

Glendale, Peoria set sights on landing research centers

by **Rebekah L. Sanders** - Aug. 25, 2010 09:17 AM
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Glendale and Peoria are increasing efforts to attract medical research facilities to the West Valley.

Peoria is working with the Translational Genomics Research Institute of Phoenix, or TGen, to build an international bioscience consortium, while Glendale has plans in the pipeline.

Glendale already possesses a strong base of health-care companies and educational campuses that would support a medical research institute, Economic Development Director Brian Friedman said.

"Meds and eds," as he calls the sectors, are the fastest growing industries in Glendale. They make up 60 percent of the city's job growth in the past year with expansions at Northwestern University, a medical school in northern Glendale, and the attraction of companies like Humana, which opened near the city's sports and entertainment district.

Glendale is home to two hospitals, rehab facilities and specialists as well as educational institutions like Northwestern and several others that train medical technicians such as the newly opened DeVry University and Arizona School of Allied Health.

Nine health- and education-related centers expanded or moved to Glendale since last summer, according to Friedman, filling 1.3

million square feet of new and existing office and industrial space and creating 1,042 jobs.

He estimated the space filled by doctors, professors and other professionals equals 22 football fields.

"There's lots of brain power between Midwestern, Banner Thunderbird Hospital and Arrowhead Hospital," Friedman said.

With those centers as a catalyst, he said the city is "ripe" to land health-related research and development firms.

For both Glendale and Peoria, the aim is to build their community's base of quality jobs.

"A good quality of life starts with a good job," Friedman said.

While Peoria still seeks to land a higher education campus and hospital, its health care-related industry is among its strengths.

When excluding retail, four of the Peoria's top five private employers are health care-related. The city touts Plaza del Rio as the state's the single largest health-care

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community, covering 185 acres with medical facilities and seven types of senior living products. The cluster of health-care facilities there employs 650 people.

TGen, in partnership with Peoria and Thunderbird School of Global Management, should learn this fall if it has secured a federal grant to launch a bioscience consortium in Peoria.

The consortium would provide a global network of resources to help save on costs and time, to improve the success rate for startups that commercialize bioscience ideas into products.

The city's first hospital, Peoria Regional Medical Center, is planned south of Loop 303 along Lake Pleasant Parkway, though lack of **financing** has delayed its groundbreaking.

Peoria leaders also aim to land a college campus. The city last week opened exclusive negotiations with Ottawa University to bring a residential education campus near its downtown.

Glendale Medical and Higher-Ed Growth

In the past 12 months, Glendale has attracted or expanded the following health- and education-related companies.

Midwestern University: 712,464 square feet filled - 163 jobs created.

Banner Thunderbird Hospital: 328,000 square feet - 225 jobs.

Humana RightSource Rx: 112,000 square feet - 450 jobs.

Western Maricopa Education Center: 80,000 square feet, 60 jobs.

Arizona School of Allied Health: 50,500 square feet - 10 jobs.

DeVry University: 18,000 square feet - 80 jobs.

Harbor Pointe Internal Medicine: 4,000 square feet - 32 jobs.

Arizona Pain Specialists: 4,300 square feet, 12 jobs.

Total Medical Care: 4,000 square feet, 10 jobs.

• **Total space filled:** 1.3 million square feet.

• **Total jobs created:** 1,042.