

# Woman of Distinction

2014 NOMINATION FORM

NOMINATION DEADLINE: Wednesday, March 19, 2014

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Please complete the following form and submit to Kaytie Perry via email at [Katherine.perry@mesacc.edu](mailto:Katherine.perry@mesacc.edu) by Wednesday, March 19, 2014.

**Nominee:** Kori Stephenson  
**Nominee's Title:** Head Coach Women's Basketball  
**Length of Nominee's Service** 15 years (8 as head coach)  
**Nominated by:** Sam Stevens

<b>PART I: LEADERSHIP</b> <i>How does the nominee demonstrate leadership at any level of the organization? What initiatives has she progressed for the good of students, college or district?</i>
Kori is the face of the women's basketball program at MCC. When she became head coach in 2006 her teams won 17 games the first year, 13 the second year, but that team made it to the national tournament. From there she has won 20+ games consecutively for the past 6 seasons because of a determination to be the best and recruit the best student-athletes in the valley. Along the way her teams have exemplified MCC's mission of teaching, leading, and empowering individuals to succeed.
<b>PART II: INNOVATION</b> <i>How has she developed "out of the box" solutions to work-related challenges?</i>
Mandatory study halls for all freshman beginning 2007, bi-weekly grade checks to ensure classroom performance, recruiting academically engaged students including Presidential Scholars every year, fundraising projects to supplement meager scholarship offerings, recruiting the best players in AZ, non-conference scheduling of D1 teams in top 25 to prepare for the challenges of a season. She has built on the tradition of every previous teams to instill work ethic and has raised performance expectations every year while utilizing her network of hall of fame coaches and their expertise as a resource every year to improve herself and her teams.
<b>PART III: SERVICE</b> <i>How does she go above and beyond her immediate job responsibilities?</i>
Accessible to her players 24/7; seeks out specialized services for her student-athletes as necessary (ie counseling, disability resources, honors, tutoring, etc); has established a network of resources on campus to ease the transition from high school to college regarding registration, financial aid, scholarship opportunities and she maintains healthy faculty relationships to promote her students' success. She also scrutinizes game film to ensure attention to detail and has established positive working relationships with department co-workers. As the only female head coach on campus, she thrives and succeeds in a male dominated athletic department and is highly respected as a successful, hard-working coach, in spite of gender. She puts in long hours preparing and recruiting to accommodate her passion for the game and also raises 2 children and a husband.
<b>PART IV: CONTRIBUTION TO WOMEN</b> <i>How does she contribute to the professional lives of Maricopa women?</i>
Consistently sends student-athletes who are prepared academically and athletically to four-year schools. Teaches leadership and the value of academic success to her players. Exemplifies hard work and confidence in a male-dominated work place. Has led them to the NJCAA National basketball championships in 2008, 2012, 2013, 2014 and won it all

in 2014

Valuable mentor for young women everyday for the past 15 years teaching self-reliance, self-sufficiency, hard work, teamwork, individual worth, academic success; her teams have won the overall team GPA awards twice while maintaining minimum team GPAs of 3.0 or better;