

VOLUNTEER TODAY

for the

MCC ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARD

Your application awaits:
www.mesacc.edu/alumni-board

The Mesa Community College Alumni Association (MCCAA) is overseen by a volunteer board of alumni representing a diverse cross-section of MCC's unique alumni. The board serves in an advisory capacity, working closely with the Office of Alumni Relations. MCC Alumni Board members:

- Provide advice on alumni programs and key college initiatives
- Are appointed to three year terms
- Attend quarterly meetings

If you're passionate about helping MCC, consider becoming an alumni board member.

To learn more about the application and selection process, visit www.mesacc.edu/alumni-board or call 480-461-7794.

The Maricopa Community Colleges add \$7.3 billion in various kinds of income to the Arizona economy each year, according to a research report released in March by Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI), an organization that specializes in providing economic impact studies and labor market data to educational institutions. The report, *Demonstrating the Economic Value of Maricopa County Community College District*, summarizes economic impact and return on investment of the Maricopa district in fiscal year 2013-2014.

Maricopa Community Colleges add \$7.3 Billion to Local Economy Annually

Among the report's findings, based on EMSI's calculations:

- ★ The accumulated contribution of former students now employed in the regional workforce amounted to \$7.3 billion in added income in 2013-14.
- ★ For every dollar contributed by taxpayers to the Maricopa Community Colleges, \$4 in benefits is returned to taxpayers. Their average annual return on investment is 10.3%.
- ★ Society as a whole benefits from Maricopa both because of increased earnings and because of savings generated by the improved lifestyles of students who attend and graduate from college. For every dollar that society spent on the Maricopa Community Colleges during 2013-14, society will receive a cumulative value of \$12.10 in benefits for as long as the 2013-14 student population at Maricopa remains active in the state workforce.
- ★ For every dollar that a student spends on a Maricopa Community College education, that student gets back \$4.20 in higher future income. A student's average annual return is 16.6%.
- ★ The spending of students who relocated to the region to attend college in Maricopa County added approximately \$240.6 million in income to the economy during the 2013-14 fiscal year.

View the EMSI report on the Maricopa Community Colleges at <https://asa.maricopa.edu/departments/institutional-effectiveness/reports/maricopa-economic-impact-study>. EMSI has conducted more than 1,200 higher education economic impact studies in four countries since 2000. For executive summaries and full reports of both Arizona and national community college economic impact reports, visit www.azcommunitycolleges.org.



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MCC
Alumni Association
EXCITING START, EXTRAORDINARY RETURN

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MCC Hall of Fame

Now Accepting Nominations

If you know an MCC alum who excels in his or her profession, who makes a difference through volunteerism, who should be recognized for their contributions to MCC Athletics, or is an MCC faculty or staff member who made a difference in your life, please consider nominating them for the MCC Hall of Fame.

In honor of MCC's 50th Anniversary, the MCC Alumni Association will host a Hall of Fame event this fall, a celebration designed to become an annual recognition of outstanding individuals in the following categories:

- Alumni Achievement
- Athletics – Outstanding MCC Athletes and Coaches
- Community Partner
- Service
- Distinguished Faculty and Staff

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



1965 TO 2015

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES THROUGH EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

☀ Summer 2015



MCC Turns 50!

On April 12, 1965, the Maricopa County Community College named Mesa Community College as a separate institution from Phoenix College. MCC celebrated the historic event April 8 – 10. Video footage and photos can be found at mesacc.edu/alumni/50.

★ Stories of Success ★

For half a century, thousands of students have charted their path to success at MCC. A compendium of their inspiring stories are cataloged together for the first time to celebrate MCC's 50th anniversary. In addition to an archive of articles previously published in *Alumni & Friends*, excerpts of new feature stories and Q&A reflections are highlighted in this issue.

Visit MCC's 50th anniversary website to peruse Success Stories at www.mesacc.edu/50/success.



Brian Koeneman

Looking ahead, how can MCC stay an important, vital force in Mesa and the East Valley?

MCC will remain a vital force in Mesa by providing course content that meets the changing educational needs of the community. To be able to keep up with the educational demands, MCC must be able to recruit and retain motivated and enthusiastic instructors. One of MCC's biggest challenges will be to adapt to the increasingly competitive market by utilizing the 50 years of experience to keep their programs on the cutting edge. With changes come opportunities to showcase the experience and inroads that MCC has made over the last 50 years and continue to prove that trendy institutions come and go, but MCC is where everyone will be looking to 50 years from now. MCC should not be the best kept secret in the East Valley; it needs to publicize the resources that are available to every member of the community.

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Garry Weiss

How important is MCC to the fabric and development of the community?

MCC has been a blessing to the community for years and will continue to be in the coming days. In my humble opinion, no other educational organization in Mesa has done more good for more people at this level.

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Kimberly Wise

How has your MCC educational experience followed you in your career and life?

I believe that MCC's approach is essential to the surrounding community. I imagine I was not, and will not be, the only young person who did not have a clear idea of what path they should be following, regarding their future. The overall ethos of MCC is to support, encourage and transform—we gently recycle used material and rubbish, yet in many ways can often fail to initiate or develop latent interest or potential success, in people of all ages—our greatest assets. In my case, my experience at MCC caused me to feel validated. It transformed my life and I am certain it continues to impact the local community and global sites via previous students and their collective experiences.

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Phil Reese

How important is MCC to the fabric and development of the community?

MCC is a Mesa institution and is very important to the fabric of the community. It has given students who may otherwise have not been able to afford a more expensive college a chance at higher education.

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Rosaline Dye

If given a choice, are you more likely to turn left or right? Mesa Community College alumna Rosaline Dye's interest in the subject resulted in the publication of her research in a scientific journal.

The research, "Absence of Lateral Navigation Bias in Young Children" appears in a 2014 edition of the journal *Perceptual & Motor Skills Physical Development & Measurement*, volume 119.

Dye, who attended MCC from August of 2005 to May of 2007, graduated with two associate degrees from MCC and was member of Psi Beta and Phi Theta Kappa. After completing a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology at Arizona State University, she went on to earn a master's degree in cognitive science. ...

Local News Anchor Started at MCC

More than a decade ago, **Monique Griego** knew she wanted to go to college after graduating from Mesa High School. But putting two children through college was going to be next to impossible for her mother. For Monique and her sister, Mesa Community College was the perfect choice.

"I came to MCC in 2006 right out of high school," said Monique, a reporter for 12 News at 10 p.m. and an anchor of 12 News Weekend Today on Sunday mornings. "I knew I wanted to go to college but I couldn't afford ASU (Arizona State University) at the time. I took my general studies classes and got all of my math, science and English classes at MCC."

Monique graduated from ASU's Cronkite School of Journalism & Mass Communications and began her career reporting at the NBC affiliate in El Paso, TX, where she eventually became the morning anchor. Later she became a reporter for the CBS affiliate in Baltimore, MD, and in 2014 returned to the valley to work for Channel 12.

She said one of her fondest memories of MCC is her algebra teacher. Though she couldn't recall his name, she said he was representative of the rest of those working at MCC. "He was very nice, and I liked

MCC because it was small but not too small, and the teachers were personable."

"MCC wasn't high pressure like going to the university right out of high school," she added. "I heard from friends who went straight to ASU, and many of them struggled. It was an easy transition for me from MCC to ASU. By the time I transferred, I felt ready."

Monique said she has seen the benefit of MCC in her community from observing her own friends and family. "A lot of my friends went to MCC before ASU," she said. **"It was close to home so you could live at home and still go to college, and it was affordable. For people who want to go to college and have dreams of a better life but have challenges, like economics or they're already working full time, having something in Mesa like MCC is very important."**

With MCC celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2015, Monique said it was important the college continue "to stay relevant to the community, adding programs and making sure they keep progressing with technology and offering people what they will be interested in," she said. "We need to make sure MCC maintains availability and variety, for fun classes as well as the basics at an affordable price. Even if students have challenges, you



Monique Griego

don't want them to feel limited. You want them to feel like they're getting the same opportunity as everyone else."

Monique also said she takes pride recommending MCC to others.

"Student loans can add up, and some people like to get away from home to have the college experience," she said of those who go directly from high school to the university. "I don't feel like I missed anything going to MCC. The classes were smaller and more intimate, and the economic difference is thousands of dollars a semester. My sister also started at MCC and she's a teacher now. Financially, it was the only way my Mom could put two girls through college."

"I'm glad I went to school at MCC," Monique said. "I remember it fondly."



Alumni in the News

At MCC, we never tire of hearing about the pursuits and successes of our alumni. To see a compilation of alumni newsmakers from this school year, visit www.mesacc.edu/alumni/newsletters/summer-2015. If you or a fellow alum is featured in the news, send the information to marcy.snitzer@mesacc.edu.



Congratulations to Damarious Randall!

After finishing a one year stint with MCC football as an All-American, Damarious Randall transferred to Arizona State University. On Thursday, April 30, 2015, the Green Bay Packers made the defensive back their first-round draft pick at No. 30 overall. Randall joins a group of 21 other MCC football players who have made it to the NFL.