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SPOTLIGHT

MCC Hall of Fame to induct 11 area leaders

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F. Rockne "Roc" Arnett



John Meza



Sasan Poureetezadi



Judge David Udall

F. Rockne "Roc" Arnett, John Meza, Sasan Poureetezadi, Judge David Udall

Special to EVT

Mesa Community College is inducting 11 alumni and community members into the MCC Hall of Fame.

A ceremony and reception by the MCC Alumni Association at 6 p.m. Oct. 24, in the MCC Theatre at the Southern and Dobson campus is open to the public, but seating will be limited and people are asked to RSVP soon.

The Alumni Achievement Award will be given to F. Rockne “Roc” Arnett, John Meza, Dr. Mark Milliron, Sasan Poureetezadi and Superior Court Judge David Udall

Other awards and their winners include: Service Award, Dr. Ann Tway Ewing; Excellence in Teaching Award, Dr. Scott Russell and David Schultz; Distinguished Staff Award, Garrison Tahmahkera; Outstanding Athlete Award, Pau Tonnesen; and Outstanding Coach Award, Sandra Stultz.

Here’s a closer look at the honorees:

F. Rockne Arnett. Retired East Valley Partnership CEO/president and MCC’s first student body president, Arnett has been a lifelong advocate for education and the economic development of the East Valley. His vision was particularly important in the development of Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport.

With a 40-year career in insurance, he served five governors in various unofficial capacities and also was on the State Transportation Board for eight years and the board of the Maricopa Association of Governments for 18 years.

John Meza. With a 30-year career in the Mesa Police Department, Meza is currently Inspector General for the Arizona Department of Economic Security and the former head of security for Tempe Union High School District.

At Mesa PD, he was instrumental in the implementation of a number of programs, particularly the CompStat approach to data-driven policing. An adjunct instructor at Maricopa Community Colleges for 20 years who currently teaches justice studies at MCC, he has earned a number of awards from community organizations.

Dr. Mark Milliron. An award-winning leader, author, speaker and consultant who works with universities, community colleges, K-12 schools, foundations, corporations, associations, and government agencies around the world, Milliron co-founded and serves as the chief learning officer of Civitas Learning.

The executive director of the Next Generation Leadership Academy, he has earned more than 500 national awards and honors for his work in education.

Sasan Poureetezadi. As Gilbert's first chief technology officer, Poureetezadi is responsible for strategic planning, implementation and stewardship of information technology services for the town. Poureetezadi has also served as an information technology consultant for private, sports and higher education entities, including MCC.

Judge David King Udall. A former deputy county attorney who earned his associate's degree at MCC in 1983, Udall worked previously in private practice and has served in numerous community organizations.

Dr. Ann Tway Ewing. An MCC faculty emeritus in psychological science, Ewing anchored her career at MCC until her retirement in 2018. She founded the MCC chapter of Psi Beta, a national honor society for students attending two-year colleges and has earned numerous awards, and was the first community college faculty member in the 55-year-history of the Western Psychological Association to be named Faculty Member of the Year.

Dr. Scott Russell. Russell, retired MCC faculty emeritus, taught anthropology at Mesa Community College from 2003-2015 and was involved in activities and mentoring to foster student success and retention. He co-directed the MCC Honors Program and chaired the Arizona Honors Council, an organization of honors directors from colleges and universities in the state, and has been honored for his work with students.

David Schultz. Schultz has been teaching math at MCC for 21 years and his research on Japanese mathematics is recognized globally.

Pau Tonnesen. Tonnesen took gold in the decathlon at the 2012 NJCAA Indoor Track & Field Championships. At MCC, he became the only athlete in NJCAA history to win all four multi-event championships during his career. At the University of Arizona, he won the PAC-12 decathlon title in 2016 and still holds the UA points record for the event. He also placed 16th in the 2016 Summer Olympics.

Sandra Stultz. Stultz was the Mesa Community College assistant basketball coach from 1976-1987, and as head softball coach amassed a 325-115 record over nine seasons. She has served on many national and regional boards and committees for the NJCCA.

Garrison Tahmahkera. Tahmahkera led the founding of the American Indian Center in 1986, and served as the first director until 2003. He has received numerous awards for his work in improving opportunities for success among Native American students.