

PRESS RELEASE

Office of Marketing and Communications



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AWC breaks ground on manufacturing facility

Future48 Workforce Accelerator to expand Wellton Manufacturing Training Center

Yuma, Ariz. (February 25, 2025) – Arizona Western Entrepreneurial College will break ground on a new manufacturing accelerator facility in Wellton later this week. The 5,600-square-foot multi-purpose facility will equip the Wellton Manufacturing Training Center to offer training in electrical technology, advanced manufacturing, broadband fiber optics, and solar installation.

“The Wellton Workforce Accelerator is a game-changer for our region, driving economic growth, high-wage job creation, and industry innovation,” said **Reetika Dhawan**, CEO of Arizona Western Entrepreneurial College & Vice President of Workforce & Healthcare Programs. “By strategically aligning with the Aerospace & Defense, Advanced Manufacturing, and Telecommunications industries, this initiative will equip local talent with cutting-edge skills, attract new investments, and strengthen Yuma County’s position as a hub for innovation and technology. With its commitment to education, industry collaboration, and workforce development, the accelerator will not only empower individuals but also elevate the entire community, ensuring long-term prosperity for Arizona’s economy.”

Specialized training and equipment will increase the skill level of the local workforce, qualifying students for entry into the rapidly expanding, high-tech industries throughout the Yuma area. Program development will be strategically customized to meet the needs of AWC’s industry partners, which include, but are not limited to: TRAX International, the United States Army Yuma Proving Ground, the General Motor Proving Grounds, the Gowan Company, ALLO Fiber, D&H Electric, Sunray Electric, and Yuma Electric.

The Accelerator is supported by a \$3.6 million investment from the [Arizona Commerce Authority](#) (ACA) through the Future48 Workforce Accelerator program to design, construct, and equip the future manufacturing facility. The building was designed by local engineering firm Sternco Engineers and will be built by Pilkington Construction Company.

The Groundbreaking Ceremony will take place on **Thursday, February 27 at 11:00 a.m.** at the Wellton Manufacturing Training Center, 28851 E County 12th St, Wellton, AZ. Arizona Governor **Katie Hobbs** will be a featured speaker at the event.

The media is invited to attend this event.

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About the Arizona Commerce Authority

The [Arizona Commerce Authority](#) (ACA) is the state's leading economic development organization with a streamlined mission to grow and strengthen Arizona's economy. The ACA uses a three-pronged approach to advance the overall economy: attract, expand, create - attract out-of-state companies to establish operations in Arizona; work with existing companies to expand their business in Arizona and beyond; and help entrepreneurs create new Arizona businesses in targeted industries. For more information, please visit azcommerce.com and follow the ACA on X @azcommerce.