

ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE

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Local Community Leader Appointed To Head the Southwest Skill Center

AVONDALE, Ariz. - Adolfo Gamez has been appointed to head the Southwest Skill Center located at Estrella Mountain Community College in Avondale. Gamez, a recruiter at the college and long-time community leader, will assume his new duties later this month.

Southwest community leaders met with district and college officials to discuss the advantages of connecting the center with the college's leadership. The connection expands workforce training to the West Valley by combining the Southwest Skill Center with current college programs and services. Local leaders have long advocated the new arrangement.

The Southwest Skill Center opened in 1999 as a branch of the Maricopa Skill Center and has had sparse enrollment in its training programs. Under the new arrangement, the Southwest Skill Center will be part of Estrella Mountain Community College and its staff will report to college officials.

Gamez's appointment was well received by the local leadership, who pledged support of the new development. Gamez, who also serves as mayor of the City of Tolleson, promised closer ties with the community and more responsiveness to local workforce training needs. "The input of our local leaders will make the Southwest Skill Center a key component of healthy economic development for the entire region," Gamez said.

A community advisory group will assist Gamez and college staff in the transition. College officials are excited about the prospects to better serve the Southwest valley and wholeheartedly embrace a unified college and skill center arrangement.