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# ARNEGIE FOUNDATION NAMES TWO MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGES "COMMUNITY ENGAGED CAMPUSES"

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 Tempe, AZ  
(PRWEB)

 January 16,  
2015

The **Carnegie Foundation** for the Advancement of Teaching has recognized Mesa (MCC) and Chandler-Gilbert Community Colleges (CGCC) by awarding each a 2015 Community Engagement classification, a significant and competitive recognition that highlights dedication to community service.

This is the first classification for MCC and a renewal of CGCC's initial 2006 designation.

The **colleges** represent two of only three Arizona schools and just 361 colleges and universities nationwide that currently hold the designation. Between MCC and CGCC, more than 5,000 students performed upwards of 115,000 hours of community service last year.

"Mesa Community College is honored to be among a select group of **colleges** and universities across the country that enjoy the designation of Carnegie Community Engaged Campus," said Dr. Shouan Pan, President, Mesa Community College. "As guided by Maricopa Community Colleges Governing Board outcomes, MCC values student learning and development through community and civic engagement on and off campus. I want to express my deep appreciation to our faculty, students. Staff for their leadership and commitment to living out our value."

Both MCC and CGCC have long been recognized for exceptional community outreach. Collectively, the **colleges** collaborate with more than 250 community partners, including the American Cancer Society, local United Way agencies, A New Leaf, Paz de Cristo, Boys & Girls Clubs of the East Valley, Special Olympics as well as local senior centers and school districts.

"Community engagement is part of our culture," said Linda Lujan, CGCC

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President. "From its early years, nearly 30 years ago, until today, CGCC has held community engagement as an enduring core value through a variety of initiatives and programs including service-learning, global and civic engagement, curricular and co-curricular linkages, community partnerships. Executive leadership's involvement with and service to our region."

Both colleges have received grants to support community engagement activities from national and local organizations. Dedicated staff at each college oversee and track the multiple projects and grants and work closely with hundreds of faculty members representing every academic department who serve in coordinating roles.

"It's heartening to see this level of commitment and activity," wrote *Carnegie* Foundation President Anthony S. Bryk in a notification letter to the colleges. "Clearly, higher education is making significant strides in finding ways to engage with and contribute to important

community agendas."

###

## About Maricopa Community Colleges

The **Maricopa Community Colleges system** includes 10 regionally accredited colleges by the **Higher Learning Commission (HLC)** - Chandler-Gilbert, Estrella Mountain, GateWay, Glendale, Mesa, Paradise Valley, Phoenix, Rio Salado, Scottsdale and South Mountain, two skill centers. Several satellite campuses and business/ industry, technical and customized training institutes. It also includes the Maricopa Corporate College, which delivers market-relevant, customized workforce solutions and education for students and employees in virtually every industry sector. Through a strategic business partnership model, MCOR assesses workforce training needs and develops and delivers customized and integrated solutions to meet those needs throughout all levels of an organization.

The Maricopa County Community College District is an EEO/AA institution and an equal opportunity employer of protected veterans and individuals with disabilities.

## About the *Carnegie* Foundation

The **Carnegie Foundation** for the Advancement of Teaching is committed to developing networks of ideas, individuals. Institutions to advance teaching and learning. We join together scholars, practitioners. Designers in new ways to solve problems of educational practice. Toward this end, we work to integrate the discipline of improvement science into education with the goal of building the field's capacity to improve.

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