

The Sky's the Limit **Career Expo** **WINS HONORABLE MENTION for LEADERSHIP**



Members of the *Sky's the Limit* **Career Expo** Steering Committee
Honorable Mention Award for Leadership
WESTMARC "2005 *Best of the West* Awards"

UNPRECEDENTED ENDEAVOR Imagine a community-wide event that draws 8,000 attendees in its first year; provides educational and career resources to individuals of all ages, backgrounds and abilities at no charge; attracts monetary and in-kind sponsorships from dozens of Valley organizations; showcases the talents and skills of elementary, high school and college students; is host to 154 exhibitors and vendors; utilizes the services of more than 250 student volunteers so motivated by the goals of the event that they gave up an entire Saturday during their fall break to take part; and was conceived, initiated and executed through an alliance of some of the most prominent educational and corporate leaders in Maricopa County in eight short months. When the Western Maricopa Education Center (West-MEC) joined forces with the Western Maricopa Tech Prep Consortium, the Peoria Unified School District, Maricopa Community Colleges and several other educational, corporate and community institutions, a first-of-its-kind **Career and Technical Education Career Expo** for students, parents and community members of all ages went from vision to reality Oct. 16, 2004 at the Glendale Arena.

It has been said that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts – a maxim that reflects WESTMARC'S belief that partnerships and coalitions among community organizations have far greater outreach potential than any one entity. The 2004 Career and Technical Education Career Expo was successful in living out this ideal because it was implemented by a team of pioneers who united under a common mission to better the lives of individuals so that the life of a community could thrive. What started in February 2004 as a discussion about gaining more exposure for CTE (Career Technical Education) evolved into an unprecedented experience designed solely by the community, for the community. The manner by which the Expo's monumental success was achieved testifies to the truth that for Western Maricopa, its residents and business ... **the sky truly is the limit.**