Summer breaks are blowing through the Urban Horticulture and Agribusiness Program at Mesa Community College, bringing new plans and exciting changes. Program Director Peter Condon is collaborating with community volunteers, MCC-department students and others in an effort to place even more of an emphasis on environmental, social and economic sustainability.

Condon said his plans are the first step toward a shift of the college’s focus from the agribusiness focus of several years ago to more of a “small farm” and sustainable food production approach.

“The community college reflects the community,” Condon said. “Agribusiness is shrinking, but interest in small farms is on the rise. We need to begin to develop a program to teach people how to start and open a small urban farm.”

Several projects are already in the works, including:

- **URBAN GARDEN:** Two year growing plots are being built in collaboration with the Welding Department as part of a refurbishment of the greenhouse. The area will provide students with an area to propagate plants and vegetables.

- **DEMO GARDEN:** The area between the welding building and the greenhouse will become a Demo Garden. MCC adjunct faculty in the horticulture department will work with local suppliers to create a showcase of sustainable landscaping.

- **URBAN FARMS:** A one-acre plot just south of the community garden area that is currently unused will be plowed and planted with organic crops this semester.

- **WELDING DEPARTMENT:** The area between the welding building and the greenhouse will be used to demonstrate how to construct small urban farms.

- **GREENHOUSE:** Twelve new growing tables are being built in collaboration with the Urban Horticulture and Agribusiness program to teach people how to start and open a small urban farm.

While at MCC, she has not only excelled as an art student but also as a wonderful role model for others. Nikelle hopes to one day start her own business working with Agribusiness, majoring in Business Art and Design. The College is well known for its connections to Downtown Phoenix, Disney, Pixar and others.

In 2000, Mzenje Banda made a decision that changed the course of his life. Banda, born and raised in Zambia, had lost his job and was worried about what to do next. “In Zambia, things are so hard,” Banda said. “There’s a high unemployment rate and it’s difficult to find work. I had to help both my mother and her children to support.”

So Banda made the decision to travel to the United States to improve life for his family. He came alone, choosing to live in Arizona because he had a sister there. He arrived at MCC and found work as a student worker in the Public Safety Department, working with college security officer Lynn Banda. Banda said he had little trouble adjusting to his classes at MCC.

“I thought school was very easy,” Banda said. “I did well academically and even won an award for the whole class and you have to take turns.”

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**President's Message**

July 10th, the Maricopa Community College District will celebrate its 50th anniversary, marking MCC’s historic role in the community, and MCC’s District’s 75th anniversary.

Throughout the celebration year, we will focus events and activities on the Historical marker at the Glendale Community College. Our activities will be held this fall. While this may seem along the way to get a taste of some of the wonderful accomplishments that you’ll want to be sure to enjoy.

At MCC’s Downtown Center, you will be invited to tour the Virtual Accreditation Center, a state-of-the-art facility that provides training to student community training in preparation for new and reaccreditation.

All MCC employees, faculty, and students are invited to participate in the celebration. MCC will provide free health screenings and evening events.

**MCC President**

**PROGRAM AWARDS**

**Women’s Basketball**

Coaches and players performed tremendously in the national spotlight as Alaina lady lacked 30 and 10.00 for three of the four games in the tournament. The NCAA Championship trophy was awarded to MCC for its success in the tournament.

**Tennis**

MCC’s Women’s tennis team won the National Championship. The team, led by Coach Kori Stephenson, was recognized for their success in the tournament.

**Design Awards**

The Fashion Program’s design major will be named a Fashion Award. The program has been recognized for its success in the fashion industry.

**Theatre**

The show, "Unconditional," is presented by Class 6 Theatre and incorporates his love of storytelling and tap dancing into a one-man show. Loehr hopes to perform "Unconditional" at festivals across the country.

**Milestones**

MCC President

**On the Road to Excellence**

At the end of each year, we honor and recognize the outstanding achievements of our employees as well as the determination and hard work of our education, we know we have reached this milestone because of the hard work and commitment of our employees and students. As we look back at this year, we celebrate the outstanding achievements and accomplishments of our students and employees.

**MCC Student**

MCC Student and Street Team Leader

**Community**

There’s a new effort taking place that will help us understand the community and relate our personal stories. If people are interested, then we talk to them. We love meeting new people and hearing their stories.

**Unconditional**

Alumus Dustin Loehr has found a way to incorporate his love of storytelling and tap dancing into a one-woman show that is being sponsored by the Mesa Community College. The show, "Unconditional," is presented by Class 6 Theatre and incorporates his love of storytelling and tap dancing into a one-woman show. Loehr hopes to perform "Unconditional" at festivals across the country.

**MCC’s 2011-2012 high school recruitment brochure received a silver Davey Award. Known as the largest and most prestigious awards competition exclusively for the "Davids" of creativity, the annual International Davey Award.

**Design awards**

Loehr hopes to perform "Unconditional" at festivals across the country.

**Outstanding Student and Faculty**

Loehr has been honored with the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society’s Distinguished Achiever Award and the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society’s Distinguished Achiever Award. This is the fourth year in a row that the show has been honored with this award.

**Torchbearers**

Loehr has been honored with the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society’s Distinguished Achiever Award and the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society’s Distinguished Achiever Award. This is the fourth year in a row that the show has been honored with this award.

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