



Executive Vice President of the Entrepreneurial College

Strategic Leadership Opportunity

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OUR MISSION

Your paragraph text

Transforming lives through education and partnerships to create thriving communities.

About Arizona Western College

Arizona Western College serves Yuma and La Paz counties with more than 170 degree and certificate programs across academic, career and technical, and professional development areas. With 12 locations across a 10,000-square-mile service area, AWC supports a diverse international student population from more than 40 countries.

Through strong partnerships and flexible delivery models, the College aligns education and workforce training with regional needs while expanding access and opportunity for learners at every stage. This scale and breadth of service require coordinated leadership, strategic planning, and collaboration across academic, workforce, and operational areas.

Strategic Direction & Growth

AWC's strategic direction centers on student success, workforce alignment, and community impact. The College continues to strengthen career-connected pathways, expand partnerships, and enhance program delivery in ways that respond to changing labor market demands and educational trends. This forward momentum is supported through data-informed planning, continuous improvement, and a commitment to innovation—ensuring AWC remains a trusted partner for students, industry, and the broader region as priorities and opportunities evolve.

Why Leadership Matters at AWC

Executive leadership at AWC is essential to turning strategy into measurable outcomes. The Executive Vice President of the Entrepreneurial College plays a key role in aligning cross-functional efforts, building strong internal and external partnerships, and ensuring the College's workforce and career-connected education efforts remain responsive to regional needs. This role requires a leader who can guide change with clarity and collaboration—supporting teams, strengthening accountability, and advancing initiatives that improve student opportunity while reinforcing AWC's long-term institutional and community impact.





Our People

Arizona Western College is driven by a dedicated community of faculty, staff, and leaders who believe deeply in education as a catalyst for opportunity. Employees across the College bring expertise, creativity, and a shared commitment to student success, workforce readiness, and community impact.

Within the Entrepreneurial College, faculty and staff collaborate closely with employers, industry partners, and community stakeholders to design and deliver career-connected education and workforce training aligned with regional needs. This work is informed by industry input and requires responsiveness to evolving labor demands, emerging technologies, and changing workforce priorities.

Success in this environment depends on a culture that values collaboration, innovation, and shared accountability. Teams work across academic, workforce, and operational areas to develop programs, support learners, and sustain partnerships that strengthen career pathways and economic opportunity.

The Executive Vice President of the Entrepreneurial College plays a critical role in supporting this work by providing strategic direction, fostering alignment across departments, and creating conditions in which faculty and staff can thrive. Through clear communication, thoughtful leadership, and a commitment to continuous improvement, this role helps ensure that people have the tools, resources, and support needed to deliver high-quality education and workforce outcomes.

Our Students

Arizona Western College serves a diverse student population with equally diverse goals. Students include recent high school graduates, adult learners, career changers, first-generation college students, and individuals seeking targeted workforce training to advance or re-enter the labor market.

Many students balance education with work, family, and community responsibilities, making flexibility, accessibility, and relevant programming essential. Through academic pathways, workforce education, and industry-aligned training offered by the Entrepreneurial College, students gain practical skills that support employment, career advancement, and long-term economic mobility.

Students benefit from clearly defined pathways that connect education to opportunity—whether through transfer preparation, credential attainment, or workforce training aligned with regional industries. These pathways are strengthened through employer partnerships, work-based learning opportunities, and responsive program design.

The regional economy operates within a fast-moving environment shaped by demographic change, technological advancement, and evolving labor market conditions. By aligning institutional priorities with student needs and workforce demands, this role helps create learning experiences that support persistence, completion, and successful transitions into careers that sustain individuals, families, and communities.



The Region We Serve

Arizona Western College serves Yuma and La Paz counties, a geographically expansive and economically diverse region spanning more than 10,000 square miles in southwestern Arizona. The service area encompasses urban centers, rural communities, agricultural corridors, tribal lands, and an international border—creating both opportunity and complexity in meeting regional education and workforce needs.

This scale and diversity require a higher education institution capable of delivering flexible, responsive, and industry-aligned education across varied communities and economic conditions.

Economic Drivers & Career Pathways

Arizona Western College's workforce development and career-connected programs serve as key economic drivers in Yuma and La Paz counties, aligning education with industry demand and preparing job-ready talent for regional employers. The College offers an expansive portfolio of credit and non-credit workforce programs, certificates, and apprenticeships that support high-growth sectors across the region:

- Over 100 degrees and certificates spanning healthcare, public safety, advanced manufacturing, technology, trades, business, agriculture, and more, enabling diverse career pathways for local residents.
- Customized workforce education and training, including nationally recognized industry certifications and contract training tailored to employer needs delivered in-person, online, and at community sites to expand access.
- Innovative Career & Technical Education (CTE) offerings—including masonry, foundations of construction, and plumbing certificates provided at the Arizona State Prison Complex—Yuma—expanding pathways to credential attainment and workforce reintegration.
- Apprenticeship and “earn while you learn” models (such as electrical technology and other registered apprenticeships) that combine paid work experience with classroom learning, addressing employer needs for skilled talent while enhancing student career outcomes.

These programs support both immediate workforce entry and long-term career mobility, reinforcing the College's role as a central economic engine in the region and enabling growth in occupations that are essential to community stability and prosperity.

Operating at the Crossroads of Region and Economy

The regional economy is shaped by rapidly shifting labor demand, evolving skill requirements, and interconnected industries that require timely, coordinated workforce responses. Arizona Western College operates within this dynamic environment, where the ability to adapt programs, scale training, and respond to emerging economic conditions is essential to sustaining workforce readiness and long-term regional prosperity.



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The Entrepreneurial College: Purpose, Growth, and Impact

Launched in 2023, Arizona Western College's Entrepreneurial College was established to serve as the College's centralized hub for workforce development, career-connected education, and industry-responsive training. Designed to meet the evolving needs of students, employers, and the regional economy, the Entrepreneurial College integrates credit and non-credit pathways to accelerate workforce entry, reskilling, and long-term career mobility.

Since its launch, the Entrepreneurial College has expanded rapidly delivering workforce education across high-demand sectors while strengthening partnerships that align education with labor market needs.

Workforce Reach & Program Scale

The Entrepreneurial College delivers education and training across a broad portfolio of programs and delivery models, including:

- Workforce and career-connected programs in healthcare, advanced manufacturing, skilled trades, technology, transportation, public safety, and broadband infrastructure
- Credit and non-credit certificates, apprenticeships, and customized employer training
- Instruction delivered on campus, in the community, and at partner locations, expanding access across the region
- Strong collaboration with industry advisory partners to ensure program relevance and workforce alignment

This multi-modal approach enables the College to respond quickly to employer demand while supporting diverse learners at every stage of their career journey.

Investment, Grants & Economic Impact

The Entrepreneurial College has secured significant external investment to support workforce innovation and regional economic growth, including:

- Selection as the only community college recipient of the BuildItAZ Apprenticeship Initiative, part of a \$3 million statewide grant program, with the initiative investing approximately \$5 million since 2023 to expand Arizona's construction workforce
- New grants awarded in 2025–2026 totaling over \$3 million, including:
 - Industrial Training & Assessment Center – \$2 million
 - Roads & Air Flows Grant – \$700,000
 - BuildItAZ Apprenticeship Initiative – \$335,427
 - Perkins Innovation Grant – \$250,000
 - AHEC/SWHEC – \$57,000

Executive Leadership at a Pivotal Moment

The Executive Vice President of the Entrepreneurial College will lead the next phase of growth—strengthening partnerships, scaling impact, and advancing innovation across workforce and career-connected education. This role is central to sustaining momentum, stewarding investment, and expanding opportunity for students, employers, and communities throughout the College's service area.



Economic Impact & Regional Value

Measurable outcomes for the region

Arizona Western College is a powerful economic engine for Yuma and La Paz counties, delivering measurable, long-term value to students, employers, taxpayers, and the State of Arizona. A recent independent Lightcast Economic Impact Study confirms the College's outsized role in advancing regional prosperity and workforce-driven growth.

Economic Impact at a Glance

During the 2023–24 fiscal year, Arizona Western College generated:

- \$319.2 million in added income to the regional economy
- An economic contribution equal to 3.2% of the total gross regional product of Yuma and La Paz counties
- 1 in every 23 jobs in the region supported by AWC operations, students, and alumni

This impact reflects the combined effects of institutional spending, student expenditures, and the long-term workforce contributions of AWC graduates.

Return on Investment

Arizona Western College converts educational investment into meaningful financial and workforce outcomes for students and public stakeholders.

- Student ROI: Graduates experience an average 16.2% annual return, earning approximately \$4.80 in lifetime benefits for every \$1 invested.
- Associate degree holders earn \$7,300 more per year than individuals with only a high school diploma.
- Taxpayer ROI: For every \$1 in public funding, taxpayers receive approximately \$1.10 in return through increased tax revenues and reduced demand for public services.
- Statewide ROI: Arizona's investment in AWC yields more than \$6 in long-term economic benefit for every \$1 invested, contributing an estimated \$876.3 million in added statewide economic growth.

Leadership Impact at Scale

These outcomes underscore the importance of strategic, workforce-focused leadership at Arizona Western College. The Executive Vice President of the Entrepreneurial College plays a critical role in advancing programs and partnerships that translate education into economic mobility—ensuring that workforce investments deliver measurable returns for individuals, communities, and the region as a whole.

\$319.2 Million

*Added to the Regional
Economy*



1 in 23 Jobs

*Supported region-wide by
AWC activities*



\$4.80 ROI

*Earned for every
\$1 students invest*



\$7,300+

*Higher annual earnings for
associate degree holders*





Executive Vice President of the Entrepreneurial College

Leadership Role Overview

Arizona Western College is seeking a dynamic and collaborative leader to serve as the Executive Vice President of the Entrepreneurial College. Reporting to the President, this role provides strategic oversight for workforce, career and technical education, healthcare, and reskilling programs that advance student success and regional economic impact. This position offers a unique opportunity to shape innovative, career-connected education across Southwestern Arizona.

Salary:

\$184,000 - \$195,040 per year, depending on experience. Plus, excellent fringe benefits.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

- Serves Students. Implement the vision of the President of Arizona Western College by developing and executing the strategic plan and objectives for Entrepreneurial College, including workforce, career, technical education, and healthcare programs.
- Serve as the College's chief external ambassador for workforce, healthcare, and entrepreneurial initiatives, representing Arizona Western College with industry, government, healthcare systems, workforce boards, and strategic partners at the regional, state, and national levels.
- Click here to view the full [job description](#)!

Required Qualifications:

- Master's degree or higher from an accredited institution.
- Five (5) years of progressively responsible, full-time administrative experience in higher education (community college preferred). This must include at least three (3) years of direct administrative oversight in Workforce Development and/or Career and Technical Education (CTE).
- Documented experience teaching in a higher education environment.
- Proven ability to manage and prioritize existing resources through strong fiscal stewardship, coupled with a track record of strategically generating new revenue or resource streams.
- Demonstrated success in leading high-capacity teams, with a deep understanding of higher education operations, complex organizational structures, and the principles of shared governance.
- Exceptional interpersonal and communication skills.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Five (5) or more years of senior-level leadership experience within a community college setting, specifically focused on the advancement of workforce and CTE initiatives.
- Demonstrated success in the collaboration, creation, and promotion of workforce programs that meet the needs of local and regional economies.
- Proven experience in successful grant writing, coupled with the ability to manage post-award oversight, compliance, and reporting.

Notes on Qualifications: To be considered for this role, applicants must meet all listed minimum requirements. We strongly encourage candidates who also possess any preferred qualifications to clearly highlight these within their resumé or cover letter, detailing their relevance to the position.



LEADERSHIP PROFILE & SEARCH PROCESS

Arizona Western College seeks a strategic and forward-thinking executive who brings senior-level leadership experience, a strong track record of workforce and industry partnership development, and the ability to align programs, resources, and teams to advance student success and regional economic impact.

The search will be conducted with discretion, and all materials will be handled confidentially. To receive priority consideration, application materials must be submitted by **March 11, 2026 (First Review: March 16, 2026)**.

First-round interviews are anticipated **March 25–27, 2026**, with a projected start date of **June 1, 2026**. Applications will remain open until filled.

Interested candidates must submit all required application materials through the [Arizona Western College Career Website](#).

1. Completed Online Application

2. Resumé/Curriculum Vitae (CV)

Applicants must submit a current Resumé/Curriculum Vitae (CV) not to exceed five (5) pages. The CV should highlight both leadership experience and professional qualifications, including (but not limited to):

- Executive or senior-level leadership roles
- Program development, innovation, or transformation initiatives
- Workforce development and industry partnerships
- Fiscal, operational, or strategic oversight experience
- Community, employer, or regional engagement
- Academic credentials and professional accomplishments

3. Leadership Letter of Application

Applicants must submit a letter of application, not to exceed (3) pages, that combines elements of a traditional cover letter and a leadership statement. The letter should clearly address:

- The candidate's interest in the position
- Relevant experience and professional qualifications
- Leadership philosophy and approach
- Perspectives on advancing workforce education, student success, and regional impact at Arizona Western College

4. Unofficial University Transcripts

5. Professional References

Each reference must include the individual's name, title, organization, phone number, and email address. Applicants must provide seven (7) professional references, which should include a representation of supervisors, direct reports, colleagues, faculty, and staff partners from current or previous institutions.

For questions regarding this opportunity or the search process, please contact: EVPSearch@azwestern.edu



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Arizona Western College is an equal opportunity employer. Employment decisions are based on job-related qualifications. Applicants requiring accommodations may contact Human Resources at 928-344-7505.