



MESA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Alumni & Friends

A Publication for the Mesa Community College Alumni Association

✧ Summer 2018

Information Technology News

With the Greater Phoenix region expecting to add 20,000-plus IT jobs in the next decade with an additional 10,000 IT jobs over the next six years in just the Mesa Community College service area alone, the need for a well-equipped technology workforce is paramount.

The new Apple app development certificate program, which graduated 16 students this spring, will be joined by a Blockchain Technology Certificate of Completion (CCL) beginning Fall 2018.

"The technology underlying blockchain is proving to be an effective tool for many industries," said Sasan Pouretezadi, Mesa Community College Interim President.

"Data indicates the demand for employees with knowledge of blockchain technology will continue to grow as industries adopt this cutting-edge technology. By being the first community college in the state to offer this certificate, we are helping

students position themselves to compete for high-wage, high-demand career opportunities."

The Maricopa County Community College District IT Institute at Mesa, established with the City of Mesa, will meet the emerging technological workforce's demand for talent in areas of app development, big data, cloud computing, mobile and wearable technology, and the Internet of Things.

"With technological development accelerating at warp speed, the next generation of jobs are already in demand today," said Dr. Maria Harper-Marinick, MCCCDC Chancellor. "In an innovative move, MCCCDC will bridge the IT employability gap with a new Information Technology Institute. As an educational partner with the local industry, the Institute will provide the high-tech skills for our students to meaningfully connect

with future employers and better compete in today's modern economy for the higher-level, higher-wage IT vacancies."

"Mesa's IT Institute will focus on entry- and mid-level career readiness for the IT sector, including courses to up-skill incumbent workers," said Dr. Linda Collins, Department Chair of Business and Information Systems at MCC.

Learning opportunities will be offered in-person, online, hybrid and in compressed scheduling models to efficiently and effectively ready students to serve local businesses. Students will choose courses of study from a diverse menu based on high-demand skills such as app development with Apple's Swift/Xcode, Blockchain, SQL/SQL Server, software development, JAVA, project management, technical support, Red Hat Linux, Oracle, customer service, software engineering, Microsoft C# and .NET Programming.

Dedication of Dr. Carole Drachler Library of Art History



MCC alumni joined students, faculty, and community members for the dedication of the Dr. Carole Drachler Library of Art History on May 3 in the Art Gallery on MCC's Southern and Dobson Campus.

Retired MCC art history professor Dr. Carole Drachler and her husband Dr. David Drachler generously donated \$250,000 to launch a one-of-a-kind library of art history. The Drachlers' gift, commemorating their connections to MCC, includes over 3,000 art and art history books collected during years of extensive world travels. The donation also includes a rare collection of historic items from the 1893 Chicago World's Fair.

"Art history connects you to the history of the world through pictures and buildings, instead of words in a textbook," said Dr. Carole Drachler. "Art elevates us. It makes us feel like we're immortal. It opens up the world."

Professor Carole Drachler taught art history in Maricopa Community Colleges for nearly 40 years, retiring in Spring 2009 after 34 years at MCC. Her classes were some of the most popular on campus, packing the lecture hall with 70 students in each of the five sections she taught each semester.

As a lecturer for the Arizona Humanities Council, Dr. Carole Drachler has educated thousands of Arizonans in the love and appreciation of art for more than three decades. She has always considered the advancement of the arts in Arizona to be of paramount importance to ensure that future generations may continue to enjoy and benefit from the well-documented pleasures and advantages of an art education.

"The room will be a little treasure, an artistic experience when we're done," Dr. Carole Drachler said. "Books have been my passion, after family and teaching. I'm happy that generations of students will use the books I enjoyed."

REMINDER

**MCC Hall of Fame
Nominations are
Due July 6, 2018!**

The MCC Alumni Association will host the fourth annual MCC Hall of Fame event this fall. The Hall of Fame honors alumni, community members, and MCC employees whose personal and professional accomplishments and positive contributions to the college and community set them apart.

Nominations are being accepted through July 6, 2018, in the following categories:

- Alumni Achievement
- Community Partner
- Service
- Distinguished Staff
- Excellence in Teaching - MCC Faculty
- Athletics - Outstanding MCC Athletes and Coaches

To review criteria for each award and submit a nomination, visit www.mesacc.edu/awards.

ACADEMIC AND ATHLETIC HONORS & ACCOLADES



Phi Theta Kappa, the international honors society for two-year colleges with more than 1,250 chapters worldwide, recognized MCC's Omicron Beta Chapter as one of its top 100, and a top 50 for its Honors in Action and College Project activities during the organization's 2018 International Catalyst Convention.

Omicron Beta's Honors in Action project focused on food waste and included the hosting of awareness events featuring the documentary "Just Eat It" with guest speakers from United Food Bank. They co-hosted a compost event at the City of Mesa's Urban Garden.

The chapter's College Project focused on Guided Pathways to Success (GPS), a Maricopa Community Colleges initiative to clearly outline courses that must be completed to achieve an educational goal. Students worked with the MCC GPS team to inventory and categorize college resources. Team members presented their involvement to the MCCC Governing Board.

Sigma Chi Eta, the official community college honor society of the National Communication Association, named MCC's Upsilon chapter its 2018 Chapter of the Year!

Math faculty Madeline Chowdhury was named Professor of the Year by the Mesa Chamber of Commerce.

David Schultz and Enrico Serpone authored a Mathematics Teacher article on Japanese Calculation Tablets.

MCC was named a United Food Bank Hunger Hero.

MCC Nursing Program earned continuing accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) on April 6, 2018. The next evaluation visit will be fall 2025.



SPRING ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

- Women's golf team won its 12th consecutive Region I Championship and hosted the NJCAA Division I National Championship, May 14-17 at the Longbow Golf Course. The team previously won 83 consecutive conference tournaments.
- Men's track and field team won the Region I Championship for the second time in the last three years.
- Men's tennis team won the Region I Championship and has not lost a conference match in five years.
- The baseball team was ranked No. 1 in the nation in Division II early in the season and finished at No. 8. The team also has won 40 or more games for the sixth time in the last eight years.

MCC Alumni Receive Jack Kent Cooke Graduate Scholarships



Mesa Community College alumni **Jacob Sorenson** and **Fernanda Silva Celaya** are recipients of graduate scholarships from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, a leading scholarship and grantmaking organization. The foundation awarded each alumni \$75,000 scholarships. Sorenson and Celaya, previous recipients of Cooke Scholarships, are pursuing master's degrees.

<http://www.jkcf.org/new-scholarship-unlocks-graduate-education-for-cohort-of-high-achieving-scholars-/>



The lifetime earnings of a master's degree holder, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, are \$400,000 higher than an individual's with only a bachelor's degree. Graduate studies remain precariously out of reach for many talented students, with the average annual tuition for graduate programs standing at \$30,000 for public universities and \$40,000 for private colleges and universities. Financial concerns are often noted as one of the most consistent reasons why students choose not to pursue a graduate education.

"Far too often price prevents even the most exceptional students from realizing their aspirations of graduate study. Cooke Graduate Scholars have overcome obstacles to reach the highest levels of achievement at some of our nation's most selective colleges and universities," said Cooke Foundation Executive Director Harold O. Levy. "With expanded opportunities for graduate study, they are certain to play important roles in numerous

professional fields, improving the lives of many and benefiting our nation through their transformational talents."

Sorenson, a biological science major, will be attending the University of Arizona College of Medicine. He hopes to become an orthopedics or pediatric cardiology surgeon.

"The graduate award is the pinnacle of all achievements I have received thus far," Sorenson said. "The ability to potentially graduate debt free from medical school is unheard of. The foundation has granted me the opportunity of a lifetime."

Celaya will be attending UCLA School of Dentistry to pursue a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS). Her goal is to work with underserved populations and open her own community health center one day. She also plans to research ways to improve dentures to raise the quality of life for elderly people.

"The opportunity that the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation gave me helped me to reach my full potential, which surpasses the dreams and hopes I had when I first arrived to the U.S. at the age of 17," Celaya said. "I thrived as a Cooke Scholar during my undergraduate journey by becoming a scientist, leader, and exceptional pre-dental student, but, most importantly, I will continue thriving during my journey of becoming a dentist and beyond."

Both Celaya and Sorenson displayed their dedication and pay-it-forward attitudes by returning to MCC as bio-medical student panelists at the fifth semi-annual STEAM Conference for 130 Red Mountain High School students at the MCC Red Mountain Campus earlier this spring.

MCC Alumna Wendy Nessler Provides Meteorology Expertise for SpaceX launch



When Wendy Nessler took meteorology classes at Mesa Community College in 2010-12, she never dreamed she would be participating in SpaceX's first Falcon Heavy rocket launch that sent a Tesla sports car into orbit.

Nessler, 29, works for a contracting company that provides weather support for companies that launch from Cape Canaveral, Florida. She said she was a bit surprised at the scope of the job and the media attention that the launch drew.

"When I found out we were helping launch rockets, it was overwhelming," she said. "I felt underqualified. I didn't know how someone who just graduated would know how to do something like that. But I rose to the occasion and have done several launches now. I love it."

As part of the meteorology team that helped determine when conditions were right for the SpaceX rocket to launch, Nessler drew on her knowledge learned at MCC and Arizona State University.

She said MCC professor Erin Saffell and ASU professor Randy Cerveny were particularly key to expanding her initial foray into the sciences.

"Erin is the person who got me to where I am today," Nessler said. "I wouldn't be here without her. She pushed me into programs that I didn't realize I would be eligible for and kept me up to date with extracurricular activities. She introduced me to people who helped me and encouraged me to pursue projects on my own and take the initiative."

While at MCC, Nessler was a Phi Theta Kappa member and was chosen by NASA for the National Community College Aerospace Scholars program.

"That was my first encounter with anything space related and helped push my interest beyond just weather," Nessler said.

Nessler said several members of her family also influenced her, including her father, who is an engineer, and her grandfather, who worked on the X-15 project at NASA in the 1960s.

"It was fun to see and learn what they do," Nessler said. "There are a lot of STEM-educated people in my family. The influence of that pushed me toward a science career, and along the way, I picked up space exploration in addition to weather. I combined the two into what I work on now."

Nessler's greatest challenge at MCC was passing calculus.

"I had to take three calculus classes," she said. "I failed calculus 2 at least twice. It was a process. But I stuck with it and moved on to bigger and better things."

She's thrilled to see more women pursuing STEM careers.

"My advice to them is to not limit yourself to just classwork. Find extracurricular programs that will help you in your career. And don't limit yourself to other people's opinions of what they think you can accomplish," Nessler said.

For now, she's happy with where she's at, but is always open to new opportunities. She'll never forget being part of the SpaceX launch.

"My friends and family were surprised and proud," Nessler said. "They were excited to know someone who was part of something so innovative and part of the future."



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MCC
Alumni Association
EXCITING START, EXTRAORDINARY RETURN

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Dr. Richard Haney Selected as Next Mesa Community College President



Dr. Haney joins MCC from the College of Lake County (CLC) in Grayslake, Illinois.

He joined the CLC in 1999 as Dean of Business and Industry Services and served as the Assistant Vice President for Educational Affairs and Vice President for Educational Affairs prior to being named Provost and most recently Interim President. Before going to CLC, he held leadership positions at Parkland College and Southwestern Illinois College. Haney has taught at the high school, community college and university levels. He received both his master’s and doctorate degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

In 2016, the CLC received the Charles Kennedy Equity Award from the Association of Community College Trustees for its work in advancing student success and diversity among students, faculty and staff.