Greater Yuma EDC
Investors Making News

April 26, 2016 Issue

• Flake Introduces New Bill To Establish Flexible Guest Worker Pilot Program
• Announcement From KHS
• Gila Ridge And San Luis Students Take Top Honors At Conference
• YRMC Appoints New Executive To Help Grow Partnerships
Demand-driven pilot program would require employers seek an available U.S. worker before utilizing a guest worker.

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) today introduced the Willing Workers and Willing Employers Act, a pilot guest worker program designed to address the gap that currently exists between temporary visa programs for seasonal workers and the H-1B visa program for highly-skilled immigrants.

The 10-year-long pilot program established by the bill would:

Admit workers to the United States that have less than a bachelor’s degree to do year-round, non-farm work
Create a flexible cap for registered positions ranging from 65,000 to 85,000 a year to match economic demand
Provide strict requirements that employers must seek an available U.S. worker before utilizing a guest worker under this program
Allow employers and employees greater portability by enabling workers to change jobs and work for any employer who has tested the labor market and proved that they are unable to hire an American worker for the position
During the pilot program, the bill would require a study to determine the effects of the program on wages, employment, economic growth, welfare use, and government services to determine if the program should be continued.

To ensure security and compliance, E-Verify will be mandatory for all employers participating in the program and other requirements.

“This kind of flexible, market-based visa program designed to better meet economic demand is exactly the approach we need to bring U.S.-immigration policy into the 21st century,” said Flake.
For Immediate Release

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Kofa SkillsUSA chapter named ‘Model of Excellence’ finalist
Second year in a row the KHS chapter will compete at nationals in KY

Yuma, AZ - For the second year in a row, Kofa High School has been invited to SkillsUSA Nationals in Louisville, KY to compete in the Chapter Excellence Program- Models of Excellence.

The program focuses on honoring the best SkillsUSA chapters nationwide based on student efforts. “The SkillsUSA Models of Excellence finalists demonstrated high-value workplace skills such as communication, responsibility, integrity and organizational skills. These are critical to success in the workplace,” said Tim Lawrence, executive director of SkillsUSA. “The hands-on approach of this program actualizes the SkillsUSA mission to empower students and improve the quality of America’s skilled workforce.”

Sponsored by Lowe’s Companies Inc., the SkillsUSA Models of Excellence program honors the best chapters nationwide based on student efforts in implementing the SkillsUSA Framework of personal skills, workplace skills and technical skills, all grounded in academics. The program gives SkillsUSA members an opportunity to apply the knowledge of their trade area with professional skills such as goal setting, organization, teamwork and evaluation. Lowe’s sponsors the activities and provides the 24 chapters with a $2,000 grant.

“Lowe’s is honored to support a program that represents the very best in student achievement, intentional learning and community involvement,” said Troy Dally, senior vice president of Lowe’s. “Programs such as this are vital because quality SkillsUSA chapters represent our future workforce and reflect the communities in which they reside.”

For more information, please contact Lorie Honeycutt at (928) 502-4680 or lhoneycutt@yumaunion.org
Students from Gila Ridge and San Luis high schools took high honors in a state conference in Tucson recently.

“Our group did pretty well,” said Tim Morrison, physical education/health department chairman at San Luis High School.

Students from the two high schools competed in a state conference for the Educators Rising student organization. Educators Rising is a national movement dedicated to bringing students into the teaching profession early, by offering hands-on teaching experience, sustaining their interest in the career and helping them cultivate skills needed to be successful educators, according to the organization’s national website.

“We actually had many eligible for nationals, but our district only (pays for) its first-place winners,” to attend the national conference, Morrison said. “So we’re going to attempt to raise funds to take a few others. I don’t think we’re going to be able to make enough money to take everybody who qualified. But I’d like to take first and second place winners.”

The school also had three second-place winners and one group finish in first place.

One competition team from San Luis High took first place in the impromptu lesson planning category.

Morrison explained how the competition works: “They would go into a room and pretend that they’re subs, like they had to cover for somebody. And they would get 20 minutes and a scenario to come up with a lesson plan for that day for those students. They would actually enact that lesson plan.”

It’s a challenging concept, Morrison noted.
“You have 20 minutes to plan. You have no idea what's going to be on the paper. And then you do it. And that was pretty cool because we've never done that competition in the past.”

Gila Ridge students represented Yuma very well, said GRHS Principal Shawn Wehrer.

Gila Ridge had two first-place finishers Ashley Chairez in the Instructional Support category and the team of Emily Ramos, Vanessa Baltazar and Karla Renteria in the Theme Development competition.

Teacher Cristina Delgado said she was very proud of her students who competed.

“My students did great,” the career and technical education teacher said.

The national Educators Rising Conference this year will be June 24-27 at Boston University.
Yuma Regional Medical Center recently appointed Justin Farren to vice president of strategy and development so that he may ensure the integration of services and increase collaboration with physicians and other outside providers.

Farren has been a member of the YRMC team since 2013 as director of business development. Early last year, he was promoted to administrative director of strategy and business development.

According to a YRMC news release, Farren obtained an MBA in organizational behavior and strategy from Brigham Young University. Before joining YRMC, Farren held various positions at Sanford Health and GE Healthcare, along with consulting engagements with large hospital and commercial insurance providers.

“Justin brings a wealth of experience and knowledge in the areas of strategy management, process improvement, and business intelligence,” Dr. Robert Trenschel, president and CEO of YRMC, noted in the release. “His contribution in the organization is vast, from leading process improvement work with bedside caregivers, to advising our executive team and hospital board on strategic opportunities.”

Farren also maintains a pulse on industry trends, supports YRMC’s efforts to be prepared for the future of healthcare and demonstrates commitment to the community that YRMC serves, Trenschel said.
The position, Farren said, is an elevation of his position as administrative director of strategy and business development. “My new position is really to prepare YRMC for the future of healthcare and ensuring we are delivering on our mission to improve the health and well-being of the individuals, families and communities we serve. It’s also making sure that we are offering the right services, making sure that we are providing the right level of healthcare in the community not just as it relates to the hospital, but as it relates to where do we need to grow, who do we need to partner with in the community to make sure that we are offering the appropriate healthcare services.”

Collaboration is a large part of Farren’s goals in this position, he said. “Some of the specifics would be to unify our inpatients and ambulatory operations. The inpatient operation is really the hospital. One of the key strategies is to integrate what we are doing in the hospital and what we are doing in our clinics.”

“Another is how do we increase collaborative partnerships with our physician partners?” Farren added. “That’s a key goal that we have. How do we create opportunities to increase collaboration and partnership with physicians that the hospital does not employ? They are independent physicians but we need to make sure that we have structures in place that allows us to partner with them and be more collaborative with the medical community.”

YRMC’s location, Farren said, is an advantage. “YRMC is uniquely positioned in the country to really reshape healthcare delivery. We have a single hospital facility, we have a very collaborative group of physicians in the medical community and healthcare is changing. We are well-positioned for that change and essentially reshaping the care delivery model.” Farren also noted that the Yuma area itself is beneficial. “We have more of an opportunity than a lot of urban environments like Phoenix where a lot of those hospitals in those arenas are more focused on how do they compete with each other, and we can really focus on delivering to the needs of the community.”

“I think that one of the things that really makes me excited to take on this new role is the level of commitment from our volunteer boards and our executive leaders and the clinicians. The support staff in this organization makes me very humbled and proud to be a part of the YRMC team.”