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EVIT plans expansion at ASU-Poly

Josh Kelley
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The East Valley Institute of Technology is making plans to add a campus on 10 acres of land at Arizona State University Polytechnic in East Mesa, according EVIT superintendent Sally Downey.

EVIT, which is a joint technical education district based in west Mesa, wants to build the new campus to attract more students from Queen Creek and Gilbert, Downey said.

Details of the deal to build the new campus are still being worked out between EVIT and the university. ASU Polytechnic is working on a memorandum of understanding for EVIT's consideration, Downey said. The 10 acres of land could potentially be bought or leased.

"I know that we're going to make this happen," Downey said.

The branch campus in east Mesa would likely start with four to five areas of study, including health-related careers and automotive work.

Downey said the campus would also work closely with ASU Polytechnic and Chandler-Gilbert Community College to create a "seamless system" for students as they progress from high school to college to earn degrees.

"With all the entities working together, we think that we will have a model like no place else in the country to do that," she said.

A funding source for construction of buildings on the new campus has not been decided.

"This may take a bond," Downey said. "I don't know yet. The board is in discussion."

EVIT currently provides East Valley high school students with more than 30 occupation-specific programs. Many of the institute's students attend class half the day at a district high school and half at EVIT, which offers high school students classes for free.