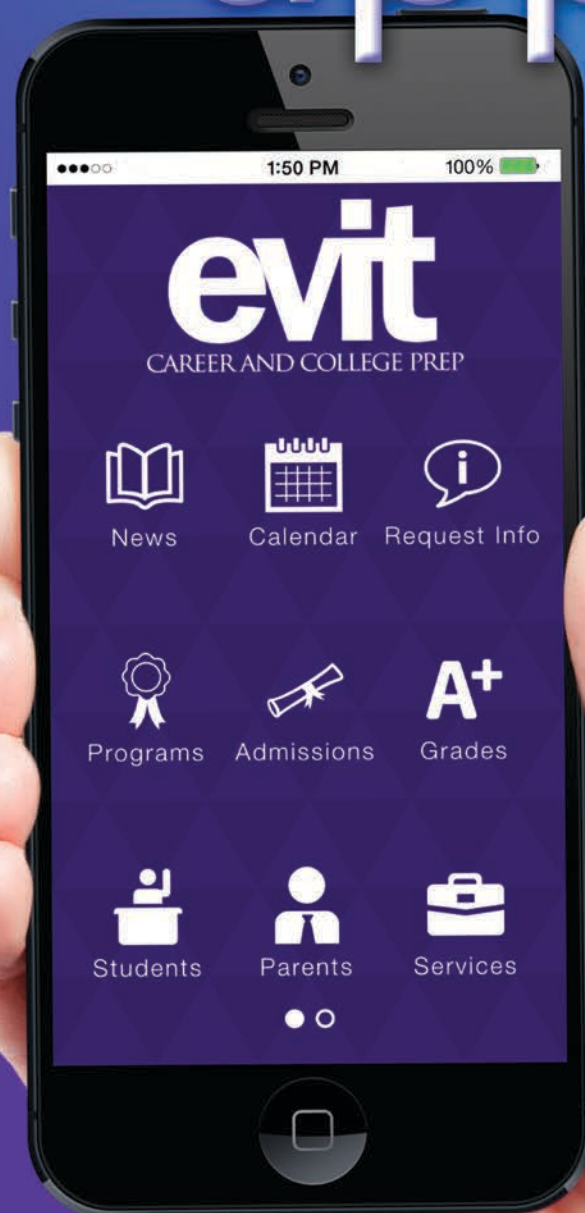


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## tel tech partners with evit for bicsi training

Tel Tech Networks Inc. has teamed up with the East Valley Institute of Technology to offer occupational training authorized by Building Industry Consulting Services International (BICSI). The new BICSI Authorized Training Facility classrooms are located at EVIT's Dr. A. Keith Crandell (Main) Campus, 1601 W. Main St., Mesa, and are designed to expand current course offerings and provide students and professionals with the skills necessary to progress in the communications technology industry.



Todd Cavanagh of Tel Tech Networks Inc. said the partnership will expand career options available to students enrolled in EVIT's Information Technology & Engineering Careers (iTEC) program.

"Tel Tech will help support and have access to world-class training while promoting careers in the trades, networking and electronics," he said.

Current plans outline a three-year transition period in which Tel Tech Networks will transition the program completely over to the school to fully support the program for the industry.

The two new classrooms include over 2,200 square feet of state-of-the-art communications infrastructure with four telecom racks, various types of fiber and copper connecting rooms, server cabinets, and audio/video equipment. Each room has a back board with a full complement of telecom equipment including Krone, BIX blocks, protector blocks, grounding bars, ladder racks and basket tray. Each classroom also has a rack with a full contingent of telecom equipment, including LIU, Cisco switches, and various patch panels with vertical and horizontal wire management.

EVIT's iTEC programs at the Main Campus include: Introduction to Information Technology & Engineering Careers, Cisco Networking Academy, Computer Programming & Mobile App Design, Digital Device Diagnostic & Repair, and Robotics Engineering. A Future Engineers program based on curriculum from Southern Methodist University is offered at EVIT's East Campus, 6625 S. Power Road.

Enrollment for 2015-16 is currently under way. Visit [www.evit.com](http://www.evit.com) for more information.



evit encourages students to pursue ‘non-trad’ careers

At the East Valley Institute of Technology, it’s normal to see girls providing security for events or rappelling down the fire tower and guys cutting and styling hair or taking a patient’s blood pressure. Known as “non-trads,” these students are training for careers where most of their gender rarely ventures.

“EVIT is a very open environment. It’s OK to be a girl in a law enforcement class, and there are guys who are in cosmetology,” said Claire Wright, 17, a law enforcement student from Mesa’s Mountain View High School. “It builds up your confidence.”

As part of its commitment to provide a workforce that meets the market-driven needs of business and industry, EVIT promotes the enrollment of non-traditional students training for careers in which individuals from one gender comprise less than 25 percent of those employed in the workforce.

Male students are considered non-trads in early childhood education, cosmetology, massage therapy, fashion/interior design, and all health programs. Female students are non-trads in automotive, collision repair, diesel, culinary arts, 3D animation, fire science, heating/air-conditioning, law enforcement, multimedia, precision machining, radio, video, welding and engineering programs.

The public safety programs of law enforcement and fire science always generate non-trad interest, according to counselor Pauline Acosta.

“Law enforcement and fire are very fraternal, but girls are very drawn to these professions. A lot of people don’t realize that these careers are often first responders. It’s predominantly a social services role even though it comes with the hard tactical. It’s the counseling and working with victims. The (female) non-trads do well in this,” Acosta said. “The girls also like the camaraderie and teamwork they experience in working with the guys.”

Bianca Cervantes, 18, from Ahwatukee Foothills’ Desert Vista High School, has grown up around boys and considers herself a tomboy. So it was natural for her to sign up for EVIT’s law enforcement program. She plans to join the National Guard or the Army and would eventually like to work for the FBI.

Cervantes likes “the action and the challenge” of law enforcement. As a female, “not only do you have to meet expectations; you have to exceed expectations,” she said.

Megan Toala, 17, from Queen Creek High School, became attracted to law enforcement and detective work by watching Scooby Doo as a young child. Plus, her father is a security guard and other relatives also work in law enforcement. “Coming to EVIT changed my point of view. I used to want to



work in police and work my way up to homicide work,” she said. Now she wants to go into law and become a prosecutor. To that end, Toala plans to major in criminology and criminal justice at Arizona State University.

Toala said her teachers at Queen Creek are very supportive of her enrollment at EVIT and her plans for the future. They even try to incorporate what she’s learning at EVIT into debates, discussions and class lessons. “They think EVIT’s cool,” she said.

EVIT’s also practical. EVIT students have a 95 percent high school graduation rate and two out of three go on to college or other post-secondary training, often using their EVIT skills to get a job to help pay for college. And, nearly every EVIT program leads to a professional credential. A dozen EVIT programs, including law enforcement and fire science, offer dual enrollment college credit.

EVIT provides 40 advanced career and technical education programs tuition-free to high school students who live in Mesa, Scottsdale, Fountain Hills, Apache Junction, Tempe, Chandler, Gilbert, Higley, Queen Creek and J.O. Combs districts. Tuition-based programs for adults are also offered with financial aid available to those who qualify. EVIT is accredited by AdvancED/NCA.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2015-16 year. For more information, visit [www.evit.com](http://www.evit.com).

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EVIT ECC  
at aasc conference



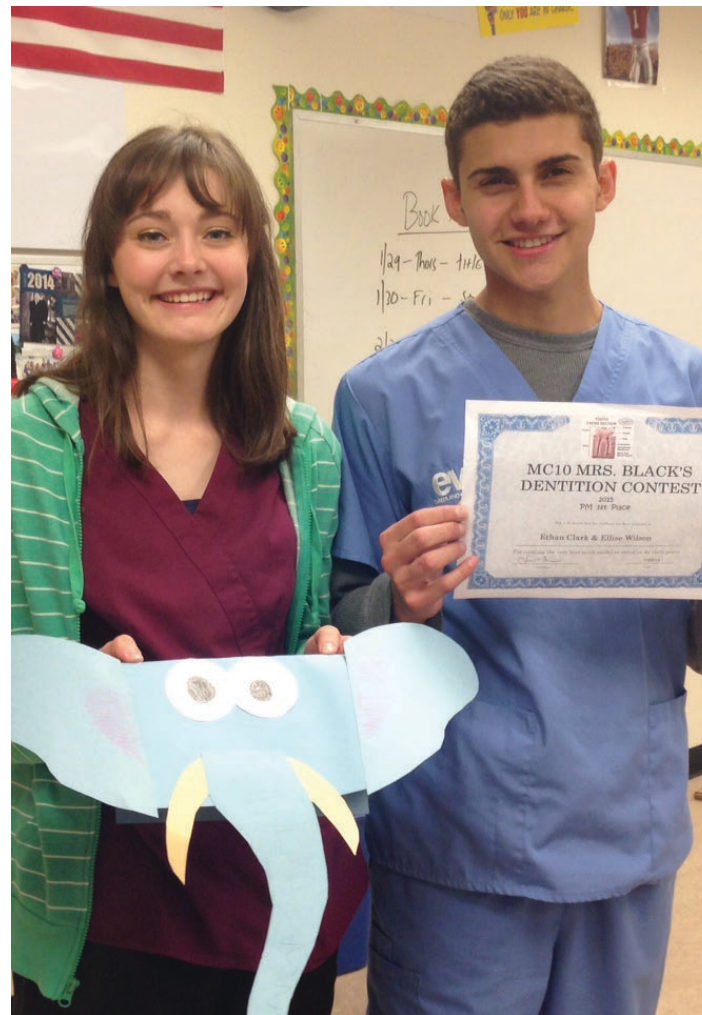
The EVIT East Campus ECC (Student Council) attended the State AASC (Arizona Association of Student Councils) for 3 days last weekend. They listened to inspiring guest speakers, had a lot of fun, and learned how to be better leaders at EVIT and in their own lives.



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# dentitions

in anatomy & physiology



Congratulations to recent winners of Mrs. Black's Dentition Contest. Students used marshmallows to make impressions of their teeth and then displayed them creatively. These are pretty awesome. AM session winners were Jazmine White & Daniella Hernandez. PM session winners were Ellise Wilson & Ethan Clark.

## we are **evit** MACGYVER MANN

MacGyver Mann, 21, completed EVIT's Aviation program in 2011. Since then, he has served as a missionary in Nicaragua for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and is now working as an insurance agent and studying finance at Arizona State University. MacGyver, who graduated from Chandler's Hamilton High School, recently visited EVIT to catch up with Superintendent Sally Downey.

He reflected on his EVIT experience and how it impacted his life:

"I became more prepared to be an adult than I did through my regularly scheduled high school classes ... What I was doing was not just for a grade or to appease a teacher's whim, but it was a practical dedication to an established future. At EVIT, if I did my assignment, it meant that I would be a safer pilot, a clearer communicator, and a more well-rounded person.

"Literally my life was in my hands as I took to the air twice a week for flight training. I was doing and living the 'What if?' scenarios that are stated and recited again and again in high school textbooks. I was answering the question other students asked in math and physics classes – 'When are we ever going to use this?'

"EVIT taught me more than how to study and be smart. It taught me responsibility, independence, and happiness. Above all else that I learned throughout my high school career, I affirmed that my passion in life is aviation ... This was made possible because of EVIT."



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# Adult Medical Assistant completion ceremony



On Fri., Jan. 30, EVIT Adult Medical Assistant students were honored for completing the program. The future medical assistants received their certificates of completion and an honorary pin.

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# veterinary assistant visits

phoenix herpetological society

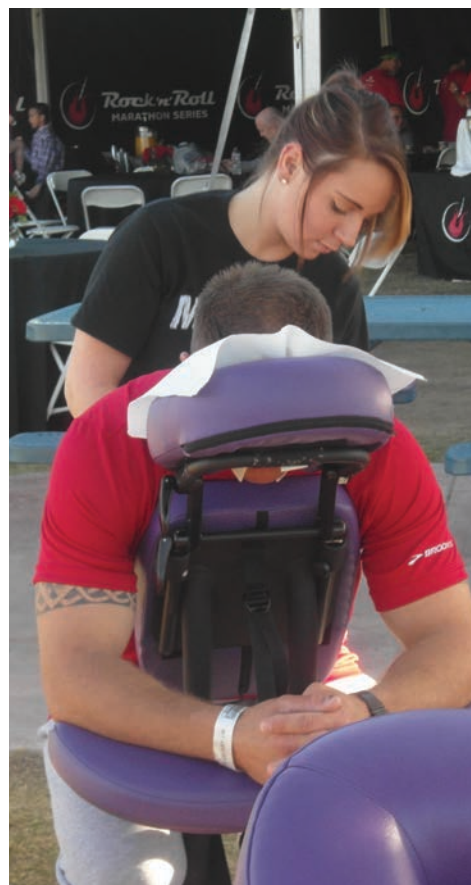


EVIT's Veterinary Assisting class visited the Phoenix Herpetological Society which is a non-profit organization that rescues, rehabilitates and adopts out reptiles.



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# massage therapy helps at p.f. chang's rock n roll marathon



On Sun., Jan. 18, EVIT Massage Therapy students treated runners to chair massages after the race in the VIP section.

# give kids a smile!

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EVIT's Dental Assistant & EVIT Culinary Arts programs and Pulseradio.fm helped out at the recent 10th annual Gives Kids a Smile event at A.T. Still University - Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health (ASDOH). Hundreds of children in need of dental care benefitted from the array of services that were provided at the school's dental clinic in Mesa. Similar events were hosted across the United States. Give Kids A Smile is a national program that was launched in 2003 by the American Dental Association. *Photos courtesy of A.T. Still University.*

Contribute to student programs and activities at the East Valley Institute of Technology and receive a **dollar-for-dollar tax credit.**

Help guarantee that students are able to experience all that EVIT has to offer as they prepare for college and/or a career.

Donate securely online through PayPal or download the Tax Credit Response Form by visiting [www.evit.com/donations](http://www.evit.com/donations).

The allowable tax credit limits are \$200 for a single individual or head of household or \$400 for a married couple filing a joint return.

Arizona tax law (ARS §43-1089.01) allows taxpayers a tax credit if they contribute to extracurricular activities in public schools. This tax credit is available to all Arizona individual taxpayers regardless of whether they have children in school.

For more information call (480) 461-4000



## GIVE TODAY!

[www.evit.com/donations](http://www.evit.com/donations)





EVIT News in Brief

REGISTER TODAY!

Enrollment applications are currently being accepted for the 2015-16 school year. Students can register online at [www.evit.com/admissions](http://www.evit.com/admissions). For more information about registration, contact Director of Enrollment Melissa Valenzuela at 461-4153.

TOP CHEF

Chef Carlton Brooks of EVIT’s Culinary Arts & Commercial Baking programs has been accepted into the prestigious American Academy of Chefs honor society, which represents the highest standards in the culinary industry. The academy mentors culinarians, awards scholarships and provides grants to working chefs to further their career. Congratulations, Carlton!



3D ANIMATION GRANT

EVIT’s 3D Animation program has won a \$5,000 grant from the Arizona Diamondbacks in the D-backs School Challenge. The money is going to be used to purchase 20 licenses of the ZBrush digital sculpting program, an industry standard and excellent for sculpting detailed characters and other objects. The D-backs are also sending EVIT 1,000 tickets in April and will be recognizing EVIT at an upcoming game. Great job, 3D Animation teachers Kelley Grantham and Cailon Earl!

VOTE FOR EVIT!

The East Valley Tribune is currently hosting its annual Best of Mesa competition at [www.eastvalleytribune.com](http://www.eastvalleytribune.com). Be sure to visit their website daily to vote for EVIT for Best Public (District) School and Bistro 13 as Best Restaurant. While you’re there, write in your favorite EVIT teacher for Best High School Teacher, and don’t forget to vote for EVIT as Best Workplace. Results will be announced on March 26. You



can vote once a day, every day until then. So let’s get out the vote for EVIT!

NATIONAL PUBLICITY

EVIT was featured in the February issue of Techniques, the national magazine for career and technical education. February’s article was about EVIT’s Class of 2010 project, in which we are tracking down alumni to find out what they are doing five years after CTE. EVIT will also be featured in March, April and May issues of Techniques.

HELP FOR VETERANS

Congresswoman Kyrsten Sinema and Congressman Matt Salmon, in conjunction with the Phoenix VA, Maricopa Integrated Health System, and the East Valley Institute of Technology, hosted a Veterans Healthcare, Benefits and Resources Clinic on Feb. 17 at EVIT’s Dr. A. Keith Crandall (Main) Campus, 1601 W. Main St., Mesa. Veterans were able to sign up for medical care, checked the status of existing primary care and other appointment requests, received one-on-one advising from VA benefits eligibility advisers, checked eligibility and signed up for Medicaid, and received information on a range of issues such as grief, military sexual trauma, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Veterans also received information on all VBA benefits, including compensation, pension, vocational and rehabilitation and employment, home loans and education opportunities.

CHANDLER SCIENCE SATURDAY



Several EVIT programs, The Pulse Radio, and The Great Globe Project will be featured during the free Chandler Science Saturday event 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Feb. 21. Come to downtown Chandler to see exhibits by the EVIT School of Health Sciences, Cosmetology, Early Childhood Education, Information Technology & Engineering Careers, Multimedia, Radio/Audio Production, and the Veterinary Assistant programs.

MESA PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCITECH EXPO

Also on Feb. 21, EVIT’s Aviation and Future Engineers

programs will be featured at the SciTech Expo hosted by Mesa Public Schools at Red Mountain High School, 7301 E. Brown Road, Mesa. This free event is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

FASHION SHOW

Mark your calendar for 6 p.m., April 30 and the annual Fashion, Interiors & Textiles Fashion Show. Tickets are available through the FIT program. Contact instructor Kim Oleson at 461-4141 for more information and to purchase tickets.

TRIP REDUCTION PROGRAM



In a partnership with Valley Metro, the EVIT Trip Reduction Program is designed to reduce single occupant vehicle (SOV) trips to the work site. If you carpool, vanpool, walk, bike or ride the bus to school you are considered an Alternate Mode User (AMU), and you can register to win quarterly prizes valued at \$25.

For more information, or to sign up as an alternative mode user, contact Lacy Davis at 480-461-4016 or e-mail [ldavis@evit.com](mailto:ldavis@evit.com). You can find more information about carpooling at [www.sharetheride.com](http://www.sharetheride.com) or bus route information at [www.valleymetro.com](http://www.valleymetro.com).

INTERIOR DESIGN WORKSHOP

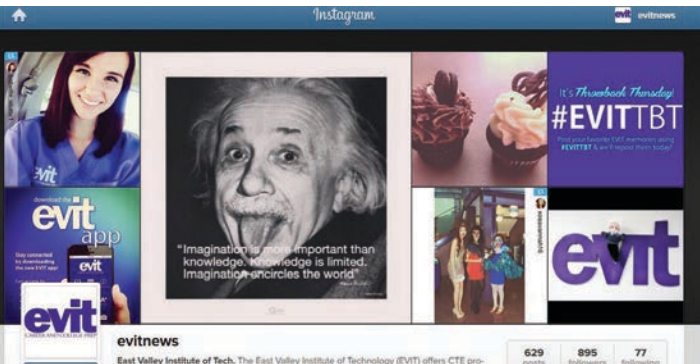
The East Valley Institute of Technology is hosting a six-week Interior Design Workshop for the public 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays from March 3 through April 7 at the Dr. A. Keith Crandall (Main) Campus, 1601 W. Main St., Mesa. Registration fee is \$75. Participants will make and take home projects from every class. Prize drawings will be offered on “graduation” day, April 7.

To register, contact workshop instructor Teresa Follmer at (480) 688-7463. Follmer has served on the advisory council for EVIT’s Fashion, Interiors & Textiles program for many years, and worked for Home Depot for 17 years. She now works as a designer for an independent cabinet company.



February Birthdays			
3	John Royere	17	David Schapira
7	Susan Bangerter	22	Pete Acosta
9	Michael Morris	23	Sheldon White
14	Karen Marsh	24	Ricardo Garcia-Fonseca
16	Wendy Udall	24	Shannon Perkins
17	Tricia Guerrero	25	Mark Pearson

March Birthdays			
1	Laurie Morehouse	17	Scott Montoya
3	Laura McKinley	17	Christian Vencill
6	Arturo Zamorano	18	Belinda Long
12	Leon Zamora	18	Anita Moody
15	Edith Perez	25	Sarah Liu
16	Randy Golding	29	Kathie Kopp
16	Shayna Stephens	30	Lou Ann Hoffman



Follow EVIT on Instagram

At time of print, we had **896 followers** on Instagram! You can follow on Instagram at: [instagram.com/evitnews](https://www.instagram.com/evitnews).



# EVIT FASHION SHOW

Thursday  
April 30th  
6pm

Located in  
the Culinary  
Banquet Hall



Tickets are  
available

In the  
FIT workroom