

Greetings from the President

Reflecting on 40 years of service and excellence to the East Valley is an exciting and extremely rewarding activity. Mesa Community College began as a small junior college with outstanding faculty and tremendous community support and has transitioned into an institution that reflects sustained high quality and a desire to respond to community needs.

Mesa Community College provides both transfer education and workforce development. It is an institution that meets students' educational needs and develops their skills and talents. It is an institution that brings together diversity of thought and ideas, age, background, and culture, which helps to create a vibrant, exciting place of learning.

MCC has experienced a number of milestones in its 40-year history, which began on April 12, 1965, when the Maricopa Junior College Board started Mesa and Glendale Community Colleges. We can define our successes in terms of growth that has moved from modest numbers to more than 28,000 students. We can record our progress in terms of expanded facilities, all supported by the community in bond elections that span 20 years. We can count the number of talented faculty, the number of dedicated employees, and the number of high-quality programs. All of these measures point to what Mesa Community College is – a place of higher learning that serves students and serves this community.

The opening of MCC at Red Mountain – a second comprehensive campus and a milestone for the college – offered a way to reach out to another part of the community with the same integrity that has been present for so long at the Southern and Dobson campus.

Our recent reaccreditation by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association provided an opportunity for the college to reassess itself, its direction, and its future. The HLC team observed that the Rose Garden at MCC metaphorically represents the college: A place that continues to grow and attract; a place that reflects excellence and virtue; a place that symbolizes cooperation and collaboration; a place that calls to the community and the community responds. Mesa Community College's exciting 40-year history documents the dramatic evolution of our college and serves as a strong foundation for the next 40 years of service and excellence.

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Mission and Goals

Serving as a sounding board for MCC, the Commission on Excellence in Education seeks representation from business, industry, education, and East Valley residents. The mission and goals for the Commission summarize its purpose and the dedication of its volunteer members who seek to better their communities through education.

Mission

- Provide community leadership to MCC
- Develop a communication network/vehicle between the East Valley community and Mesa Community College
- Recruit community members for active involvement in college planning activities
- Research the educational needs of the community Goals
- Identify measures of excellence in academic, athletic, fine arts, and occupational programs
- Identify business, industry, community, and student educational needs
- Identify future college facility needs
- Identify underserved populations in the East Valley

Message from the Outgoing Chair

Thank you to the members of the Commission on Excellence in Education for assisting Mesa Community College with important issues this year:

- Bond election – Commission members’ involvement was critical to passing the 2004 bond issue. They identified potential uses for bond money and displayed a deep understanding of how the bond would impact not only the District as a whole but also MCC.
- Accreditation – Commission members became aware of the accreditation process and recognized the importance of accreditation to the college and its students. Members participated in several informative sessions leading to this spring’s visit by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. Through these sessions, they developed a better understanding of important issues that the college will be facing in the future.

- Evolution of a Downtown Mesa campus – Commission members discussed program areas, facility usage, and the ways in which MCC’s expansion could impact workforce development in the East Valley.

Membership in the Commission continues to grow, which is indicative of the community’s awareness of MCC’s importance. The college partners with the East Valley Institute of Technology, the City of Mesa, the Mesa–East Valley Rose Society, local businesses, community members, and others. Many of these partnerships have evolved, in part, through the relationships developed within the Commission on Excellence in Education.

I have enjoyed serving as chair of the Commission for the past four years. Through my involvement I have learned more about Mesa Community College, and I have developed relationships and friendships that might not have happened otherwise. I look forward to continuing an association with the Commission and maintaining relationships with people who demonstrate an interest in improving educational opportunities in the East Valley.

I wish to express my appreciation not only to Dr. Christiansen but also to his staff members, who consistently offer timely information and assistance.

Respectfully,

Debra Duvall
2001–2005 Chair, Commission on Excellence in Education
Superintendent, Mesa Public Schools

Message from the Incoming Chair

Congratulations! Commission on Excellence members are proud of Mesa Community College’s Spring 2005 North Central Association accreditation results. Newly instituted for judging all community colleges is the community involvement criterion. The Commission has been supporting MCC for 15 years; the college was positioned to score well – and it excelled.

Four short years ago, the MCC at Red Mountain campus opened in the Year of the Rose. The successful 2004 bond election provided \$111 million in future funding for more great capital needs, and planning and construction are under way. Bond funds are leveraging additional public and private monies to accomplish broad community education visions, especially in Downtown Mesa.

Debra Duvall’s energetic commitment propelled MCC into remarkable community and academic successes. As a two-term Commission chair she led us with two themes: Building Community through Engagement and Bridging Education and the Community. We have much to celebrate – including MCC’s 40th birthday, which lends a sense of

maturity. Thank you, Dr. Duvall, and thank you, Dr. Larry Christiansen and the MCC administrative staff and faculty.

I am honored and pleased to serve as your Commission chair for the upcoming term as we reflect on our accomplishments and build strong structures for the new future. It will be exciting.

Respectfully,

Barbara Carpenter
2005–2007 Chair, Commission on Excellence in Education

Former Leadership

Honorary Chairs

The title of Commission Honorary Chair is granted to individuals in recognition of their significant efforts as supporters and champions of education. It is an honor to acknowledge Peter and Gloria Moraga as Honorary Chairs. They join nine other individuals who have received this award over the past 15 years. Earlier recipients are Grant Christensen (1994); Rose Mofford, Dwight Patterson, and Polly Rosenbaum (2000); John J. Rhodes and Lattie Coor (2002); Eddie Basha and Keno Hawker (2003); and Charles E. Backus (2004).

Mr. and Mrs. Moraga have been chosen for this honor because of their lifelong championship of education. Pete, who has passed on, and his wife, Gloria, have been model parents, citizens, and educators throughout their lives.

Peter's career began with the Foreign Service in Mexico and later in Peru. He was a reporter and television commentator for CBS Radio. Peter served on various political campaign committees for powerful U.S. congressmen and concluded his media career as News Director for KMEX, one of Arizona's most well-respected Spanish television and radio stations.

Gloria and Pete brought five children into the world and always emphasized the importance of education. As their children began to pursue their own interests in life, Gloria worked closely with West Los Angeles Community College as a community liaison. Through her efforts, many students who would not have sought higher education went on to earn college degrees and become successful business and community leaders.

When Pete and Gloria moved from California back to Arizona, they joined MCC's Commission on Excellence and have worked nonstop to ensure accessibility to higher education in the East Valley. Pete and Gloria have served on the Red Mountain Advisory Committee, Scholarship Committee, and the Executive Council of the Commission.

For all they have done to support and champion education, it is a great honor to recognize Peter and Gloria Moraga as the newest Honorary Chairs of the Commission on Excellence in Education.

Scholarship Recipient

The Commission Scholarship Committee works with the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation and MCC's Development Office to raise funds for student scholarships. Selection of a recipient is based on specific criteria. The scholarship recipient must be a continuing MCC student and a recent graduate of an East Valley high school. The recipient must also demonstrate financial need and earn a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or better.

Jeffrey Daniel Peifer has been honored as the Commission's Scholarship recipient for 2004–2005. He has received a full-year scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.

A native Californian, Jeffrey moved with his family to Mesa, Arizona, near the end of his sophomore year in high school. As a teenager, he worked as a courtesy clerk in a grocery store, as a flower delivery boy for a florist, and as a waiter in a restaurant. "I worked in order to learn firsthand the value of money and hard work," Jeffrey said.

When he landed a full-time job at a tile company, Jeffrey began to save his money to serve on a mission for his church. In December 2001 he left for Brazil, where he built houses, planted gardens, and taught English classes. Two years later, he returned home and made plans to be married.

Jeffrey is a full-time student at Mesa Community College, and his chosen career is orthodontics. "I still have a lot of work and schooling in the future," he said, "but I am looking forward to every moment of it. I know that my plans are expensive, costing me a lot of money, and for this reason I am so grateful for the help I have generously received through this scholarship."

For inquiries regarding donations to the Commission on Excellence Scholarship fund, please call 480.461.7396.

Community Recognition Awards

Every year Mesa Community College welcomes outstanding community members to the Community Recognition Awards Luncheon to celebrate their service to the college, to education, and to the community.

We wish to honor, once again, the members of our community who received awards on May 5, 2005. With grateful appreciation, we applaud their commitment and generosity to Mesa Community College.

Commission Honorary Chairs

Peter Moraga, Retired Journalist, CBS Broadcasting

Gloria Moraga, Retired Community Liaison, West Los Angeles Community College

Distinguished Service to the Commission

Dr. Debra Duvall, Superintendent, Mesa Public Schools

Excellence in Education

Dr. Mary Jo Vecchiarelli, Director of Development, AmeriCopy

Laura Knaperek, Legislative District 17, Arizona House of Representatives

Russell Pearce, Legislative District 18, Arizona House of Representatives

Outstanding Community Volunteerism

Wayne V. Balmer, Williams Gateway Project Manager, City of Mesa

Carol McCormack, President/Chief Professional Officer,
Mesa United Way

Charles C. Peevy, Mediator, Superior Court of Arizona

Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award

Dr. Michael Ropacki, Assistant Clinical Professor of Neurology at Loma Linda
University School of Medicine and Clinical Scientist and Medical Science Liaison for
Johnson & Johnson

Anthony Occhiuzzi, Science Teacher at Tempe High School, Evening Adjunct Instructor
at MCC, and Educational Consultant and Advisor

Distinguished Service to the Alumni Association

David Udall, Judge, Maricopa County Superior Court

Presidential Award

T. Dennis Barney, President, Landmark Interiors

Ann Barney, Mother of Ten, Barney Family

Denny Barney, Executive Vice President, Landmark Interiors

Nancy Stein, Former Governing Board Member, Maricopa County Community College
District

Thanks to the Commission on Excellence and Alumni Association Awards and
Recognition Committees for distributing and receiving nomination forms and selecting
this year's award recipients.

Executive Council Meeting

Presentation

Dr. Christiansen explained that Mesa Community College is required to inform the public
about how the college would spend general obligation bond revenue. Three attorneys
approved distribution of a brochure, published in both English and Spanish, that explains

how the funds would be spent. MCC cannot advocate a position on the bond in the brochure.

With the bond money, MCC intends to build four new structures: an English/Language facility, a Physical Science facility, a Nursing facility, and a Music/Fine Arts facility. At the Red Mountain campus, significant additional classroom and laboratory space is needed. Bond money would also be used to expand MCC's presence in Downtown Mesa, which would be entirely program driven (a unique model for the college).

Actual revenue from the Maricopa County Community College District's current bond has been higher than projected. Therefore, it is possible that MCCCCD could pay off existing obligations sooner than 2015.

Several private citizen advocacy committees (e.g., Citizens for the MCCCCD Bond) have been created and are devoted to informing the public about Proposition 401.

Discussion

Question posed to Executive Council members: In addition to printed informational material, what else could the college do to better inform citizens of what Proposition 401 means to taxpayers and students?

- Provide speakers for service clubs, large companies, and HOAs.
- Display informational posters in libraries and city buildings.
- Use Mesa's Channel 11 and public access channels.
- Write articles in local newspapers.
- Send mass mailings; meet with civic groups.
- Meet in neighborhoods and homes.
- Continue to register student voters.
- Prepare an e-mail message for members to send to friends/colleagues.
- Involve the East Valley Tribune and MCC students.
- Make presentations at a City Council/Latino Town Hall.
- Buy Harkins Theatre screen ads.
- Distribute informational fliers through schools.
- Establish a phone bank to educate citizens.
- Secure a publicly recognized spokesperson.
- Get airtime on radio news stations.

Membership Meeting

Presentation

If Proposition 401 passes in the November election, revenue from the bond will be used to build four to five new buildings, renovate MCC's Southern and Dobson campus, and develop a third major site in Downtown Mesa that would be program driven and partner based.

Dr. Duvall introduced Donella Eberle, MCC English Department chair, who explained that the department is strained for space and the problem worsens each year. Proposition 401 funds would create an English/Foreign Language cluster in a new building to accommodate the growth in student enrollment.

Niccole Cervený is a member of MCC's Red Mountain campus Employee Council and also a Geography faculty member. She said that the Red Mountain campus needs specialized classrooms to accommodate current and future course offerings. Programs such as Dental Hygiene are in high demand by students and the community but cannot be offered at the campus because of limited laboratory space.

Sue Anne Lucius is MCC's Music Department chair. The department's facilities consist of six classrooms and 13 practice rooms that are used 99 percent of the time. Some music rooms must be shared and others lack soundproofing. Bond revenue would enable the department to accommodate an increase in students by expanding the facilities.

Discussion

Question 1: With respect to the capital development material reviewed today, what are the two most important results that you feel would be accomplished with the funds generated through the bond initiative?

- Develop Downtown campus combining college/city funds.
- Move some performing and fine arts to Downtown Mesa.
- Partner to provide intercampus transportation, parking options, and classroom space.
- Identify buildings/classrooms/infrastructure to be refurbished, updated or replaced.
- Create an attractive and professional learning environment with flexible spaces and the latest technology.
- Expand the Red Mountain campus to include an aquatics and arts center.
- Expand extended sites; consider an additional Southeast Valley campus.
- Develop campus housing.

Question 2: From what you know about MCC, what two things could the college do to improve a service or program?

- Implement "one-stop enrollment" at both campuses.
- Improve signage on campus; simplify catalog.
- Expand Internet opportunities; improve online course navigation.
- Improve transferability of credits; provide better counselor training.
- Provide intercampus shuttles; expand parking.
- Create space for adjunct faculty to meet with students.
- Enlarge nursing program capacity.
- Create after-class activities to build student life.
- Partner to share city space for night classes.
- Permit students to check out equipment for classes (musical instruments, cameras, etc.).
- Develop and improve technical/vocational programs.
- Make performing arts the Downtown campus focus.

- Cluster buildings/spaces for similar departments.
- Encourage community use of MCC services (Career and Re-Entry and financial assistance).
- Increase international exchanges; improve services for international students.
- Provide more early-childhood programs.
- Provide programs relating to life experiences.
- Develop a Life Options center for those close to retirement.
- Build up, not out.
- Push for four-year degrees.

Executive Council Meeting

Presentation

Debra Thompson, Vice Chancellor of Business Services, explained that Proposition 401 received an enormous amount of voter support. The bond passed with more than 76 percent approval. Passage of the bond allows the Maricopa County Community College District to issue \$951,359,000 in general obligation bonds for capital acquisitions and development throughout the District.

The bond will be repaid within 20 years with an interest rate not to exceed 12 percent. Additional secondary property taxes will be levied to repay the bonds. Next steps for the District include: accounting for funds, project management, planning assistance, and procurement.

Specific future college activities will include a detailed facilities plan in conjunction with architects and the District Office planning staff. The process is expected to take a significant amount of time. Preparation, communication, and reviews all have to be taken into consideration. Each major college project will take eight to 10 months of planning.

Discussion

Question 1: Now that Prop. 401 has been approved by the voters, what do you feel was the voters' message to the community colleges?

- The management teams for MCC and MCCCDC are trusted. Taxpayers are prepared to deal with growth, and education is a major priority.
- Make sure our children are properly educated in modern facilities.
- Community colleges are not generally controversial; the public recognizes the reasonable costs to students and the practical application to student careers.

Question 2: What should be MCC's highest priority as the college implements its capital development program?

- Develop the Downtown campus; maximize the Red Mountain campus.
- Follow a wise inclusive plan and be responsive to the community.
- Develop satellite facilities to absorb student growth.

Question 3: What cautions would you give MCC as the college implements its capital/development program?

- Use several different contractors. Make sure contractors deliver high-quality work.
- Move forward quickly and cautiously. Materials costs are going up and shortages are occurring. Plan for parking disruptions.

- Let the taxpayers know what we are doing each step of the way and that we appreciate their vote of confidence.

Executive Council Meeting

Presentation

MCC's Visual and Performing Arts Department, highly regarded well beyond Arizona's borders, has grown more than 50 percent in the past five years. With the yes vote on the Maricopa Community Colleges bond election, the department is planning for a new building to accommodate its remarkable growth. While the new building will increase instructional, lab, and office space, MCC's Theatre Outback is inadequate for a full orchestra and large audience, and gallery space for student artwork is nonexistent.

MCC at Red Mountain has no facility for fine arts at all. Building a vibrant fine arts program at Red Mountain would create arts opportunities for Mesa's eastern communities and help to define the new campus as a truly comprehensive educational site.

Music Department chair Sue Anne Lucius appealed to COE members for their ideas on expanding MCC's fine arts capacity. She presented a video, created by Ron Rangel of MCC's Media Department, that spotlights MCC student performances and artwork.

Discussion

Question 1: What do you envision for performing and visual art programs at MCC's Red Mountain campus?

- Red Mountain's own full-scale performing arts facility
- Cinematic and multimedia arts programs
- Public/private partnerships; multi-use productions
- High-caliber events to showcase MCC programs
- Valleywide connection with community partners/arts organizations

Question 2: What resources or partnerships are available in East Mesa to support the development of a performing arts venue at the college's Red Mountain campus?

- The Piper Foundation, City of Mesa, ASU East
- Mesa Public Schools, Mesa Arts Center, Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre
- Santa Monica City College
- Apple Computers and Steve Jobs (promote multimedia programs)
- Outback Steakhouse, Boeing, Empire Machinery, Harkins Theatres
- New Frontiers, HOAs, seniors
- National arts program grants and partnerships

Question 3: What would you suggest to promote the college's performing arts programs and elicit community support for the development of performing arts at MCC?

- Perform for business and community events.
- Display MCC art in business windows.
- Promote careers in entertainment technology (sound, camera).
- Find a high-profile sponsor.

- Partner with Mesa Arts Center.
- Collaborate with print media.
- Link with showup.com for online ticketing.
- Recruit new arts students from high schools.
- Include audio/video production, recording, and film programs.
- Advertise on community calendars.
- Provide sound engineering students to churches, businesses, and theaters.
- Build Red Mountain Arts Center with bond money.
- Design a marketing campaign.
- Use e-mail and neighborhood fliers to invite and inform.

Membership Meeting

Presentation

Each college within Maricopa Community Colleges is accredited separately by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association (NCA). Accreditation involves a self-study process to identify the college's strengths and challenges. MCC's Self-Study Team is confident that the college meets the five criteria set by the HLC and has set goals for the accreditation visit in March. The Self-Study Team has engaged five committees to meet the goals and assist with the self-study.

MCC's self-study was summarized in a formal report and submitted to the HLC. It is a guide for the college as MCC prepares for the future.

Discussion

Question 1: The Red Mountain campus at Mesa Community College will double in size over the next five years. What suggestions do you have for the college as it continues to develop the campus?

- Promote MCC to middle and high school students; emphasize job skills.
- Expand public transportation options (buses and bicycles); add parking.
- Build new structures up, not out; maintain natural desert landscape.
- Encourage residential-adjunct faculty interaction.
- Create different areas of specialization at each campus.
- Strengthen the nursing program; update technical facilities.
- Consider a 16-hour day, expanded programs, alternative deliveries, and improved student services.
- Collaborate with ASU East, private colleges, local/regional businesses and industry.
- Keep pace with changing demographics.
- Support high-quality education with excellent instructors/resources.
- Make enrollment easy and curriculum diverse.
- Purchase nearby vacant property for future growth.
- Develop classroom space; maximize computer-based learning.
- Develop more community outreach programs.
- Match growth needs with existing resources.
- Maintain the college's small-school appeal.

- Focus on safety.

Question 2: What questions or comments do you have regarding today's accreditation presentation? Do you have any suggestions to give the college as it prepares for the upcoming visit?

- Do you offer "flex" programs where students meet only for the first and last class?
- Would it be helpful for a member of the Commission to make a presentation to the HLC Team?
- Use Mesa voter support of the bond to demonstrate community support.
- Expand distance learning and nursing programs.
- Encourage the HLC Team to interview students about how MCC has benefited them.
- Stress MCC's employment preparation process.
- Great presentation.
- Today's presentation made me aware of the accreditation process; I am glad to be a member of the Commission on Excellence.
- I am concerned about an overreliance on adjunct faculty; how can the college address this challenge?

Executive Council Meeting

Presentation

Vice President of Administrative Services Ron Etter provided updates on various projects from the bond approved by Maricopa County voters in 1994. Ron also updated members on the status of the 2004 issuance of bonds. He informed Commission members about policies and procedures established by the District and elaborated on various approaches for construction of capital projects, including Design-Bid-Build, Design-Build, and CM at Risk. Commission members entered into a discussion about the effectiveness of each approach.

Anthony Amendola, Vice President of Concord Eastridge Inc., focused his presentation on the proposed Downtown campus for MCC, a noncomprehensive site that would be partnership and program driven. He referenced a conceptual map of the area and explored various aspects of the design.

Discussion

Question 1: In addition to the college bond report card that is mailed every other month, what other communication tools should the college utilize to keep the public informed regarding the expenditure of bond funds?

- Websites and e-mail
- Press releases, articles, columns in local/regional newspapers
- Television
- Logo identifier

Question 2: What is your initial reaction to the development strategy presented by Concord Eastridge Inc. for the creation of a Mesa Downtown campus?

- Downtown development is good for the community but not as accessible without freeway access.
- It's a move in the right direction.
- Place a high priority on developing the Downtown campus. Don't plan too small; expand the physical size of the project.
- Anticipate the possibility of offering baccalaureate degrees.
- Reserve Site 17 for academic growth.
- Partnerships are a great idea.
- Exciting! Collaborative partnerships and creative marketing make a win/win situation.
- Keep working on bus service to and from campus.
- City needs mixed use on Site 17.
- Very positive; bolsters Downtown and provides opportunities for minority students.

Question 3: As a member of the Executive Council, what do you feel would be the most effective way to include you in the planning and expenditure of bond funds?

- E-mail updates and mention at meetings.
- Sell the advantages of the design-build process.
- Save time and money by having the architect, builder, and education specialist design the buildings.
- Existing system works well.
- Ask Council members to join regular planning meetings.
- Work with a city representative on the planning board.
- Appoint 2–3 Executive Council members to planning and oversight committees.
- Include disaster preparedness as a part of biotech and allied health.
- Put together smaller focus groups.

Community Advisory Committee Reports

In a continuous effort to strive toward educational excellence, the Commission has created community advisory committees to explore various partnership initiatives. The following are advisory committee summaries.

Alumni and Recognition

Marcy Snitzer, Coordinator, Alumni and Communications

The MCC Alumni Association concludes this year with myriad accomplishments. Plaques recognizing MCC's former Student Body presidents were placed in the Kirk Student Center and dedicated as part of our Homecoming celebration. The alumni board was instrumental in increasing MCC's Homecoming activities, boosting event attendance and hosting a silent auction that raised over \$800 for student scholarships. The Alumni Legacy scholarship campaign was launched, and in the first two months, 60 alumni who had never donated to the college before contributed over \$3,000 in gifts. The Alumni and

Friends scholarship was awarded to Jennifer Shotwell. The association piloted its first Job Shadow Day this spring, matching alumni and students for career explorations. The year's activities culminated with the bestowal of the Alumni Achievement Award on Dr. Michael Ropacki and Mr. Anthony Occhiuzzi; the Honorable David Udall received the Distinguished Service to the MCC Alumni Association Award.

Awards and Recognition

Chuck Smith, Chair

The Awards and Recognition Committee is responsible for reviewing nominations and selecting the community members to be honored at MCC's annual Community Awards and Recognition Luncheon (see page 5). In this spring event, the college celebrates outstanding community members and recognizes their service to the college, to education, and to the community.

Development

Dr. Larry Christiansen, Chair

The Development Advisory Council (DAC) went through a membership turnover during 2004–2005. The committee consists of seven community members and six internal (college) members. Most members from the college community are employee group leaders and change on a yearly basis. The first two meetings of the year were spent updating new members on the DAC history and fund-raising initiatives in which the college was involved. Dr. Christiansen chaired this committee over the past year after Tim Baughman, the prior chairman, stepped down. Chuck Smith has agreed to replace Dr. Christiansen as chairman, starting with the July meeting. Fund-raising for scholarships will be the No. 1 priority for the college while also looking to leverage bond funds and recognize potential fourth revenue stream funding from private donations.

Rose Garden

Carol Poe, Outgoing Chair

Marylou Coffman, Incoming Chair

The Rose Garden Committee serves as a bridge between the Mesa–East Valley Rose Society and the college with a pinnacle interest in the full development and public use of the Rose Garden at MCC.

Pursuits this year included the following:

- Completion of the Rose Garden's third phase, dedicated to veterans—past, present, and future
- Construction of an artistic bus shelter, developed in partnership with the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs and the City of Mesa
- Authorization from the American Rose Society Award of Excellence Committee to establish a miniature rose test bed (construction will begin in late 2005)
- Dedication of the Ruby Rose Bed in honor of MCC's 40th Anniversary, paying tribute to the District Governing Board, the Chancellor, the Rosarians, and the Commission on Excellence
- Dedication of a Blue Star Memorial marker in the veterans section of the rose garden, attended by more than 150 members of the National Federation of Garden Clubs

MCC and the Rosarians also hosted the Pacific Southwest District Judges Seminar, several floral arrangement workshops, and a record number of tours for 2004–2005. In November, the Mesa–East Valley Rose Society organized its most successful rose show ever, with hundreds of people from around the world entering the competition. In December, student technicians created a spectacular laser light show in the rose garden.

Red Mountain

Don Evans, Chair

The Red Mountain Advisory Committee met three times this year. Hosted by Banner Baywood Medical Center, the first meeting focused on the upcoming bond election and capital planning efforts.

The regular fall meeting was held on October 16. Andrea Greene and Beth Larson provided an overview of the accreditation process and the upcoming visit by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. In addition, the Commission discussed the master planning efforts and provided input on Red Mountain campus needs for the next 10 years.

In place of the scheduled spring meeting, the Red Mountain Advisory Committee held a half-day retreat on April 20. The focus of the retreat was the next five-year plan for the Red Mountain campus. Information was provided to the committee regarding the organizational structure of both the Maricopa County Community College District and MCC, the role and function of the governing board, planning processes of the district and the college, and the recently completed East Valley environmental scan. A draft copy of the five-year plan was reviewed and discussed. The information obtained in the discussion will be used to move forward with the five-year plan and the planning for expansion of the Red Mountain campus.

Scholarship

Reece Bawden, Chair

The Scholarship Committee, which consists of six Commission members and two employees from the Development Office, met four times during the 2004–2005 academic year. Early meetings were held to reevaluate the scholarship criteria and the questions posed by the committee for the application. The committee agreed to conduct a personal interview of the final scholarship candidates as a part of the selection process. In the October Executive Council meeting, Reece Bawden was introduced as the new Scholarship Committee chair. His first order of business was an attempt to increase the Commission on Excellence in Education scholarship endowment by offering to match any donations or pledges made within 15 minutes of the offer. The Scholarship Committee is happy to report that \$20,000 was raised in that short span of time, so two awards can be made every year, rather than just one. The committee will be conducting a full fund-raising campaign from its members in Fall 2005. In a continuous effort to strive toward educational excellence, the Commission has created community advisory committees to explore various partnership initiatives. Fall 2005.