



**Greater Yuma**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP



## Greater Yuma EDC Investors Making News

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## Design Day Winners Blend Efficiency and Entrepreneurship

A drone for pollinating date palm trees takes the top prize at the annual event, the culmination of a year of intense project work by UA College of Engineering students.

Jill Goetz, UA College of Engineering, May 3, 2017

Art imitated life at the University of Arizona's 15th annual Engineering Design Day. The biggest winner among the projects on display was a drone designed to do what bees do best.

The semiautonomous aerial vehicle, which was featured in a video, even sounded like a swarm of bees flying over Medjool date palm trees at a nursery in Yuma, Arizona. The team of seniors that built it won the Raytheon Award for Best Overall Design.

"Existing drones used to propagate the trees drop pollen from nylon stockings, which is not very efficient," said systems engineering senior Victor Cortez. "Our drone has an automated 45-gram pollen canister that drops a precise payload of pollen over each tree and can pollinate 12 trees in one flight."

That could yield big savings in time and money for farmers, and even reduce injuries.

"Fewer workers will have to go up in these palm trees, which are very spiky," said Sara Harders, a senior in agricultural and biosystems engineering in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, whose department sponsored the project. The team is one of several fine-tuning their prototypes for commercialization.

Such ingenuity — with an eye on the bottom line and a spirit of entrepreneurship — was in abundance at the College of Engineering's annual Design Day extravaganza on Monday. More than 500 seniors presented collaborative projects hatched over nine months. Their designs addressed real-life problems posed mostly by external corporate sponsors but also by UA departments and colleges.

"This is really the essence of engineering," said Jeff Goldberg, dean of the College of Engineering. "Working with faculty mentors and industry sponsors, our students are helping to solve real-life problems — just as they will be doing throughout their careers."

Design Day gave many students a career boost, with job offers aplenty and industry-sponsored awards totaling more than \$25,000.

Good Drones, Bad Drones

Another team won big for technology it developed to take down drones. The Anti-Drone Device project, sponsored by Raytheon, won the TRAX International Award for Best Implementation of Agile Methodology.



Engineering students demonstrate how RoboUmp, their robotic umpire, works. The project utilizes

the accuracy of lidar, a pulsed laser used to measure distances, and LED technology. (Photo: David Hostetler)

"Commercial drones aren't usually used for espionage, but their video-recording capabilities can pose a threat to privacy," said systems engineering major Shivani Patel. "There are military-grade solutions to prevent spying from drones, but in the commercial market, there isn't a device that is autonomous, legal and safe for the everyday consumer to disable drones."

Seniors in chemical and environmental engineering made a strong showing on Design Day. Many of their projects aimed to conserve water. One project for recycling dairy wastewater for Arizona-based Shamrock Foods won the first-place Bly Family Award for Innovation in Energy Production, Supply or Use. Another, for converting wastewater to drinking water, won the second-place innovation award from the Bly Family, along with the Arizona Technology Council Foundation Award for Best Engineering Analysis.

[Read more ...](#)



## Students From China Toured 1st Bank Yuma



Students attending Tianfu College of SWUFE from Chengdu, China enjoyed a bank tour at our 18th St. & 4th Avenue branch. The students are currently visiting for 3 months to study English and Business at NAU-YUMA. During the last Chamber of Commerce mixer the scholars inquired about visiting the bank for a tour, the bank was happy to accommodate them, as we are with any student group that wants to learn more about financial literacy or banking. If your

school or organization would like to schedule a tour or learn more about our financial literacy program - please email [jbyrd@1stbankyuma.com](mailto:jbyrd@1stbankyuma.com) for more information.



## Unveiling: New Somerton City Hall Opens Doors On June 1 Ribbon-Cutting Event

By Cesar Neyoy, Bajo El Sol May 19, 2017 Updated May 19, 2017

SOMERTON – City government will make the move next month to a new building that will give employees added elbow room.

The new Somerton City Hall will open its doors for tours by the public following a ribbon-cutting ceremony June 1 at 6 p.m. Employees are then scheduled to move into the new building the second week of June.

"It's an honor to be part of this," Mayor Jose Yopez said. "It's a building that we have needed for a long time."

The two-story building, designed by LEA Architects of Phoenix and built by LPC Construction of Yuma, is located on State Avenue, just north of the site where City Hall has served the city for decades.

The nearly \$3.3 million building is financed with a voter approved .08 percent sales tax. Construction began in April 2016.

Yuma County Supervisor Martin Porchas, Somerton's mayor when the city sought approval of the tax, and current City Councilman Carlos Gonzalez will be speakers at the the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The public is invited to the event which is also expected to be attended by public officials from around the area.

The current City Hall, located at the northeast corner of State and Main Street, has become too cramped to accommodate all of the city's departments and offices, Somerton officials said.

The new building measures nearly 13,000 square feet, more than twice the size of the current City Hall.

Besides providing employees more space, the new building brings together all but two city departments under a single roof, for the public's convenience, said Yopez.

"Residents will have a single place to pay for water service, apply for permits for park events, get dog licenses – all those services will be there in a larger and more centralized building," he said.

The only city departments that won't make the move to the new City Hall are the police and fire departments, which are housed together in the Somerton Public Safety Facility at 445 E. Main St.

Inside the new City Hall, the city council chambers are equipped with multiple screens for presentations, and one wall can be shifted to provide more or less capacity to the room.

**On the north side of the building, 1,000 square feet of space has been reserved for use by Arizona Western College as classroom space.**

Yepez said the city hasn't decided what to do with the current City Hall building following the move. Options include using it to house the city's Chamber of Commerce, a museum or a restaurant, or demolishing it."

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## AWC To Offer Classes In Somerton's City Hall Building

Madison Kimbro

Posted: May 24, 2017 05:50 PM MST

Updated: May 24, 2017 11:46 PM MST

SOMERTON, Ariz. - Starting this summer, Arizona Western College will now be offering classes at Somerton's new City Hall building. Somerton residents who once had to travel to AWC's main campus in Yuma will now be able to go to classes locally starting this August.

The city plans to set aside 1,000 square feet of space for college classes in their new City Hall facility. The City Council approved this agreement for which the college will rent the space for 10 years. City Manager of Somerton, Bill Lee, tell us what this means for the locals of the city.

"I think it's going to be great for our community, having an Arizona Western College presence. You know in our city hall building. It's going to allow for classes to be held throughout the day...They currently are, at our middle school in Somerton, but they're only able to offer evening classes, so they'll be able to program classes throughout the days and weekends in our new facilities," said Lee.

The new City Hall building will open its doors on June 17th, with a ribbon cutting on June 1st with City Mayor Jose Yepez and many other city officials in attendance. For more information you can head to [www.cityofsomerton.com/city-administration.html](http://www.cityofsomerton.com/city-administration.html)

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# STEDY

**SOUTHWEST TECHNICAL  
EDUCATION DISTRICT OF YUMA**

*Preparing Today's Students for Tomorrow's Workforce*

## **STEDY Students Make History - First to Receive STEDY Program Completion Certificates**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017

The Southwest Technical Education District of Yuma (STEDY) governing board recognized the first students in the district's short history to receive program completion certificates.

In conjunction with Arizona Western College, the students received the certificate of completion in the Community Health Care Worker program.

This certification of completion designates these students as having acquired the essential skills to become a community health care worker, also known as a Promotora/o.

The curriculum in this program is focused on the integration of the physical, emotional and spiritual aspects of the individual while providing the philosophical foundation and technical skills required to meet individual health needs.

These students learned to build individual and community capacity by increasing their health knowledge and self-sufficiency through outreach, education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy. These students are now prepared for frontline community health care work serving as liaisons between health/social services and the community.

In addition to demonstrating their knowledge and professional skills required for community health advocacy, the students had to successfully demonstrate their competency in communication, critical thinking, ethical decision-making, and a comprehensive skill base with a foundation of the sciences.

The intensive two-year program required students to attend the program classes outside of their regular school day. The students demonstrated their commitment over four semesters at Arizona Western College, participating alongside adult learners, while ensuring they maintained a 2.0 grade point average.

For more information please contact the STEDY office at [928-366-5884](tel:928-366-5884).

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# Gowan Milling



## Gowan Company's New Butte Herbicide Approved For California Rice

Western FarmsPress April 25,2017

[Gowan Company](#), plus partners SDS Biotech and Nissan, announce that the rice herbicide benzobicyclon, and the end use product Butte, have received Section 3 registrations from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

Butte is a granular herbicide which combines the HPPD inhibitor benzobicyclon with the ALS inhibitor halosulfuron widely used in rice.

Butte herbicide controls a wide range of broadleaf, grass, and sedge weeds. It's intended as an early-season treatment in an integrated rice weed control program.

With herbicide resistance rapidly developing in key rice weeds, Butte offers growers a new mode of action to control weeds which may have developed resistance to older chemistries.

According to the Gowan Company press release, Butte's new mode of action in rice, combined with good crop safety and weed control, makes it a good tool for California rice producers.

Butte will be available to growers in limited quantities in Spring 2017

[gowanco.com](http://gowanco.com)



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