

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST

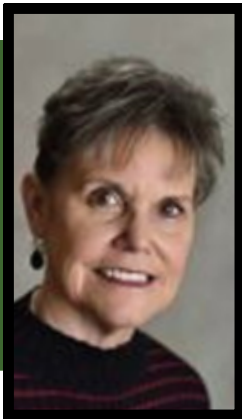
**NATIONAL
WELLNESS
MONTH**

As summer transitions into the busy fall season, August is an excellent time for businesses to evaluate goals, strengthen customer relationships, and prepare for upcoming opportunities. Reviewing operations, investing in employee development, and planning for seasonal demand can position businesses for continued success.

Business owners are encouraged to take advantage of networking opportunities, workforce training programs, and partnerships with local chambers of commerce and economic development organizations. Collaboration among businesses, community leaders, and local governments strengthens the region and helps attract new investment while supporting existing employers.

August is a great time to focus on simple, healthy habits that help you feel your best. Stay hydrated, beat the desert heat by planning outdoor activities during the cooler morning or evening hours, and take advantage of local wellness resources to support your physical and mental health. Small, consistent steps can make a big difference all month long.





A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Tami Urganbaeh

Dear Mohave County Businesses,

As we close another fiscal year, I want to take a moment to thank our business community, elected officials, regional partners, and residents for helping make FY26 a year of remarkable progress. Economic development is a team effort, and this year's accomplishments reflect what can be achieved when we work together toward a shared vision for growth.

When we established our goals for FY26, we set ambitious targets to expand our business recruitment pipeline and strengthen opportunities for investment throughout our community. Thanks to the dedication of our partners and the continued confidence businesses have in our region, we exceeded those expectations.

Our business attraction pipeline grew from 11 active companies to 53 prospective projects—a 382% increase over the course of the year. These opportunities represent a diverse mix of industries, including manufacturing, warehousing and logistics, mining, food processing, housing, hospitality, retail, and recreation. Together, these projects demonstrate growing confidence in our community as a place to invest, innovate, and grow.

One of our primary objectives was to facilitate the creation of 150 new jobs. Through active recruitment and business expansion efforts, our current pipeline includes projects representing approximately 179 potential jobs, positioning our community to exceed this important milestone as projects continue to move forward.

Throughout the year, we also worked closely with businesses navigating expansion opportunities while collaborating with regional, state, and local partners to address infrastructure needs, site readiness, utility capacity, permitting, and workforce development. These collaborative efforts are laying the groundwork for long-term, sustainable economic growth and ensuring our community remains competitive for future investment.

Several exciting projects advanced during FY26, including the continued expansion of Interstate Warehousing, new opportunities in advanced energy infrastructure, hydroponic agriculture, data center development, pistachio processing, and new commercial and hospitality investments. While many of these projects remain in various stages of development, they reflect the increasing interest businesses have in choosing our community for future growth. The business job growth goal was 150 but we achieved 200 new jobs with an additional 140 to be announced in the near future.

The accomplishments of FY26 are more than statistics—they represent new opportunities for families, entrepreneurs, existing businesses, and future generations. Every project, partnership, and conversation contributes to building a stronger and more resilient local economy.

As we begin Fiscal Year 2027, our momentum continues to build. We anticipate even greater growth as additional projects advance, new investments are secured, and partnerships continue to strengthen. Our focus remains on supporting existing businesses, attracting high-quality employers, improving infrastructure readiness, and creating an environment where businesses of every size can succeed.

The future is bright, and we are excited about what lies ahead. Thank you to our local businesses, elected officials, community organizations, and regional partners for your continued collaboration and commitment. Together, we are creating lasting economic opportunities that will benefit our community for years to come.

Here's to an even stronger FY27.

Best Regards,

Tami



MOHAVE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

*From the Desk
of Michelle*



Plan Now to Expand Your Business Through Trade Shows and Conferences

One of the most effective ways for small businesses to grow is by stepping outside their day-to-day operations and connecting with customers, suppliers, industry experts, and potential business partners. Trade shows and conferences provide valuable opportunities to discover new trends, learn best practices, build relationships, and identify new markets.

For businesses in Mohave County, these events offer far more than educational sessions. They provide access to industry leaders, innovative technologies, workforce development resources, financing opportunities, and potential customers from across Arizona and beyond. Whether your company operates in manufacturing, tourism, retail, construction, professional services, healthcare, technology, or agriculture, attending industry events can be a worthwhile investment in your business's future.

As you begin planning for 2027, consider opportunities offered by organizations such as the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA), U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), Small Business Development Council (SBDC), Arizona Small Business Association (ASBA), Arizona Technology Council, and industry-specific trade associations. Events such as AZBizCon bring together entrepreneurs, business leaders, exhibitors, and resource

providers for networking, education, and business development. The SBA offers workshops and matchmaking programs designed to help businesses pursue government contracting opportunities, while ACA programs provide training, coaching, and resources to help businesses grow and scale.

Manufacturers, suppliers, and technology companies should also consider regional and national industry conferences, including events focused on advanced manufacturing, semiconductors, logistics, and emerging technologies. Likewise, tourism and hospitality businesses can benefit from conferences that provide insight into travel trends, destination marketing, and visitor engagement strategies. Like the Local First Arizona Rural Policy Forum, held August 5–7 in Kingman, convenes leaders and stakeholders to discuss issues, opportunities, and solutions that support Arizona's rural communities and the Arizona Governor's Conference on Tourism which will be held this month on August 12–14, 2026, in Tucson. The conference is Arizona's premier tourism industry gathering and provides valuable educational sessions, networking opportunities, and insight into statewide tourism trends and marketing strategies.

The greatest value of attending a conference often comes from the

connections made and the follow-up that occurs afterward. A single event can lead to new customers, supplier relationships, partnerships, and ideas that contribute to long-term business growth.

Planning Tip: Many 2027 conferences and trade shows open registration months in advance. Businesses that plan early often benefit from discounted registration fees, preferred exhibitor locations, and more opportunities to schedule meetings with key contacts. Before attending, establish clear objectives—whether generating leads, finding suppliers, exploring new markets, recruiting talent, or learning about industry trends—to maximize your return on investment.

Mohave County businesses are a vital part of our local economy. By taking advantage of trade shows, conferences, workshops, and professional development opportunities, business owners can gain valuable knowledge, expand their networks, and position their companies for future success.

For assistance identifying industry-specific events and business development resources, contact Mohave County Economic Development. We are committed to helping local businesses connect with opportunities that support innovation, expansion, and long-term prosperity throughout Mohave County.



Back to Business Season

By Brooke Barks

As summer winds down, August becomes an important turning point for many workplaces. Vacations wrap up, schedules settle, and teams begin re-engaging with projects that will shape the rest of the year. This month offers a natural opportunity to reset, refocus, and rebuild momentum.

One effective way to do this is by reviewing progress from the first half of the year and identifying what deserves attention next. For example, a team might look at January through July reports, highlight a few accomplishments, and note areas that need improvement. Creating a simple list of what is on track and what needs attention can make priorities clearer, and a brief check-in with a manager or coworkers can confirm where to concentrate efforts.

August also encourages a return to more consistent work routines after a flexible summer. Small actions such as cleaning up an email inbox, refreshing calendars with current deadlines, organizing workspaces, or updating daily task lists can make work feel more structured and efficient again. Even ten minutes spent reorganizing can improve clarity and productivity for the entire week.

This month is also a great time to reconnect with colleagues. As more team members come back from time away, a quick “welcome back” message, a short touch-base meeting, or a simple update on shared documents can bring everyone into alignment. Updating shared folders, asking teammates if they need support, or confirming what each person is focusing on can strengthen collaboration and help projects move forward smoothly.

With fall approaching, August becomes a preparation month for one of the busiest periods of the year. Reviewing upcoming deadlines, preparing any materials needed for September, updating spreadsheets or trackers, and even completing one project early can reduce stress later on. Using this time to rebuild energy and organize upcoming tasks sets a strong foundation for a productive and successful finish to the year.

More than just the end of summer, August is a strategic moment that helps teams refocus, reconnect, and move forward with purpose and confidence. By embracing this back to business season and taking small but meaningful steps, we position ourselves for growth, momentum, and a strong close to the year.



MOHAVE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SCENIC OVERLOOK ADA TRAIL

Cerbat Foothills Recreation Area
1197 S US Highway 93, Kingman, AZ

SCENIC OVERLOOK ADA TRAIL AT COYOTE PASS

Mohave County is excited to welcome residents and visitors to the newly opened Scenic Overlook ADA Trail at Coyote Pass—an accessible outdoor destination created to ensure people of all abilities can enjoy the remarkable beauty of Arizona's public lands. After nearly two years of planning, development, and coordination among dedicated partners, the trail now leads users to a stunning overlook that highlights the unique landscape of our region.

The photos featured in this newsletter capture moments from the trail's dedication, recognizing key contributors including Buster Johnson (*thank you for sharing ARPA funds for part of the project*), Amanda Dodson and Matthew Driscoll with the Bureau of Land Management, Mohave County Public Works, and among others who played an important role in bringing this project to life. We invite you to experience this new community asset and celebrate the continued progress toward accessible and inclusive outdoor recreation across Mohave County.

Exploring the new Scenic Overlook .8 mile ADA Trail at Coyote Pass is a perfect way to enjoy the beauty of Mohave County—but don't forget to keep cool while you do it! Bring plenty of water, wear light clothing, and take breaks in the shade when possible or needed. Whether you're out for a quick stroll or soaking in that gorgeous overlook, a little preparation keeps the adventure refreshing. Enjoy the trail, stay hydrated, and make the most of Arizona's sunshine—safely!

EASY BREEZY TRAIL TIPS



BUSTER JOHNSON, MATTHEW DRISCOLL,
AMANDA DODSON, TAMI URSENBACH,
MICHELLE LOEBER



BUSTER JOHNSON NEXT TO
DEDICATION SIGN



RIBBION CUTTING CEREMONY - ADA TRAIL AT COYOTE PASS



SCENIC OVERLOOK ADA TRAIL AT COYOTE PASS



MOHAVE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Innovation Starts Here: Building the Future at Mohave College's Advanced Manufacturing Training Center and Makerspace

By Tami Ursenbach

Every great product begins with an idea. The challenge is turning that idea into reality.

Whether you're an entrepreneur developing your first prototype, a manufacturer looking to train employees on new technology, or a student exploring a career in advanced manufacturing, Mohave College's Advanced Manufacturing Training Center (AMTC) and Maker Space are helping transform ideas into innovation.

As manufacturing continues to evolve, today's workforce requires more than traditional skills. Advanced manufacturing relies on automation, precision machining, robotics, computer-aided design (CAD), additive manufacturing, and digital technologies. Companies need employees who can adapt to changing technologies and operate sophisticated equipment with confidence.

The Advanced Manufacturing Training Center was created to meet that need.

The AMTC provides hands-on training using industry-standard equipment and real-world applications, preparing students and incumbent workers for careers in one of Arizona's fastest-growing sectors. Businesses can partner with Mohave College to develop customized training programs that improve employee skills, increase productivity, and help companies remain competitive in today's economy.

Just as exciting is the College's Makerspace—a place where creativity meets technology.



Pictured - Ryan Walker in the Mohave College's Advanced Manufacturing Training Center (AMTC), where innovation comes to life through hands-on training and cutting-edge technology. The facility equips students, entrepreneurs, and local businesses with the tools and skills needed to succeed in today's advanced manufacturing industry, while the adjacent Maker Space helps transform ideas into prototypes and products.

The Makerspace gives entrepreneurs, inventors, students, hobbyists, and small businesses access to equipment and technology that might otherwise be out of reach. From creating prototypes and testing product ideas to learning new fabrication techniques, the Makerspace offers an environment where innovation can flourish.

For many entrepreneurs, the journey from concept to product can be expensive. Having access to advanced tools, knowledgeable instructors, and collaborative workspaces allows innovators to refine designs, solve problems, and move ideas toward commercialization without the significant upfront investment of purchasing specialized equipment.

These resources also support existing manufacturers throughout Mohave County. Companies can explore new production methods, introduce employees to emerging technologies, and develop workforce skills that improve quality, efficiency, and long-term competitiveness.

Innovation doesn't happen in isolation. It happens when education, business, and community partners work together to create opportunities for learning and

growth. Mohave College has embraced that role by developing facilities that serve not only students but also employers, entrepreneurs, and the region's growing manufacturing sector.

As Mohave County continues to attract new industries and supports the expansion of existing businesses, having a skilled workforce and access to innovation resources will become even more important. The Advanced Manufacturing Training Center and Makerspace are helping ensure our region is ready for the future.

Whether you're building a prototype, exploring a new career, expanding your business, or training your workforce, Mohave College offers resources designed to help you succeed.

Innovation begins with an idea. Success begins with the willingness to build it. The future of manufacturing is being created today—and it's happening right here in Mohave County.



MOHAVE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Growth Begins with a Welcome

By Tami Ursenbach

As new businesses choose Mohave County and more families decide to call our communities home, we have an incredible opportunity before us. Growth is about much more than new buildings or new employers—it's about welcoming new neighbors, creating new friendships, and building a stronger future together.

Whether someone is visiting your business for the first time, attending your church, enrolling their children in school, or simply exploring the community after moving here, your smile may be the first impression they receive. A simple "Welcome to Mohave County" can make a lasting difference.

Every new resident brings new ideas, new talents, and new opportunities. Every new business adds to the energy of our local economy by creating jobs, expanding services, and investing in our communities. Together, they help shape a vibrant place where businesses can thrive and families can build their futures.

Growth also benefits every taxpayer. As new businesses invest in commercial property

and new homes are built throughout the county, the tax base expands. More commercial and residential property values mean more property tax revenue is shared across a larger base. That helps support essential public services and infrastructure while reducing the burden on individual property owners. Likewise, every dollar spent at a local business generates sales tax revenue that helps fund the services we all rely on. A growing economy allows us to meet community needs while helping keep costs more manageable for everyone.

Economic growth is not something that simply happens—it is something we create together. When local businesses provide excellent customer service, when churches and civic organizations welcome newcomers, and when neighbors extend kindness to those just arriving, we strengthen the fabric of our communities.

Across Mohave County, we are seeing exciting momentum. New companies continue to explore investment

opportunities, existing businesses are expanding, and entrepreneurs are bringing fresh ideas to our downtowns and commercial corridors. This growth reflects confidence in our communities and the quality of life we have worked hard to build.

As we look toward the future, let's continue to be known not only as a place where businesses succeed, but as a place where people feel they belong. The next customer, the next employee, the next business owner, or the next community leader may be someone arriving today.

So, take a moment to smile. Welcome the new family sitting beside you at church. Introduce yourself to a new neighbor. Thank the employee who just started at a local business. Support the new restaurant or shop that has opened its doors.

Together, these simple acts of kindness create stronger communities, stronger businesses, and a stronger Mohave County.

Growth is coming—and with a warm welcome from all of us, our future has never looked brighter.

SBDC WEBINARS FOR BUSINESS

AUG
06

Introduction to Fraud in Small Business

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM (MST)

This session will cover common types of occupational fraud, including employee embezzlement, cyber fraud, financial statement fraud, and vendor procurement schemes. Participants will also learn about the Fraud Triangle, key behavioral and financial warning signs, and practical strategies for strengthening internal controls and improving fraud detection.

AUG
19

Legal Considerations for Small Business Using AI

11:00 AM to 12:00 PM (MST)

Small businesses are using AI for marketing, contracts, hiring, customer service, and more, often without realizing the legal exposure that comes with it. This practical session walks through the key legal risks (contracts, data privacy, intellectual property, hiring, marketing, and governance) and gives owners a concrete framework for using AI wisely while protecting their business.

WELCOME BACK!

Lisa Card

This month, we're thrilled to welcome back Lisa Card, returning to her role as Director at the Mohave Community College SBDC. Lisa has been a cornerstone of the SBDC's success, bringing years of experience, steady leadership, and a deep commitment to supporting local entrepreneurs.

What truly sets Lisa apart is not just her expertise, but her sincere dedication to empowering others. She has a remarkable ability to connect with business owners, listen to their challenges, and guide them toward practical, confidence-building solutions.

Outside of her work at the SBDC, Lisa is passionate about community development and lifelong learning. She's known for uplifting those around her and creating an environment where ideas—and people—can thrive.

We're grateful to have her leadership, vision, and heart back at the helm. Welcome back, Lisa—your presence makes all the difference.

*Director Mohave College SBDC
Lcard@mohave.edu | 928-704-4979*



Investing in People: Workforce Training Continues to Drive Business Success

By Tami Ursenbach



One of the greatest investments any business can make is in its people. As industries evolve, technology advances, and customer expectations change, a skilled workforce remains the foundation of a successful business. Employee training is no longer just a benefit—it's a competitive advantage.

Over the past several years, many businesses throughout Mohave County have benefited from workforce development opportunities made possible through the Northern Arizona Good Jobs Network Grant. The grant helped companies strengthen their workforce, improve employee retention, and provide workers with valuable skills that supported career advancement and business growth.

While the grant has officially come to an end, our commitment to helping businesses develop their workforce has not.

Mohave County Economic Development and Mohave College remain dedicated partners in helping employers build the skilled workforce they need to succeed.

Whether your business is looking to onboard new employees, improve leadership skills, enhance technical knowledge, or provide specialized industry training, Mohave College can work directly with your company to develop customized training programs designed around your specific operational needs.

Every business is different, and one-size-fits-all training doesn't always produce the best results. That's why the College offers flexible, employer-driven training solutions that can be delivered for a single department, an entire workforce, or even a consortium of businesses with similar training needs. Customized programs can help improve productivity, strengthen employee confidence, increase retention, and prepare businesses for future growth.

Even better, businesses don't have to shoulder the cost of workforce training alone.

Arizona@Work continues to offer workforce training funds that may be available to eligible employers, helping offset the cost of employee training and upskilling. These resources make it easier for businesses of all sizes to invest in their workforce while minimizing the financial burden that often accompanies professional development initiatives.

A well-trained workforce benefits everyone. Employees gain valuable skills and confidence, businesses become more competitive and productive, and our communities grow stronger through higher wages, greater economic stability, and expanded opportunities.

As we continue building momentum into Fiscal Year 2027, workforce development remains one of our highest priorities. Together, Mohave County Economic Development, Mohave College, and Arizona@Work are committed to ensuring businesses have access to the resources, training, and partnerships they need to thrive.

If your company is considering employee training, leadership development, technical certifications, or customized workforce solutions, we encourage you to reach out. Let's work together to develop a training program that supports your employees, strengthens your business, and contributes to the continued growth of Mohave County.

Together, we're not just preparing for today's workforce—we're building tomorrow's success.

AI Adoption Trends: What Businesses Are Seeing and What Comes Next

Artificial intelligence is becoming a more common topic inside workplaces, yet many businesses are still in the early stages of figuring out how these tools fit into daily operations. Recent survey findings from organizations across the region show a clear pattern: interest in AI is growing, adoption is cautious, and the biggest impacts so far involve improved efficiency rather than major staffing changes.



Artificial intelligence is beginning to appear in more workplaces across the region, from helping employees summarize information to speeding up routine tasks and expanding output. Businesses are exploring how these tools can improve efficiency, support staff, and strengthen productivity, even as many remain cautious about widespread adoption.

Understanding how organizations are using AI, where the challenges lie, and what impacts employers expect in the coming months can offer valuable insight into how the technology is shaping day-to-day operations. This article looks at how firms are implementing AI tools, the benefits early adopters are seeing, and the capability gaps slowing adoption for others.

Many businesses report that only a small portion of their employees currently use AI tools regularly. Others are still testing or piloting solutions without fully integrating them into operations. A notable share of firms have not adopted AI at all, often due to limited technical skills, gaps in data or infrastructure, or uncertainty about how useful these tools might be for their specific industry. Even so, many organizations say AI is a frequent topic of discussion, and they are evaluating how it might support future productivity and workforce planning.

Among businesses that have started using AI tools, efficiency gains are the most common benefit. Companies describe shorter time spent on tasks such as administrative work, initial research, drafting documents, or summarizing information. Some report impressive improvements in output without increasing staff size, suggesting AI can expand capacity with the current workforce. In

certain cases, businesses have measured revenue growth or increased output per employee linked to AI-supported workflows.

Not all businesses are ready to adopt the technology yet. Concerns include limited technical training, uncertainty about accuracy, financial constraints, and an older workforce that may be less familiar with digital tools. Some also cite risks associated with AI, including the possibility of incorrect results or insufficient controls. These challenges explain why adoption is uneven across organizations and industries.

When asked about staffing impacts over the next year, most businesses expect little or no change. Many describe AI as a support tool that helps employees work more efficiently, not a force that is reducing jobs. In several cases, firms noted that AI allowed them to increase output or avoid additional hiring because existing staff could handle more work with the help of

automated tools. Some businesses do foresee shifts in the types of skills employees may need, especially around digital literacy and comfort with new technology.

A smaller share of organizations anticipate slight reductions in staffing, particularly in roles tied to routine or repetitive tasks. For example, automated ordering systems or digital support tools may eventually replace individual positions. Even in these cases, changes appear gradual and limited.

Overall, current trends suggest that AI adoption is still developing but holds strong potential. The businesses that have embraced it are already seeing benefits, particularly in productivity. Those that have not adopted it are often held back by capability gaps rather than lack of interest. Most importantly, AI is helping many organizations expand capacity with their existing workforce, supporting growth rather than driving broad reductions in employment.

By Brooke Barks

AUGUST 2026
FREE ONLINE BUSINESS TRAINING



04

AUGUST
1:00PM EDT

**GOING BEYOND SEO: HOW TO GET FOUND IN
SEARCH, AI AND LOCAL LISTINGS** →

In this webinar, you'll learn how search is evolving beyond traditional SEO into "Search Everywhere Optimization," which focuses on making your business visible across search engines, AI platforms, online directories, review sites and other digital channels that influence customer decisions.

25

AUGUST
1:00PM EDT

**THE FRANCHISE ADVANTAGE: PROVEN SYSTEMS
FOR BUILDING AND SCALING YOUR BUSINESS** →

In this webinar, we'll explore the specific strategies and frameworks that make franchise businesses so successful and how to implement these same principles in your own business. You'll also learn why thousands of entrepreneurs choose franchises for their next venture.

27

AUGUST
1:00PM EDT

**GOOF-PROOF YOUR BUSINESS: PREVENT
COSTLY MISTAKES BEFORE THEY HAPPEN** →

In this webinar, you'll learn practical frameworks for recognizing mistake risk, responding more effectively in the moment and building processes that help you catch, contain and learn from problems.



MOHAVE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Know Before You Buy: The Right Site Can Make All the Difference

By Tami Ursenbach

Finding the perfect location for your business is about much more than purchasing land or leasing a building. While a property may look ideal on paper, successful companies know that asking the right questions before making an investment can save significant time, money, and frustration down the road.

In economic development, we often say that the best project is one that succeeds for decades—not just on opening day. That success begins with understanding whether a site can truly support your business today and well into the future.

One of the first questions every company should ask is whether reliable utilities are available. Is electrical service already in place? Can the existing power infrastructure handle your peak demand, or will upgrades or supplemental generation be required? Understanding your electrical capacity early can prevent costly delays during construction and startup.

Water availability is equally important. In many parts of Mohave County, water resources vary by location. If your property is near the Colorado River, don't assume water access comes with the land. Does the property include the water rights your operation requires today? Will those rights support future expansion? These are critical questions for manufacturers, food processors, agricultural operations, data centers, and many other industries that depend on a reliable water supply.

Connectivity is another key consideration. In today's economy, broadband is essential infrastructure.

Whether your business relies on cloud-based software, remote operations, e-commerce, or advanced manufacturing systems, dependable high-speed internet can be just as important as electricity and water. Confirm that broadband service is available—and that it provides the speed, reliability, and redundancy your business requires.

Businesses should also consider how their operations fit within the surrounding community. Will your company be a good neighbor? Are nearby land uses compatible with your operation? Understanding local zoning, future land-use plans, and community expectations can help avoid conflicts and create stronger long-term relationships with residents and local governments.

Transportation infrastructure deserves careful evaluation as well. Can local roads accommodate heavy truck traffic or oversized equipment? Are highway connections convenient for suppliers and customers? Will future traffic volumes affect your operation? A site that works today should also support your business as it grows.

Finally, never underestimate the impact of climate. Mohave County offers tremendous advantages, but conditions vary across the county. Will summer temperatures affect equipment performance, employee comfort, or operating costs? Could winter weather in higher elevations impact transportation or seasonal operations? Understanding how weather influences your business model is an important part of selecting the right location.

Successful site selection isn't about finding the cheapest property—it's about finding the right property. A thorough evaluation of utilities, infrastructure, transportation, water availability, broadband, regulatory considerations, and environmental conditions can make the difference between a smooth project and unexpected challenges.

That's why Mohave County Economic Development encourages businesses to engage with local partners before making a purchase. We work closely with utility providers, municipalities, county departments, transportation agencies, water experts, and community leaders to help companies make informed decisions. Our goal is simple: connect businesses with the information they need to invest with confidence.

Before you buy, ask the questions. Before you build, understand the opportunities and the challenges. Doing your homework today can help ensure your business thrives for years to come.

The best investment is an informed investment.

**"SUCCESSFUL SITE
SELECTION BEGINS
LONG BEFORE
CONSTRUCTION—IT
STARTS WITH ASKING
THE RIGHT
QUESTIONS."**



MOHAVE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Employee Wellness & Engagement: Staying Motivated

By Brooke Barks

Maintaining motivation during the late summer months can be challenging for many workplaces in Mohave County. Warm weather, shifting routines, and seasonal distractions can all affect focus. This makes it especially valuable to support employee wellness and engagement with simple, meaningful habits that help everyone feel more energized, balanced, and connected.

One helpful approach is encouraging employees to adopt small wellness practices throughout the day. Taking brief walking breaks, drinking water regularly, stretching at a desk, or stepping outside for a moment of fresh air can make a noticeable difference in how alert and

refreshed someone feels. These small habits support mental clarity and help prevent the sluggishness that can come with long, warm days.

Preventing burnout is another key factor in sustaining motivation. Clear expectations, manageable workloads, and regular check-ins can make work feel more organized and less overwhelming. Leaders who help employees identify priorities, adjust tasks, or pace assignments create an environment where productivity stays steady and sustainable. When individuals know they are supported, their motivation naturally increases.

Engagement opportunities also play a key role in keeping morale strong. This can include hosting short team huddles, providing updates on upcoming projects, or offering small recognition for recent accomplishments.

Community-focused activities are especially meaningful in Mohave County, where teamwork often extends beyond the workplace. Whether it is a simple appreciation message, a collaborative task, or participation in a local event, creating moments of connection helps employees feel more invested and motivated.

As summer begins to fade, the late-August transition provides an important chance to care for employee well-being. By promoting everyday wellness habits, preventing burnout through supportive leadership, and offering opportunities for engagement, businesses across Mohave County can help their teams enter the fall season with renewed energy, stronger focus, and a positive outlook for the months ahead.





U.S. Small Business
Administration

Business Webinars

August 2026

August 5, 2026
9:00AM-10:30AM EDT

**SBA Lending
Programs Webinar**

REGISTER

August 8, 2026
1:30PM-3:00PM CDT

**Creating Realistic
Financial Projections for
Your Small Business**

REGISTER

August 11, 2026
6:00PM-7:30PM EDT

**The Power of
Networking**

REGISTER

August 18, 2026
11:00AM-12:00PM EDT

**Marketing 101: Let's
Make A Plan**

REGISTER

August 24, 2026
6:00PM-8:00PM EDT

**Learn the Basics of
Google Ads**

REGISTER

August 26, 2026
6:00PM-7:00PM EDT

**Reduce Your Risk, Protect
Your Future – SBA Mitigation
Information Session**

REGISTER

<https://legacy.sba.gov/>



MOHAVE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



A surge of new commercial activity is reshaping Kingman's Stockton Hill Road corridor, where three incoming businesses, Hobby Lobby, Niu Valley Hawaiian Grill, and soon-to-open BoSa Donuts, highlight the city's ongoing efforts to strengthen local retail and dining options. Hobby Lobby's July 17, 2026 opening brings a 49,000-square-foot national retailer to a once-vacant site. This milestone reflects the City of Kingman and its Economic Development Department's ongoing commitment to attracting businesses that meet community needs and reducing the need for residents to travel long distances for crafting and home décor supplies.

Just down the plaza, Niu Valley Hawaiian Grill opened on July 13, offering island-style comfort food and energizing the center with a new dining experience. The restaurant's arrival has drawn enthusiastic interest from residents and reinforces the city's goal of

Kingman's Stockton Hill Road Welcomes Three Major Openings

diversifying food options along major commercial corridors.

Meanwhile, BoSa Donuts will be grand opening August 7th and will add a drive-thru bakery to the mix once construction wraps up. City of Kingman's economic development staff report strong retail interest following recent outreach, with BoSa's opening demonstrating how Kingman's recruitment

efforts continue to attract recognizable brands and fuel commercial momentum.

Together, these three businesses represent a significant boost to Stockton Hill Road, showcasing the City of Kingman's ongoing commitment to expanding consumer choices, supporting job growth, and fostering a vibrant local economy.



MOHAVE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mohave College Fire Science program invests in student equipment

Posted on July 23, 2026 in [Press Release](#).

MOHAVE COUNTY – Mohave College's Fire Science Program has upgraded its firefighter training equipment with 12 new MSA G1 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) units, providing students with hands-on experience using the same modern respiratory protection technology used by fire departments throughout Mohave County. The new equipment replaces aging rental SCBA units that had been used by the program in previous years.

This represents a major advancement in firefighter education and training at Mohave College. The previously rented SCBA equipment was more than 20 years old and did not reflect current standards or the equipment used by local fire departments. The new systems allow students to train on modern apparatus that they'll encounter in the fire service after graduation.

"Providing students with current, industry-standard equipment is essential to preparing the next generation of firefighters," said Daniel Zandvliet, Manager of Fire Science Programs at Mohave College. "These new units ensure our students are developing skills and confidence on the same technology they will use in the field with fire departments across Mohave County."

The new breathing apparatuses feature integrated electronics, enhanced firefighter safety monitoring, improved ergonomics, and advanced communication and accountability capabilities.

In addition to the technology upgrade, owning the equipment provides Mohave

Mohave College's Fire Science Program has upgraded its firefighter training equipment with 12 new MSA G1 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) units, providing students with hands-on experience using the same modern respiratory protection technology used by fire departments throughout Mohave County.



College with greater control over maintenance, service schedules and training availability. Previously, the program relied on rented equipment, limiting flexibility and requiring students to train on outdated apparatus. The new inventory enables the College to deliver more consistent, realistic and professionally relevant firefighter training.

More than 3,000 jobs in healthcare, retail, construction and the arts across the County are supported by Mohave College. For the fire science program, about 75% of students that go through the program secure a job within six months of graduation and passing certifications.

Mohave College continues to invest in equipment, facilities, and partnerships

that strengthen firefighter education and workforce development throughout the region. To learn more about the Fire Science program, visit Mohave.edu/FireScience.

Fall enrollment is underway and the first classes begin August 17. The first step is creating a student profile at FutureBighorn.com.

Enrollment Navigators are available to help prospective students explore programs, apply for admission and review financial-aid options. Their contact information is available at Mohave.edu/Admission.



MOHAVE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Customer Service Improvements That Boost Repeat Business

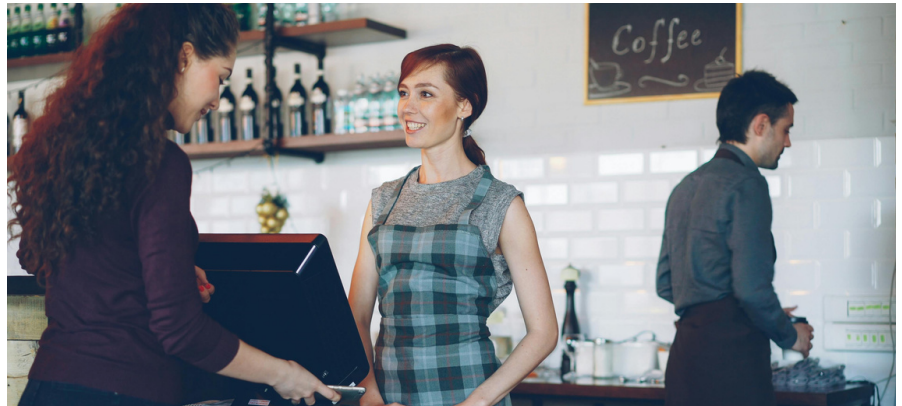
By Brooke Barks

Repeat business is one of the strongest indicators of long-term success, and the foundation of repeat business is great customer service. When customers feel valued, understood, and supported, they are far more likely to return and recommend a company to others. A few practical service improvements can make a meaningful difference in how customers experience a business and whether they choose to come back.

One of the most effective ways to build customer loyalty is through clear and consistent communication. Customers appreciate information that is easy to understand, whether it is explaining a process, confirming an appointment, or providing an update on an order. When communication is smooth, people feel confident that their needs are being handled well.

Another helpful improvement is taking time to personalize interactions. Simple actions such as looking at them in the eye when you speak, remembering a returning customer's preferences, greeting people warmly, or asking clarifying questions show that the business is paying attention. Personalization makes customers feel seen, which strengthens trust and encourages future visits.

Responding quickly is also a major factor in repeat business. Even if the issue cannot be resolved



immediately, acknowledging the customer and communicating next steps can reduce frustration. Timely responses show reliability, and reliability builds loyalty. Improving internal processes plays an important role as well.

When employees have the tools, training, and resources they need, service becomes smoother and more consistent. This can include updating procedures, improving technology used at the front desk, streamlining check-in or payment systems, or ensuring staff are prepared to handle common questions. Behind-the-scenes improvements often lead to better, more efficient interactions with customers.

Businesses can also encourage repeat visits by following up after a service or purchase. A short thank-you message, a satisfaction check-in, or a reminder of upcoming offers shows customers they are valued beyond the initial transaction. These small gestures help build long-term relationships that support continued growth.

Finally, empowering employees to resolve issues is a powerful way to build trust. Allowing staff to make reasonable on-the-spot decisions, offer small solutions, or escalate concerns quickly helps customers feel cared for. When problems are handled professionally and respectfully, customers remember the positive experience rather than the inconvenience.

Customer service improvements do not need to be dramatic to have an impact. By focusing on clear communication, personal interactions, timely responses, stronger internal tools, thoughtful follow-ups, and empowered staff, businesses can create memorable experiences that encourage customers to return again and again.

Repeat business grows from consistent, attentive service—and even small changes can make a big difference in customer loyalty.



MOHAVE COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MOHAVE COUNTY RESOURCE GUIDE

**Your Guide to
Support,
Safety &
Resources**



CONNECTING YOU TO RESOURCES

This digital guide is designed to connect you with essential services, that includes local, regional, state and federal options for business and family resources.

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO ACCESS THE RESOURCE GUIDE

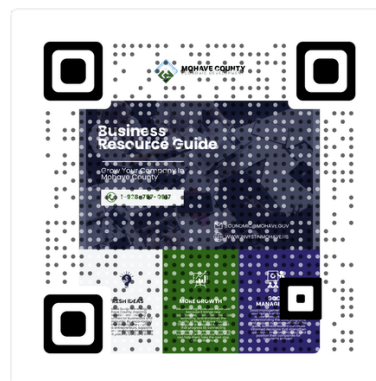
Use the QR code to instantly access our comprehensive Resource Guide. From a printed page or computer screen:

- Open your device's Camera app.
- Point the camera at the QR code and hold it steady until a link appears.
- Tap the link to open the Resource Guide.

If you're already viewing the QR code on your mobile device:

- Press and hold the QR code, then tap Open Link (or a similar option) if it appears.
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If your device doesn't recognize QR codes, use a free QR code scanner app.



Mohave County Business Spotlight



Project Movement

It's not about the money... It's about the people.

Project Movement didn't begin in 2020. In many ways, it began long before that. After teaching dance, tumbling, and fitness for 18 years in Idaho, my husband, Garth, and I moved to Kingman in 2015 with our six children. I truly believed that chapter of my life had come to an end. I thought maybe God was calling me to simply be a stay-at-home mom and pour everything into raising our family.

That season lasted less than a year. During a spring break trip back to Idaho in 2016, I decided to load up my old tumbling floor and bring it to Arizona. Mike and Nikki Stapleton, owners of Kingman CrossFit, generously offered to rent me a small space in their building where I could teach a few classes. I honestly thought this would simply get teaching out of my system, so I started small.

For the next three years, I taught a handful of fitness classes, tumbling, and adult dance. It wasn't a business I was trying to grow. It was simply a way to use the talents God had given me while continuing to raise our family.

Then everything changed. In January 2020, I felt inspired to add aerial silks and bungee fitness. Through the generosity of a dear friend who personally loaned us the money, we purchased the equipment and began preparing for something new. Three months later, COVID hit. The CrossFit building was sold, businesses were shutting down, and suddenly I had a choice: find a new location or walk away completely. Financially, walking away made the most sense. The rent I had been paying was manageable, and every building I looked at afterward seemed completely out of reach. On paper, none of it worked.

So I prayed. Sometimes I joke that if you don't want the answer, don't pray—because God has a way of stretching us beyond what feels comfortable. As I prayed, I felt strongly that I wasn't supposed to quit. I was supposed to go bigger.

I searched everywhere for a building, wondering how we could ever afford one. The same friend who had helped us purchase our aerial and bungee equipment encouraged me not to jump into something enormous but simply to

take the next step of faith. That next step still felt huge.

Looking back now, I can only describe what happened next as miraculous. Everything began falling into place. In July 2020, we took possession of our current building. In just one month, with countless helping hands, long days, and God's provision every step of the way, we completely transformed one side of the facility and opened Project Movement during one of the most uncertain seasons our world had ever experienced.

While nearly everything around us was closing, we were opening our doors. We carefully followed every regulation and safety guideline, but more importantly, we created a place where people could move, smile, breathe, and reconnect when so much of life felt heavy.

Even then, I knew something wasn't adding up. Fitness classes and tumbling alone weren't going to cover the expenses, so every morning during my 15-minute drive to the studio, I prayed. One morning, I poured my heart out to



MOHAVE COUNTY
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Mohave County Business Spotlight

Project Movement (Continued)

God, saying, "I know You led me here. Everything has fallen into place, but on paper this doesn't work. I don't know how this is going to happen."

Then something happened that I will never forget. Clear as day, I heard these words: **"It's not about the money. It's about the people."** From that moment on, I had complete peace.

Shortly afterward came another miracle. My dear friend, Emily Preston, called me. She had been teaching dance through Parks and Recreation, but their program had shut down because of COVID. She desperately wanted a place where she could continue teaching and keep her dancers together.

I looked at the numbers and told her, "If you can bring me 88 students, their tuition will cover your salary and my rent. That would completely answer my prayers." Miss Emily didn't bring 88 students—she brought 104. Her dancers loved her and followed her to Project Movement, and that one phone call changed everything.

In November 2020, we held our very first recital. During a time when people had been isolated for months, nearly 700 people attended. We followed the required precautions, but more importantly, we celebrated hope, community, and the joy of moving together again.

From there, Project Movement continued to grow. What started as a few small classes has become something far bigger, not only in size but in purpose.

Today, Project Movement welcomes more than 1,000 students through our doors each week and offers more than 67 classes, serving everyone from toddlers

taking their very first dance steps to adults discovering it's never too late to move, heal, and belong. Every number represents a person, every person has a story, and every story matters.

Our mission is simple: to OVERcome and BEcome through dance, service, teamwork, and lots of love.

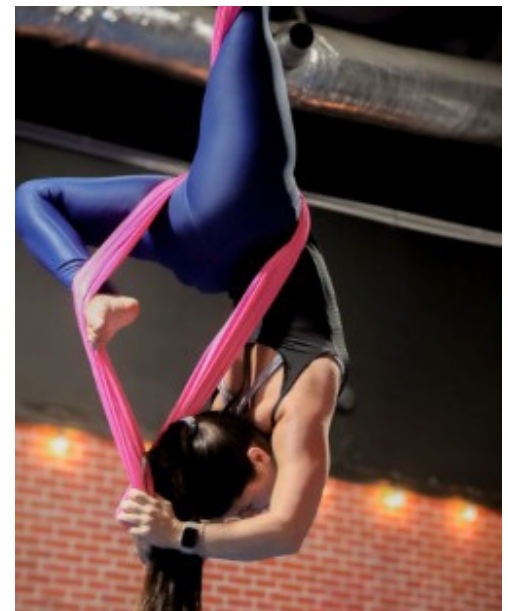
Looking back, I now understand exactly what God meant when He whispered those words during my drive to the studio: **"It's not about the money. It's about the people."** That simple sentence became the foundation of Project Movement. Every class we teach, every child we encourage, every adult we inspire, every family we welcome, and every life we have the privilege of serving reflects that purpose.

For Garth and me, Project Movement has never simply been about dance or fitness. It has always been about people, and for that, our hearts will always be grateful.

Sincerely,
Jewelee Steed

For more information about Project Movement contact **Jewelee & Garth Steed:**
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projectmovementkingman@gmail.com

2153 Gordon Dr, Suite E, Kingman, AZ 86409



Jewelee & Garth Steed



**Cong. Paul Gosar AZ#9
& US Department of Agriculture**

Invite you to a Grazing Summit

Join us to discuss lease and permits, multiple use management of federal lands, strengthening ranching and food security. Learn how the new USDA Forest Service Directive can help ranchers.

**Mohave County Administration Building
Saguaro Conference Room
700 Beale Street
Kingman, AZ 86402**

Thursday, August 6, 2026

Check in 10:00am
Roundtable 10:30am – 12:00noon

Presented by



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**“NOBODY’S LESSER
OR GREATER;
THAT’S WHAT OUR
CONSTITUTION IS
ABOUT.”
- PAUL GOSAR**

RSVP or questions:

Jared Raymond, USDA Community Liaison

602-826-2647 Jared.Raymond@usda.gov



**Congressman Paul Gosar AZ#9
Rural Communities Roundtable
For
Affordable Housing & Small Business**

**"WE WERE ELECTED
TO SERVE OUR
DISTRICTS, AND
THAT DEMANDS
PUTTING BYGONES
ASIDE. THAT'S WHAT
LEADERSHIP'S ALL
ABOUT."
- PAUL GOSAR**

Join USDA Rural Development, US Department of Housing & Urban Development, Western AZ Council of Governments & Small Business Administration to learn about loans and grants that can support your small business and affordable housing.

**Mohave County Administration Building
Saguaro Conference Room
700 Beale Street
Kingman, AZ 86402**

Thursday, August 6, 2026

Check in 1:00pm

Roundtable 1:30pm – 3:30pm

Presented by



RSVP or questions:

Jared Raymond, USDA Community Liaison

602-826-2647 Jared.Raymond@usda.gov