



Business News

Leadership West projects take center stage

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Kathy Knecht, Leadership West executive director, submitted this article.

College awareness for middle-grade students, a wearable art show and college internships are among the programs that Leadership West's Class 17 will spotlight during "Synthesis Day."

The presentations will be from 7:30 a.m. to noon June 9 at Avondale City Council Chambers, 11465 W. Civic Center Drive.

Graduating Leadership West members will talk about the community projects they completed during their yearlong Leadership West class. Projects are selected for meeting a need in the community and demonstrating teamwork and leadership. Over the years, several Leadership West Synthesis Day projects have been recognized with "Best of the West" awards by Westmarc.

This year's projects include:

- Fashion Fantastico was a wearable art show, not a fashion show. It was a multi-media performance where the human body became a living, breathing, moving canvas. The May 14 event merged fashion, fine arts and performance to benefit arts education in the West Valley.

[Fashion Fantastico in Avondale](#)

- An expandable online virtual career, life skills and college awareness program for middle-grade students.

- Fall for the Arts Festival, a free family event that provides a sampling from numerous performance arts groups. Attendees will be able to engage in free dance lessons, talk with artists or watch a live performance.

- An economic development program, West Valley Work Internships Ready Community College Students, is a scholarship program for Estrella Mountain Community College students who accept non-paid internships with local businesses.

The presentations will be judged by a panel of West Valley leaders, and be given cash awards to be used to support the projects. The winning project will be displayed on a trophy that will be featured at Leadership West events throughout the next year.

Leadership West's goal is to cultivate leadership capital for the West Valley.



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