



HEART OF AMERICA, GROW ARIZONA, SOLV ENERGY, CLENERA, AND NEXTPOWER LAUNCH NEW WORKFORCE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP HUB FOR RURAL ARIZONA YOUTH

New workforce development and entrepreneurship spaces will help high school students build career skills, earn certifications, and explore pathways to success closer to home

HOLBROOK, Ariz. (July 29, 2026) - [Heart of America](#) (HOA), Grow Arizona, SOLV Energy (SOLV), Clenera, and Nextpower today celebrated the launch of a new Workforce Digital Skills Lab and Youth Entrepreneurship Center at The Bijou Teen Center, creating a first-of-its-kind workforce development hub designed to help rural Arizona youth gain career skills, industry certifications, and entrepreneurial experience.

The new workforce hub will serve up to 300 high school students annually through two purpose-built learning environments designed to prepare students for careers, entrepreneurship, and lifelong success. In a community where local leaders often describe students as the area's "primary export," the new hub is designed to help young people build futures closer to home.

"Education should open doors long after graduation," said Heart of America President and CEO Jill Hardy Heath. "This project gives students practical skills, industry-recognized credentials, and entrepreneurial experiences that connect learning with opportunity, while helping them imagine a future right here in their own community. We're proud to partner with Grow Arizona, SOLV, Clenera, and Nextpower to help ensure more students can build futures close to home."

The transformation creates two innovative spaces:

- **The Workforce Digital Skills Lab** gives students access to laptops, industry-recognized certification platforms, digital design software, coding tools, and collaborative workspaces that support workforce readiness and technical skill development. The space supports instructor-led instruction, certification programs, and independent learning designed to prepare students for careers in today's digital economy. The lab will also include hands-on technology training using Raspberry Pi and Arduino, giving students practical experience with coding, electronics, and other in-demand technical skills.
- The new **Youth Entrepreneurship Center** gives students business experience by designing, producing, marketing, and selling their own products. The space features makerspace technology, retail displays, merchandising areas, point-of-sale technology, and flexible marketplace areas that allow students to develop entrepreneurial skills while operating a student-led retail storefront. The center gives students access to obtaining recognized certifications, including Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Grow Arizona operates The Bijou Teen Center as part of its mission to connect young people with workforce development, education, and career opportunities throughout northeastern Arizona.

"This investment represents far more than new equipment or renovated space, it is an investment in the potential of our young people and the future of rural Arizona. We are deeply grateful to Heart of America, SOLV, Clenera, and Nextpower for believing in those we serve and in the vision of creating opportunities where they are needed most. Together, we are giving young people the skills, confidence, and experience to pursue meaningful careers, launch businesses, and build successful futures without having to leave the communities they call home. We are honored to partner with organizations that share our commitment to empowering the next generation," said Linda Kor, CEO, Grow Arizona Workforce Network.

SOLV, Clenera, and Nextpower partnered with Heart of America and Grow Arizona to help expand workforce development opportunities for rural and Indigenous youth through innovative learning environments that connect education with real-world career experiences.

This contribution to the Bijou Teen Center is made possible by the successful build-out of the nearby Snowflake Solar and Energy Storage Complex. Located just north of Holbrook, AZ, the complex plans to include 1,000 MW of photovoltaic solar power generation coupled with 4,000 mega-watt hours of energy storage. Clenera is the developer, owner, and future operator of the complex, which is currently under construction. SOLV is the EPC general contractor for the project and Nextpower is supplying the racking, which is the system solar panels mount onto.

"Supporting educational opportunity has long been important to SOLV, especially in rural and Indigenous communities," said George Hershman, CEO of SOLV Energy. "We're excited to help create a space where students can access emerging technologies, gain hands-on experience, and build skills that will serve them wherever their path leads after high school. This new hub will help young people explore their interests, build confidence, and prepare for success in their communities and beyond."

"We are in the business of building healthy communities by providing clean, reliable energy," said Clenera CEO Jared McKee. "I am excited to transform our success in the energy sector to provide expanded opportunities for students in Arizona. Education, like energy, is a fundamental resource our country needs to be successful. We are proud to support the Holbrook community with a center to train, equip, and nurture future entrepreneurs and leaders."

"We're proud to support The Bijou Teen Center with SOLV Energy, Clenera, Heart of America, and Grow Arizona so rural Arizona students can build practical skills, earn credentials, and see a future closer to home," said Dan Shugar, founder and CEO of Nextpower.

By connecting workforce development, entrepreneurship, and community partnership, this initiative helps prepare young people with the skills, confidence, and experiences they need to pursue meaningful careers while strengthening the future workforce of northeastern Arizona.

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About Heart of America

Heart of America is a 501c3 nonprofit that transforms learning spaces and helps bridge resource gaps. Our work focuses on the whole student, knowing that the physical spaces where young people learn are just as important as what they are learning. Since 1997, we've worked towards education equity by renovating nearly 1,400 spaces in classrooms, libraries, STEAM labs, college/career centers, school gymnasiums, and community centers, and more. We have

provided current resources, including over 4.4 million books, and infused over \$14.3 million in technology. <https://www.heartofamerica.org/>

About Grow Arizona

Grow Arizona Workforce Network is a nonprofit organization in northeastern Arizona dedicated to helping young people discover meaningful career pathways, pursue postsecondary education and training, and build the skills needed for long-term success. We work alongside schools, employers, community organizations, and local leaders to connect education with real-world career experiences that prepare students for the future.

About SOLV Energy

SOLV Energy (Nasdaq: MWH) is a leading provider of infrastructure services to the power industry, including engineering, procurement, construction, testing, commissioning, operations, maintenance and repowering. Since 2008, we have built more than 500 power plants, representing 21 GW of generating capacity. SOLV Energy also provides operations and maintenance (O&M) services to 155 power plants, representing nearly 22 GW of generating capacity. In addition to EPC and O&M for utility-scale power plants and related T&D infrastructure, we offer large-scale repair, emergency response and repowering services and install end-to-end SCADA and network infrastructure solutions to maximize project performance and energy availability.

About Clēnera

Clēnera is a greenfield developer of utility-scale solar energy and energy storage projects, headquartered in Boise, Idaho. Clēnera's current Operating and Construction portfolio of 2,634 MWac PV and 6,352 MWh across 12 projects is largely localized to the Western United States. Its operating projects generate enough clean energy to power over 220,000 American homes every year.

About Nextpower

Nextpower™ (Nasdaq: NXT) innovates and delivers integrated technology solutions for modern energy infrastructure. Its solar and energy storage platforms help customers design, build, and operate utility-scale power plants and other critical power infrastructure with faster project delivery, improved system performance, greater reliability, and long-term operational value. Building on more than a decade of energy technology leadership, Nextpower partners with customers worldwide to accelerate the deployment of reliable firm power needed for a rapidly electrifying world. Learn more at www.nextpower.com.

Media Contact:

Kelsey Rockey

krockey@heartofamerica.org, 913-956-9959