

GLENDALE AND MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY: A WINNING PARTNERSHIP

Things were going well in Glendale in 1995. Our city's first master-planned development, Arrowhead Ranch, had rebounded. Arrowhead Towne Center had opened, providing the financial certainty we needed to serve our burgeoning population.

Our next step was to bring quality jobs to our community. Our efforts so far had been vigorous, but unsuccessful. Prospects decreed Glendale lacked an adequate work force; executive housing was minimal; spec buildings were non-existent; and the 101 Freeway was unfinished. As always, few had the vision to see Glendale's potential.

An unexpected opportunity arose when Midwestern University came to Arizona looking for a city where they could build a second campus and where they could make a difference. We felt we had a lot to offer and we wanted to be selected. So did many other cities.

We faced the same east valley bias that was so familiar. The lack of a completed freeway was an obstacle once again. The Loop 101 freeway only existed between Northern and 75th Avenues. How could I guarantee the freeway would be finished in 1996 as planned, the Board members asked repeatedly. "Trust me" didn't seem an adequate answer.

Dr. Kathleen Goepfinger, then Chairman of the Board of Trustees, recognized Glendale's potential. Rather than seeing what was not there, she saw what could be there. The groundbreaking ceremony for Midwestern University's 135-acre Glendale campus was held in December 1995.

Midwestern has grown from its 1996 inaugural class of 100 to an enrollment of more than 1300, including a former President of my Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission who is now a member of their class of 2010.

I will always appreciate Midwestern University and Kathy Goepfinger for entrusting the city of Glendale with their future. Happy 10th Anniversary, Midwestern University.
Thank you for helping Glendale reach our best possible future.