

STUDENTS TEAM UP WITH CITY OF SURPRISE AND LOCAL BUSINESS TO REOPEN CYBER WARFARE RANGE

GLENDALE, Ariz. – Peoria Unified’s MET (Medical Engineering Technology) Professional Academy students recently partnered with the Arizona Cyber Warfare Range, the City of Surprise, and AZ TechCelerator to re-open the Arizona Range AZ02 in Surprise.

The range, operated solely by volunteers, is a live-fire cyber warfare range created to rapidly train cybersecurity talent with hands-on learning through innovation in cybersecurity techniques. Through a unique internship opportunity, second-year students in the MET Professional Academy’s Technology program have been working diligently over the last few weeks to get the range ready for community members and veterans to come in and train in cybersecurity through hands-on learning experiences that are developed and coordinated by co-founder Brett Scott.

The range has been sitting dormant for several years due to lack of volunteers. Utilizing high school students in Peoria Unified’s signature program with students who specialize in technology and cybersecurity gives the range the support it needs and the students real-world experience while helping revitalize the business.

“Our partnership with the Arizona Cyber Warfare Range has provided MET Professional Academy students with a unique opportunity to share their passion for Cybersecurity with community members in the west valley,” stated Chad Eichenlaub, director of the MET Professional Academy. “Throughout the internship, students have had an opportunity to problem-solve and increase knowledge through collaboration with peers, instructors, and community members. This is one of the first in-person internships in our cybersecurity program that has provided students with an authentic application of their cybersecurity skill sets.”

The MET Academy serves students from all seven Peoria Unified high schools, allowing juniors and seniors that are interested in pursuing high demand STEM career pathways choose a focus in Medical, Engineering, Cyber-Security/IT Networking or Bioscience. For more information about the MET Academy, visit MET’s website at <https://www.peoriaunified.org/MET>.

Peoria Unified School District is nestled in the Northwest Valley of Peoria, Arizona and is home to 42 stellar public schools that are unique and created to fit the needs of all students. Peoria

Unified is the choice district for more than 37,000 students and 4,000 staff, serving as one of the largest employers in the West Valley and one of the largest unified school districts in Arizona. The district has signature programs spread out between 34 kindergarten through eighth-grade elementary schools and eight high schools that excel in academics, arts, athletics and Career and Technical Education programs. The Strategic Plan outlines a laser focus on four key areas: Student Success, Safety and Well-Being, Stewardship of Community Resources and Community Connection. Above all, Peoria Unified is committed to transparency, parent involvement and ensuring that “Every Student, Every Day is Prepared to Shape Tomorrow.”

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