



Local woman reaping benefits of program shared by YPIC and AWC

[BY SARAH REED - SUN STAFF WRITER](#)

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Ten years ago, Diana Munoz made a decision that influenced the rest of her life.

She heard about the Workforce Investment Act program through the Yuma Private Industry Council and received training at Arizona Western College because she was bound and determined to change her future.

Munoz, who was born and raised in Mexico, was looking to further her education. She came to America to complete her GED after receiving her United States citizenship. During that time, she said

she was in a very abusive relationship, and she needed to stand on her own with a stable job to support herself and her children. Despite the initial language barrier, she said she eventually was able to complete the WIA Clerical Job Training Program in 1999 and then pursued a career at the Housing Authority of the City of Yuma (HACY) in 2000.

Munoz has continued to move ahead at HACY after her strong foundation with WIA.

"The people involved in this program are always backing you up and they follow up with you two years after the program is over to see how you are doing," Munoz explained.

According to a press release, having been fortunate to sustain long-term employment, Munoz's position allows her to give back to the community by helping others achieve self-sufficiency.

At HACY, she originally worked with individuals looking to rent homes, and now is a program resident assistant, dealing primarily with people who want to purchase homes through the Family Self Sufficiency Program.

"It's very rewarding when you see families who start at the bottom and work their way up," said Munoz.

Munoz was very grateful for the help she received from Marla Duran, director for WIA, and Elizabeth Arturi, WIA coordinator.

"AWC, WIA has made it possible for many participants' dreams to become a reality, providing the tools to success, and the support to achieve their goals; I am proud to be one of their success stories," said Munoz.

Because she believes so much in the WIA program, she joined the board two years ago so that she could help influence students' lives.

Munoz said she is living proof that this program works and the staff genuinely cares about the students' futures.

"I always refer my friends and family to the program," Munoz concluded.

For more information regarding the Arizona Western College Job Training Program, Workforce Investment

Act, please call (928) 317-6150.

Sarah Reed can be reached at sareed@yumasun.com or 539-6858.

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