

# College vice president leads occupational training program

BY ANGELA GONZALES

agonzales@bizjournals.com

Clay Goodman has come a long way from running the fitness center at Estrella Mountain Community College.

He started that job in 1992 and went on to create a work force development program for the college in 1999 before working his way up to

## CLAY GOODMAN

**POSITION:** Vice president of occupational education

**ORGANIZATION:** Estrella Mountain Community College

**YEARS ON THE JOB:** With the college since 1992

**WEB:** [www.emc.maricopa.edu](http://www.emc.maricopa.edu)

Goodman

PROVIDED BY CLAY GOODMAN

his current post: vice president of occupational education at the community college.

Now, instead of facilitating workouts, Goodman is working with employers to help identify their training and work force development needs.

He said the recession has caused many Valley employers to cut back on training programs, or at least the number of employees they send to the community college.

To get a better feel for what employers need in 2010, Goodman is spearheading an employer survey that will be conducted by Estrella Mountain students beginning in January. He is working in conjunction with the Southwest Valley Chamber of Com-

merce to help West Valley towns and cities understand employers' needs.

"The chamber wants to know what they can do to support their member businesses and, from the college perspective, we want to know what kinds of training opportunities we're going to need to have now and in the future," Goodman said.

For example, Arizona Public Service Co.'s Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station about 50 miles west of Phoenix has close to 57 percent of its employees ready to retire within the next five years. To address this pending problem, APS created a program at Estrella Mountain for a nuclear technical program.

**INNOVATOR**  
Clay Goodman

"Estrella Mountain Community College has been recognized nationally as a leader for its innovative partnership with the nuclear industry," said Joe Waid, director of nuclear training at Palo Verde. "Our maintenance apprenticeship program is conducted in conjunction with the college, and we have also worked with them to develop radiation-protection courses."

Waid said the training being offered by the college is critical to Palo Verde and other local industries which, in turn, support the community.

Goodman just wants to make sure the work force of tomorrow is up to whatever challenge comes along.

"What we're trying to do is stay proactive and find out what those needs are so we can get things in place so when they're ready, we can go to work," he said.