

Techie offers admissions software free to schools

BY ANGELA GONZALES

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Joseph Irvine is the creator of an online enrollment application for schools looking to become more efficient, and green.

Irvine, too, could be called green. He is only 20.

The application comes on the heels of admissions lottery software he wrote for Tempe Preparatory Academy while he was a student there in 2004. Many popular charter schools have long wait lists and must select students based on such a system.

When he noticed that it took hours to pull names from a fishbowl for a random drawing to admit students to the charter school, he developed software that reduced the lottery process to a few minutes.

Since then, he has sold his lottery software to 15 schools.

Now a junior at Utah State University majoring in management information systems, Irvine is offering his new online admission enrollment software free to schools throughout the U.S.

"In order to provide a community service and gain a better feel for the school market as I continue my own education, I want to donate a customized online enrollment application system to any interested school for this upcoming year," he said.

Running a business is old hat for Irvine, who started his first one when he was 12, writing software. When he was 16, he took a computer programming course at Mesa Community College and quickly garnered a subcontract with a local engineering firm to write software for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Now, his focus is helping schools save time and energy with his online enrollment application via Irvine Products LLC.

Printing applications wastes millions of pages of paper, he said.

"The parents are required to fill the paper forms out and return them. Administrators then spend tens of thousands of hours of time and our tax dollars to decipher the hieroglyphic handwriting and file applications accordingly," he said.

"An online version provides a very green solution to this problem," he said. "Anything that could be done on paper can be done digitally, and quite easily."

For more: www.irvineproducts.com.

INNOVATOR:
Joseph
Irvine

JOSEPH IRVINE

HOMETOWN: Born in Mesa; now lives in Chandler

EXTRACURRICULAR: Eagle Scout

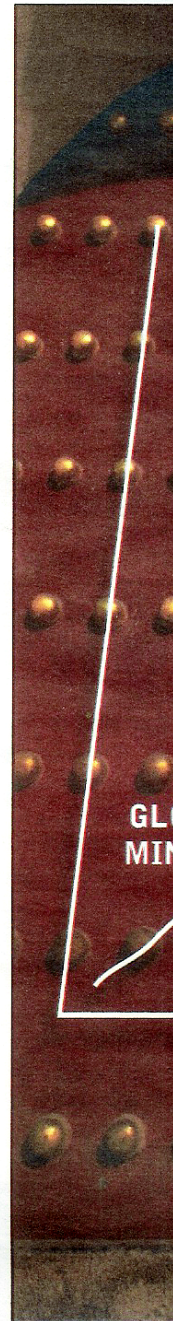
KNOW ANYONE FAMOUS? As volunteer bass vocalist with the Phoenix Symphony, he was part of a small ensemble to sing with MGM star Debbie Reynolds on April 4 in a charity gala event at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theater in Mesa.

NONPROFIT WORKS: Founder of The Irvine Foundation Inc., which is trying to raise \$50,000 to begin a public service advertising campaign to end legalized abortion.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING: "Joseph is our poster child for undergraduate research."
— Joyce Kinkead, associate vice president for research, Utah State University



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