



MESA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Spring 2018

Alumni & Friends

A Publication for the Mesa Community College Alumni Association



Earn
a GCU
Bachelor's
Degree
Entirely at
MCC

Mesa Community College has a new, innovative Pathway to STEM partnership with Grand Canyon University. Students can earn a bachelor's degree in five science program areas entirely at MCC by completing or transferring up to 84 credits and continuing to learn on an MCC campus in classes taught by GCU faculty.

Red Mountain Campus

- Biology with pre-medicine emphasis
- Biology for Secondary Education

Southern and Dobson Campus

- Computer Programming
- Information Technology
- Mathematics for Secondary Education

"This new partnership offers students seeking to enter the high-demand STEM career fields the cost savings of two years of community college tuition as well as the supportive environment of our MCC campus," said Nora Reyes, vice provost, Red Mountain campus. "High tech laboratories, small class sizes, dedicated faculty and a multitude of tutoring and other services all contribute to student success."

In addition to MCC students, the pathway is available to dual enrollment high school students, and graduates with associate's degrees. Learn more by calling MCC at 480-654-7813 or go to gcu.edu/MCCSTEM.

The MCC/GCU partnership joins MCC's many university agreements that put students on direct paths to bachelor degrees including Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University and the University of Arizona.

Acclaimed Research, Expanded Programs



Rattlesnake Study Provides Students with Undergraduate Research Opportunities

MCC Red Mountain Campus faculty Dr. Andrew Holycross received a \$50,000 grant from the Coronado National Forest (U.S. Forest Service) to continue his renowned studies of the threatened New Mexico Ridge-nosed Rattlesnake. Although the venomous nature of the snakes precludes students from participating in the onsite tracking, the project offers them a valuable opportunity to work on a government grant, see the elements of a project successfully funded as well as learn to manage data, create graphs and compile the required reports. For those looking toward a career in wildlife resources, contact with all the government agencies involved is great for networking.

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Data Tool Created by Geology Faculty Niccole Cerveny Employed Globally

Red Mountain geology professor Dr. Niccole Cerveny traveled to the Wadi Rum Protected Area of Jordan this past summer to participate in a U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Project. Researchers working on the project used the Rock Art Stability Index (RASI), which was created by Dr. Cerveny. Originally designed for the desert Southwest, RASI is an easy-to-train, low-cost analysis of rock art degradation. Site managers use the information to identify the cultural resources most in danger of decay or loss.

EMS-Paramedic Program Expands

In response to an increasing demand for paramedics, Mesa Community College invested in new equipment and expanded the learning space of its acclaimed Emergency Medical Services Paramedic Program. MCC offers an Associate Degree of Applied Science and a Certificate of Completion Programs in Paramedicine. Upon completion, students are eligible to sit for their National Registry certification cognitive and psychomotor examinations. The college's 10-year, first-time paramedic exam pass rate is 97 percent.



Students Raising Giant Prawns in Desert

Mesa Community College students are raising giant freshwater prawns in the college's Center for Urban Agriculture using high-tech methods to improve crop yields, reduce costs and employ sustainable practices to find new ways to efficiently feed our growing global population. The prawns are being raised in an aquaponics environment with plants and tilapia fish. MCC is one of the first community colleges in the nation to offer a for-credit course in aquaponics.

and Innovative Partnerships Enhance Opportunities for Students and Community

Find out more about the following news items by visiting mesacc.edu/alumni/newsletters/spring-2018.



Adobe Contributes to New Media Lab Experience

Enhanced with software contributed by Adobe Systems Inc., Mesa Community College has created the New Media Lab Experience (NMLE) for students to use the latest multimedia technologies and contemporary filmmaking tools to present their research. The endeavors instill the new media skills in demand by journalism, business, marketing, public relations, video production and emerging industries. The NMLE was inspired by an English course taught by Dr. Eddie Webb, an English faculty member and American Indian scholar at MCC. He began developing an Adobe-based curriculum for the lab five years ago, after receiving a Tribal grant.



Life Science Professor Contributes to International Fish Directory

Dr. Alex Cheroske, life sciences professor, spent part of this past summer at Friday Harbor Laboratories near Seattle to work with University of Washington professor Adam Summers in the quest to complete computerized tomography (CT) scans of all known species of fish. The 3-D images are available online in one of the growing, internationally shared academic knowledge sites known as Open Educational Resources (OER). Cheroske said it was an opportunity to learn the CT scan techniques and to create detailed X-ray images of the fish collection at MCC Red Mountain to add to the repository and use in his marine biology classes.



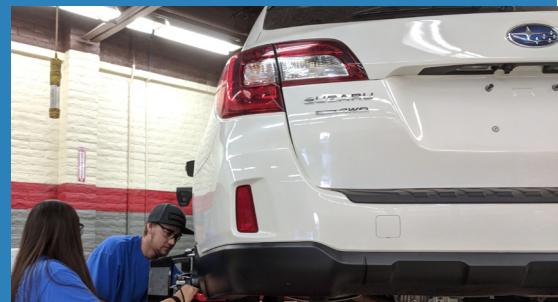
Fitness Testing Offered by Human Performance Lab

Whether you are a professional athlete, student sports participant, fitness aficionado or just trying to get in shape, now you can track your fitness and health levels at MCC's Human Performance Lab. These affordably priced, state-of-the-art testing technologies provide a personalized profile that skillfully integrates health, fitness and performance status. The Human Performance Laboratory is located in the Health and Wellness Building (HW8) on the college's Southern and Dobson campus.



Subaru-U integrated into MCC Automotive Performance Program

MCC has partnered with Subaru of America to train the next generation of auto technicians. By integrating Subaru's Web-Based Training (WBT) into MCC's existing curriculum, students can take most of the entry-level training that is required of Subaru technicians. Students may opt to take a Subaru Level 2 Instructor-Led Training Test-Out to advance their training even further. Subaru's WBTs are offered at no additional charge to the student or the college. The partnership also includes donated vehicles. MCC is the third Arizona community college to partner with Subaru and the only one in Maricopa County.



France and Italy Added to Study Abroad Programs

MCC has two new Study Abroad programs offering students and community members an affordable and skillfully arranged opportunity to study in Nice, France as well as Florence, Rome and Venice, Italy. Each program features academic study, language immersion and cultural excursions. Options for further explorations are also included. Scholarships are available.

A Sustainable Education

When sustainability was just emerging as a buzz word, Mesa Community College honor student, Phi Theta Kappa member and Graduation Class Honors Speaker Kevin Keleher knew he wanted to change the way businesses operated. He felt they should not be so focused on profit, but more on sustainability (although he didn't even know the term at the time).



In 2011 Keleher was asked to participate in the green building efforts for the new Saguaro Building at MCC's Red Mountain Campus.

"We designed 10 permanent signs in the building to teach people about the sustainable design aspects of the building," Keleher said. "We also created a short documentary of the benefits of LEED certification and green building. That was my first introduction to sustainability."

Keleher graduated from MCC in 2011 after earning an Associate in Business with Highest Distinction, transferred to Arizona State University and went on to earn three degrees, focusing on sustainability, economics and supply chain management.

While at ASU, he was part of a grassroots movement that has now grown into a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, GreenLight Solutions Foundation.

"We were students who needed more project management experience," said Keleher, now co-founder and executive director of the company. "GreenLight brings hope and help for catalyzing sustainable business evolution."

The company has several current projects, including Build us H.O.P.E., a project building sustainable tiny homes for homeless and disabled veterans in downtown Phoenix. GreenLight Solutioneers provide cutting-edge design and materials concepts, labor, promotion and a fundraising event.

Other projects include creating a better recycling management system for Agritopia, a mixed-use planned community in Gilbert, and assistance for the Convergence festival at Arcosanti, where they helped generate zero waste.

Keleher is working on opening GreenLight chapters soon at MCC and other universities.

"Sustainability is so important, but people don't understand what it is and how to apply it," Keleher said. "Everyone wants to save the planet, but that's not the only component. It's really about the triple bottom line of People, Planet, and Prosperity."

Keleher said he found his time at MCC very inspiring.

"Duane Oakes is a life-long advisor and I admired Dean Jo Wilson," he said. "I loved that I was getting high quality faculty with about a 30-student class maximum, allowing for really great faculty interaction. No doubt, it was a better degree and education for less money than I could have received elsewhere."

"The purpose of a business is to bring value to people," Keleher said. "The problem is, if you operate under the mindset of trying to make as much profit as possible, that is risky business. It ends up motivating the business to externalize all costs possible that it might incur to operate sustainably. Hence the abuse of community, the environment and people. So how do we do business in a better way? It turned out that sustainability was a great way to describe the problem and find solutions."

In the future, Keleher sees great things for our civilization and GreenLight evolving and thriving.

"It will take some hard work and it will be worth it."

Model UN Alumnus Working Dream Job at United Nations

Aaron Holtz's passion for international relations began on Sept. 11, 2001, as he watched planes crash into the World Trade Center in New York City on a television at Mesa Community College. After watching the chaos on the screen, he walked to his next class taught by Brian Dille, Ph.D., professor of political science.

"No one knew what was going on," Holtz said. "I went to Dille's class and he pulled down the map and started talking about Afghanistan. It was amazing. I thought, I'm in the know and I have something to grab onto as to why this is happening while everyone else is still freaking out. I loved that feeling. That's what really set me on the path of wanting to be involved in international relations and world affairs and learn more."

Today, Aaron Holtz is the senior policy adviser for Human Rights and Gender Equality for the United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations. In April, he will serve as assistant executive director of the 68th session of the Model United Nations of the Far West (MUNFW) conference in San Francisco. Holtz will help organize the student-led event while injecting a little expertise and serving as an example of the opportunities available to students who participate in the Model UN.

"There's a direct line between my time at MCC and what I am doing now," said Holtz, who attended MCC from 1999 to 2005. "I was involved in Model UN for a number of years and through that was able to secure an internship at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) through one of the board members."

Holtz advanced through the ranks and is now a senior policy adviser, doing substantive work for gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.



Holtz credits Dille, who has served as director of the Model UN organization at MCC for 18 years, for helping him obtain the internship at UNHCR.

"I rank Dille so highly as a person and as a professor," Holtz said. "He helped set me on my course. Dille recognized that spark I had and helped me to develop it while at MCC. He was very instrumental with helping me with my internship and I respect him incredibly."

Model United Nations is a simulation program for college students in which they participate in model sessions of the United Nations to advance their understanding of the principles and means by which international relations may be maintained. The program helps students develop a greater understanding of the nations of the world, the relations between them, their policies and the nature of their work in the United Nations.

This year's conference is chaired by MCC. As a community college, MCC is consistently one of the top delegations that regularly beats university teams. Holtz said MCC will bring back notable participants from past years to chair this year's committee and provide mentoring.

"It's an amazing experience," Holtz said. "It teaches such an important package of skills that apply uniquely to the UN but also broadly to life. You develop the skills of collaborating and engaging with people. That is what life is all about—convincing people what you need or want but making sure they will not be mad at you in the end. Dr. Dille always says 'diplomacy is the art of letting you have my way.'"

Holtz is grateful for the pathway his career took and highly recommends the experience to others.

"Model UN set me on a cool trajectory that I never would have imagined," Holtz said. "I would have never thought I'd be working representing the United Kingdom at the United Nations. It links directly back to my time at MCC."

For more information on the conference, visit <http://munfw.org/>. For more information on Political Science and Model UN programs at MCC, visit <https://www.mesacc.edu/programs/political-science> and <https://www.mesacc.edu/departments/social-science/model-un>.



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EXCITING START, EXTRAORDINARY RETURN

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To view all MCC Alumni Benefits, visit www.mesacc.edu/alumni.

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