

# THE THUNDERBIRD SUN



MCC International Education  
April, 2021 | Newsletter



MESA  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Director's Corner

Dear MCC Students:

I am pleased to convey this letter for the second edition of the "Thunderbird Sun", a publication of the International Education Office produced especially for you—our international students!

In this newsletter, you will find useful information, guidance, advice and information on important dates. Please be sure to read all the articles and send us any questions.

Our objective is to have a way to improve the effectiveness and frequency of our communications with you—our valued students. We want to be sure that you know about all of MCC's world-class student support services to help you on every step of your educational journey. My team and I are determined to help you receive all the support and services that you need to succeed.

I want to reaffirm the need for you to prioritize communications with all of my team in the International Education Office, your instructors and all the other administrators at MCC whenever the need arises.

This past week, our systems faced a challenge and an outage of all systems was the result. Fortunately, we had back-up systems in place which allowed us to continue our communications with you.

In general, I want to suggest that if you prioritize reading our communications and sending us your questions and assistance needs, what you will find is that your academic performance will improve and you will experience less stress and be in a position to better utilize your time for study, instead of having to think of solutions on your own. We are here to help you.

Finally, I would like to remind you again that you are studying at a college where all the leadership, faculty and staff have open hearts and open minds, so please do not hesitate to contact us for any and all reasons!

Aziz Alhadi  
Director, International Education  
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## Employee Spotlight

### Ashai Thomas – Student Communications and Activities Coordinator

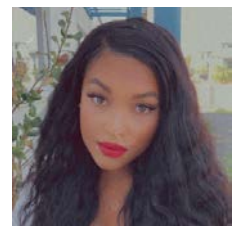
Hello! I am an alumna of Mesa Community College as well as the MCC Costa Rica Study Abroad program. The first time I left my comfort zone traveling outside of the United States, as well as my first steps towards facing the challenges of culture shock, began with my summer study abroad program to Costa Rica. In Costa Rica, I faced drastic climate change, different social-cultural views and at the time, the language barrier. I confronted my personal challenges by researching about the Costa Rican culture and rural areas that I would be staying in including "La Selva" and "Tortuguero". The experience I gained from traveling through rural areas such as the depths of the rainforest by foot and traveling to different towns by boat while studying the tropical life of the country was an eye-opener and enhanced my passion for the differences between cultures, daily routines, and language.

This experience enhanced my interest in learning more about different cultures and languages and prompted me into pursuing my bachelor's degree at Arizona State University (ASU) in English Linguistics with a minor in Spanish as well as the certification of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Language (TESOL). As an undergraduate, I was extremely involved in my community and my college experience which led me to many opportunities at both MCC and ASU. After the life changing experience that I had with my initial study abroad experience, I had the opportunity to receive a full-ride scholarship from the Next Generation Service Corps (a public service academy award) to achieve my mission of improving the quality of the education system among lower funded schools. This scholarship also enabled me to go on my second study abroad experience to Santiago, Chile to complete my minor in Spanish.

All of these experiences led me to be selected to serve in the Peace Corps in Panama, but due to COVID-19, I was not able to serve. However, during the pandemic, I was able to still serve my community by becoming an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher here in Arizona.

Along with being an ESL middle school teacher, I also work part-time with the International Education Office at MCC. I came back to work at MCC in the IE Office because this is where my journey began in defining what I would like to do as a career: helping my local community and going beyond internationally by teaching English as a Second Language. Working with international students gives me the chance to share the great experience that I had with my first abroad experience. I want to make sure that all current and incoming international students that enroll with MCC have the opportunity to explore their interests that will later drive them into pursuing the great opportunities that will follow.

Personally, studying internationally is what molded and drove me to who I am today and for me to be happy in what I do. I want to make sure that all the students that I work with will have the opportunity to find their true passion in their career path and reach their ultimate goals. My future plan is to teach English abroad and continue to gain world experiences in different settings.



# INVITATION TO SPRING CULTURAL FESTIVAL

by Aziz Alhadi

The International Education Office of Mesa Community College cordially invites to attend our virtually-presented *Spring Cultural Festival* on **April 7 from 11 am to 1 pm MST** ( Arizona Time).

Designed as a celebration of our diverse universe on the occasion of the arrival of spring, the Festival will feature traditional dance and music presentations and segments corresponding to every letter of the alphabet and from every region of the inhabited world, including the USA, Latin and South America, Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, the Far East and Europe.

Travel with us to interesting and little known countries and places in our virtual mini-tours of select destinations and witness the energy of performances from Borneo to Bangladesh and Brazil, Albania and Argentina; China to Columbia; Da Nang to Doha, Ireland to Indonesia, Jerusalem and Jordan, Mexico, Mongolia and Mecca and from right here at home in Arizona and many others places.

Witness the people of the world donning traditional clothing and accessories as a sample of fashion beyond the conventional fare.

Finally, you will also meet some of MCC's past and current students from 20 countries of the world and be introduced to fascinating indigenous people from Arizona, the ancient Dayak of Indonesia, along with the Zulu of South Africa, among others to witness not only common bonds and traditions, but also the beauty of our diverse universe.

Closed captioning will be available.

Please feel free to share this invitation with your friends and family and we hope you can join us!

<https://maricopa.webex.com/maricopa/j.php?MTID=mf9f037417778106858efde34d46ffc41>

Password: Cultural



MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

*Spring Cultural Festival*

"A Celebration of Our Diverse Universe"

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2021  
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

<https://maricopa.webex.com/maricopa/j.php?MTID=mf9f037417778106858efde34d46ffc41>  
Password: Cultural

JOIN US

For a virtual program featuring cultural dance, music, a procession of traditional costumes and mini virtual tours of ten regions of the world.

The Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) is an EEO/AA institution and an equal opportunity employer of protected individuals and individuals with disabilities. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, marital status, gender identity, age, or national origin. A lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in the career and technical education programs of the District.

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VIRTUAL  
**University Transfer Fairs**  
Everything you need to know about transferring to a university

Explore your transfer options and connect with university representatives at Virtual University Fairs on **April 22**. For more information and to register, visit:

<https://events.maricopa.edu/event/virtual-transfer-fairs>

# APPLY FOR FALL 2021 MCCCD FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS NOW!

International students are eligible to apply!

Hundreds of scholarships available with one application!

Due to network outage, deadline will be extended. Details coming soon!

## Apply now for Fall 2021 Scholarships!

Application Deadline  
April 16, 2021

**Step 1** Navigate to:  
<https://mcccdf.academicworks.com> application portal.

**Step 2** Click on the **SIGN IN** box.

**Step 3** Sign in with your MEID and Password. If you do not know or need to reset your MEID or Password visit <https://admissions.maricopa.edu/ID/Reactivate/>.

**Step 4** Fill out the application and click the finish and submit button to complete the application.

**Step 5** Sign in weekly to complete follow-ups if prompted.

**Step 6** Award notifications will be sent to your student Gmail account.

### HELPFUL TIPS:

- Any Maricopa Community College student is encouraged to apply, including clock and credit hour students, as well as students paying out-of-state tuition.
- If you do not have a GPA with a Maricopa College yet, list your High School GPA.
- Hundreds of scholarships, one application! Applications are applied to scholarships based on student answers.
- The FAFSA is not required to be considered for scholarships.

### ESSAY WRITING TIPS:

- Be positive- Be truthful- Be descriptive.
- Reflect on your life goals and career aspirations.
- Share your unique story.
- Use Word to check for spelling errors.
- Have a friend or family member proofread your paragraph for grammatical errors.
- Take advantage of your College writing center.



MARICOPA  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGES  
FOUNDATION

For more information, contact the  
Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation at  
[foundation.scholarships@domail.maricopa.edu](mailto:foundation.scholarships@domail.maricopa.edu)

## Important Deadlines

**Find a Class Opens:** • **April 5th, 2021**

**Class Registration:** • Priority registration begins for summer and fall semesters. If you need to know your required classes for next semester, please submit the online advising request:

[Pre-advising Worksheet \(link below\):](#)

[https://mesacc-sa.terradotta.com/index.cfm?](https://mesacc-sa.terradotta.com/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=10039)

[FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program\\_ID=10039](https://mesacc-sa.terradotta.com/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=10039)

**Tax Deadlines:** • Extended to **May 17, 2021** (if you had income in 2020) *OR*

• **June 15, 2021** (if you had NO income in 2020)

• [https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vRZd3i87Jg7x8N1PX-](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vRZd3i87Jg7x8N1PX-0LqHI_XrM4M7fEADaA6NUVKEmBIHxz6K7HfzmDMdBpNaHxrUr4tBtqxEyJrRO/pub)

[0LqHI\\_XrM4M7fEADaA6NUVKEmBIHxz6K7HfzmDMdBpNaHxrUr4tBtqxEyJrRO/pub](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vRZd3i87Jg7x8N1PX-0LqHI_XrM4M7fEADaA6NUVKEmBIHxz6K7HfzmDMdBpNaHxrUr4tBtqxEyJrRO/pub)

**Graduation Application Deadlines:** • **Spring 2021 - March 1st, 2021** (*even if you missed it, you still need to submit the application!*)

• **Summer 2021 - June 1st, 2021**

• **Fall 2021 - November 1st, 2021.**

• *Please read the instructions on the website for the Steps to Graduation:*

<https://www.mesacc.edu/graduation/steps-graduation>

## U.S. HOLIDAYS IN *april*

by Yvonne Schmidt

### April Fool's Day – April 1

On April 1, if you scan your favorite newspapers or news websites, chances are you'll see some headlines that look suspicious. You may find that some of those stories are complete hoaxes due to it being April Fool's (or Fools') Day! The custom is to play practical jokes and hoaxes and after being revealed, shout "April Fools!" at the victim. Although the day has been celebrated for several centuries by different cultures, its exact origins remain a mystery.

Pranks range from putting Vaseline on doorknobs to tricking your friend into thinking their car got towed. In America, schoolchildren love to pull pranks on their teachers. If you're looking for some innocent fun, just Google "April Fools Pranks or Jokes" and you will get lots of ideas to show off your inner-jokester!

### Easter Sunday – April 4

Easter is a Christian holiday that celebrates the belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In the New Testament of the Bible, the event is said to have occurred three days after Jesus was crucified by the Romans and died in roughly 30 A.D. The holiday concludes a series of events and holidays that begins with Lent—a 40-day period of fasting, prayer and sacrifice—and ends with Holy Week, which includes Holy Thursday (the celebration of Jesus' Last Supper with his 12 Apostles), Good Friday (on which Jesus' crucifixion is observed) and Easter Sunday (resurrection). Although a holiday of high religious significance in the Christian faith, many traditions associated with Easter date back to pre-Christian, pagan times.

Although Easter is a "movable feast" and does not have a fixed date, it is always held on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25. Specifically, Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday following the full Moon that occurs on or just after the spring equinox.

Easter eggs, a symbol of the empty tomb, is a popular cultural symbol of Easter. The custom of the Easter egg originated in the early Christian community of Mesopotamia, who stained eggs red in memory of the blood of Christ, shed at his crucifixion. The oldest tradition is to use dyed chicken eggs, but a modern custom is to substitute decorated chocolate, or plastic eggs filled with candy as many people give up sweets as their Lenten sacrifice. After having abstained from sweets during the preceding forty days of Lent, individuals enjoy them at Easter. In many traditions, dyed/decorated Easter eggs are hidden for children to find.

Another custom, the Easter Bunny, is a folkloric figure and symbol of Easter, depicted as a rabbit bringing Easter eggs. Originating among German Lutherans, the "Easter Hare" originally played the role of a judge, evaluating whether children were good or disobedient in behavior at the start of the season of Eastertide. In some traditions (including in the United States), children put out their empty baskets for the Easter bunny to fill while they sleep. They wake to find their baskets filled with candy eggs and other sweet treats.





## Songkran Festival in Thailand - April 13-16

The Songkran Festival is a national holiday in Thailand. It marks the beginning of the Thai New Year. The word Songkran is derived from the Sanskrit work samkranti, which means astrological passage. It is a traditional Buddhist festival, and it is usually celebrated between 13 and 16 April unless the dates are modified by an official government announcement.

Source: <https://publicholidays.asia/thailand/songkran-festival/>

## Passover - ends April 4

The Jewish holiday of Passover (in Hebrew, Pesach) commemorates the exodus of the Jews from slavery in Egypt. The holiday originated in the Torah, where the word pesach refers to the ancient Passover sacrifice (known as the Paschal Lamb); it is also said to refer to the idea that God "passed over" (pasach) the houses of the Jews during the 10th plague on the Egyptians, the slaying of the first born. The holiday is ultimately a celebration of freedom, and the story of the exodus from Egypt is a powerful metaphor that is appreciated not only by Jews, but by people of other faiths as well.

Source: <https://toriavey.com/what-is-passover/>



## Ramadan - April 12 - May 11

Ramadan is considered one of the holiest months of the year for Muslims. In Ramadan, Muslims commemorate the revelation of the Qur'an, and fast from food and drink during the sunlit hours as a means of drawing closer to God and cultivating self-control, gratitude, and compassion for those less fortunate. Ramadan is a month of intense spiritual rejuvenation with a heightened focus on devotion, during which Muslims spend extra time reading the Qur'an and performing special prayers. Those unable to fast, such as pregnant or nursing women, the sick, or elderly people and children, are exempt from fasting.

Source: <https://ing.org/ramadan-information-sheet/>



## Holi in India - March 28-29

Holi is one of the most important Hindu festivals celebrated with great fervour in India. On this day people smear colours or gulal on each other and so the festival is rightly called 'the festival of colours'. Holi is celebrated on the full moon day in the month of Phalgun and so it also signifies the arrival of spring.

Source: <http1s://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/events/when-is-holi-2021-date-history-story-significance-and-all-you-need-to-know-about-the-festival-of-colours/articleshow/81709654.cms>



## OTHER GLOBAL HOLIDAYS

April 1	<b><u>Maundy (Holy) Thursday</u></b>	<i>Christian</i>
April 2	<b><u>Good Friday</u></b>	<i>Christian</i>
April 3	<b><u>Holy Saturday</u></b>	<i>Christian</i>
April 7-8	<b><u>Yom HaShoah</u></b>	<i>Judaism</i>
April 8	<b><u>Buddha's Birth</u></b>	<i>Buddhist</i>
April 13	<b><u>Vaisakhi</u></b>	<i>Hindu/Sikh</i>
April 13-14	<b><u>Yom HaZikaron</u></b>	<i>Judaism</i>
April 14-15	<b><u>Yom HaAtzma'ut</u></b>	<i>Judaism</i>
April 25	<b><u>Mahavir Jayanti</u></b>	<i>Jain</i>
April 29-30	<b><u>Lag B'Omer</u></b>	<i>Judaism</i>



# Join Us on Good Deeds Day!

Join other Mesa Community College students and staff in participating in Good Deeds Day. Good Deeds Day is a global day that unites people from 108 countries to do good deeds for the benefit of others and the planet.



Here are 3 easy steps to participate in MCC's Good Deeds Day:

1. Choose what interests you the most. Here are some great ideas for Good Deeds Day projects.

<https://www.good-deeds-day.org/25-fun-and-meaningful-ideas-you-can-do-for-good-deeds-day/>

2. Register your project and receive a Good Deeds Day T-shirt, while supplies last.

<https://tinyurl.com/GDD-projectregistration>

3. After you complete your Good Deeds Day activity, submit your photo & activity description to the Student Reflection Page at:

<https://www.mesacc.edu/community-civic-engagement/student-reflections/submit-your-reflection>



Earth Day is an annual event celebrated around the world on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First celebrated in 1970, it now includes events coordinated globally by the Earth Day Network in more than 193 countries. Growing out of the first Earth Day in 1970, EARTHDAY.ORG is the world's largest recruiter to the environmental movement, working with more than 75,000 partners in over 190 countries to drive positive action for our planet.

EARTHDAY.ORG will produce an Earth Day Live digital event on April 22 parallel to the Biden Administration's global climate summit. As a clear acknowledgment of the power of Earth Day, the Biden administration will hold a global leaders summit as a critical stepping stone for the U.S. to rejoin the world in combating the climate crisis.

The Earth Day Live multi-hour multi-channel livestream will include segments taking place around the world starting at 9 am Arizona time. Workshops, panel discussions, and special performances will focus on Earth Day's 2021 theme, Restore Our Earth, which examines natural processes, emerging green technologies, and innovative thinking that can restore the world's ecosystems. Topics will include climate and environmental literacy, climate restoration technologies, reforestation efforts, regenerative agriculture, equity and environmental justice, citizen science, cleanups, and beyond. World climate leaders, grassroots activists, nonprofit innovators, thought leaders, industry leaders, artists, musicians, influencers, and more will be involved.

**Don't underestimate your power!** When your voice and your actions are united with thousands or millions of others around the world, we can create a movement that is inclusive, impactful, and impossible to ignore! To get involved and learn more about Earth Day 2021, visit: <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2021/>.

Here are 51 actions and tips to make a difference, every day of the year:

<https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-tips/>.

For an additional 50 ideas on how you can help to create a more sustainable world... one person, one household, one neighborhood, one community at a time, visit the City of Mesa website:

<https://www.mesaaz.gov/residents/sustainability/earth-day/earth-day-events>.

## Upcoming Campus Events

**WE CARE WEDNESDAYS**  
DRIVE-THRU FRESH PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION AT MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**SOUTHERN/DOBSON CAMPUS**  
10 AM-12 PM  
*Or until supplies last*

**RED MOUNTAIN CAMPUS**  
10 AM-12 PM  
*Or until supplies last*

**Jan 6 Mar 3**  
**Feb 3 Apr 7**  
**May 5**

1833 W. Southern Ave., Mesa  
Enter on Solar Way off of Dobson Road

**Jan 20 Mar 17**  
**Feb 17 Apr 21**  
**May 19\*** *Tentative*

7110 E. McKellips Rd., Mesa  
Enter on Red Mtn Way off of McKellips Road

**FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE IN NEED OF FOOD ASSISTANCE**

**UNITED FOOD BANK**

**A volunteer will place food in your trunk or vehicle. Walk-up service is available for those without vehicles. MASKS ARE REQUIRED.**

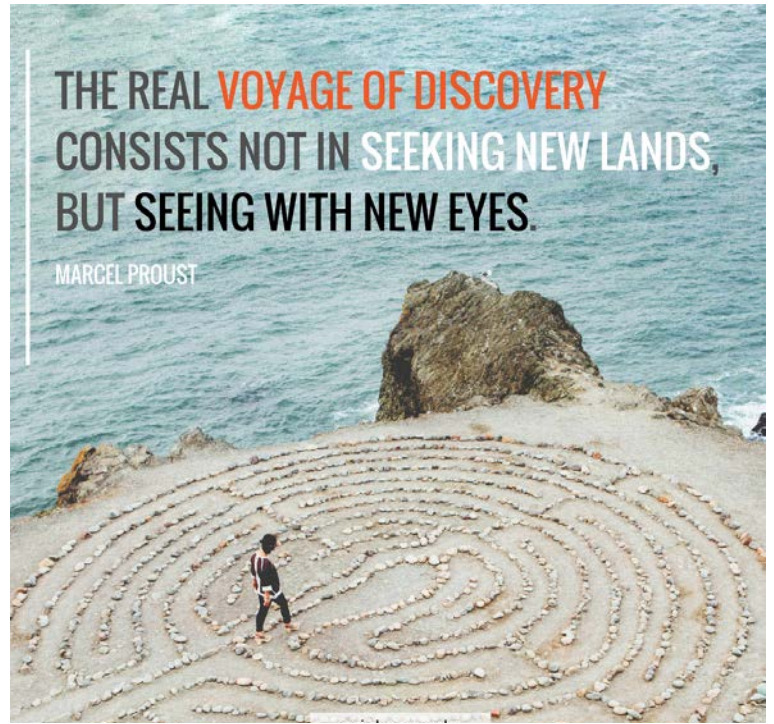
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## Quote of the Month



## MCC INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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