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Valley businesses keep workers happy with 'barter bonuses'

Reported by: Angie Holdsworth
Email: aholdsworth@abc15.com
Last Update: 11:38 am



PHOENIX -- Some Valley businesses faced with tight finances are finding a creative way to offer incentive to their employees by using trade instead of cash bonuses.

Robbie Riggs of CarSmart in Mesa offers his employees "barter bonuses."

"It helps keep employees happy when you are able to do things through barter that you wouldn't be able to do with cash," said Riggs.

Riggs is a member of the Arizona Trade Exchange, along with 400 other businesses.

Members offer up their services or goods and get the value in trade credits that can then be spent at any of the other participating member stores.

Each year Riggs, takes his employees to ATE's Annual Holiday Fair, where employees can use their trade credits to get toys, sporting goods, household décor, entertainment items, jewelry, musical instruments, furniture and small appliances.

President Rob Miller said it is becoming a popular money saving option for Christmas shopping.

"If you can pay for 80 percent of your Christmas just because you had some excess time then that is a win win for everyone," Miller said.

Miller said even if you don't own a business, you can still buy into the Arizona Trade Exchange with cash. He explains that you get incentive for putting cash into the system. For cash, you will get three to four times the amount in barter dollars.

The Arizona Trade Exchange will hold the fair on November 14th.

You can find out more about the Arizona Trade Exchange by visiting their website.

INSIDE: Tell us, have you ever received a barter bonus or been to the Arizona trade fair? Click 'add a comment' at the bottom of this page to sound off.

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