



THE THUNDERBIRD SUN

*There are only two forces that can carry light to all the corners of the globe...
the sun in the heavens and the Associated Press down here."*

- Mark Twain



MCC International Education

August 2021 | Newsletter



Director's Corner

Welcome MCC Students!!

I am pleased to convey this letter for the August 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 important dates. Please be sure to read all the articles and send us any questions! We want you to stay informed and please always **CHECK AND READ YOUR MARICOPA EMAILS!**

Student Surveys

In the past month, the International Education team sent you numerous emails to ask that you complete a mandatory survey. To date, we have only received about half of the surveys returned. This survey provides us with information on what help you need to plan your Fall and future semesters. We want to help you, so PLEASE check your emails and respond to the surveys as soon as possible! If you have any questions about the survey, please email Advisor Joy White at joy.white@mesacc.edu.

New Student Orientation(s)

Orientation for new students is scheduled for **Friday, August 13**. **There will be two sessions: one from 9 am-12 pm and one from 1-4 pm. Lunch will be served for both groups between 11:30 am-1 pm.** You will be contacted by our staff to ask you which session you wish to attend. **Registration is required and the orientation is mandatory.** During the orientation, our team and colleagues from other departments will provide you with an overview of MCC and introduce you to many important services & regulations. Again, **attendance to this orientation is required** and gives us the opportunity to meet one another, so we look forward to seeing and meeting you!

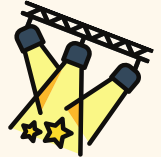
Please let us know if you need any assistance! Keep us informed and send any questions or developments to your advisor or to questions@mesacc.edu. Please also feel free to email me directly at the address below. Let us know how we can help you achieve success this semester!

Aziz Alhadi
Director, International Education
aziz.alhadi@mesacc.edu | 480-461-7753



Student Spotlight

Xhulia Doko - Albania



Hello, my name is Xhulia Doko. I come from the beautiful country of Albania, which is located in Southern Europe, but I spent most of my life in Greece. I speak 3 languages (Albanian, Greek, English).

I have been a student at MCC for the last three years studying business data analytics. It is a remarkably interesting major and incredibly challenging. I have been part of the International Education Office family working at the front desk for the last two years. During the past three years, I have participated in a couple of different clubs that MCC offers. My favorite is ISA (International Student Association), where you get the chance to meet more international students and engage with different cultures. I am also part of the Entrepreneurs Club. By taking Honors courses and maintaining a minimum 3.25 GPA, I have been earning Honors Achievement Award Scholarships.

This is going to be my last year as an MCC student since I am graduating in December. Yayyy!!! I am going to miss this place!☺ MCC has been such a great experience! I have fallen in love with the campus, students and the very friendly staff members. One of the best decisions in my life was to pursue my education in the U.S.!

One of my hobbies is reading books, especially self-development books. I think growing and working on yourself is a journey with no destination. It is interesting to find, explore, research and develop more about yourself. I love watching movies and I consider every movie as a new world with different perspectives. One of my favorite things to do is to drive to unknown destinations. I love driving around to places that I did not know existed and at the same time I get to spend time with myself, something that lots of people forget to do. I consider myself a goal-getter and "I am shooting for the stars" after graduating! I am planning to work in my field for a year so I can get to explore more about what business data analytics is all about. Until then, I hope I see you around!

Welcome Dr. Julie Voller

Dean of Student Development



Please give a warm welcome to our new Dean of Student Development, Dr. Julie Voller!

Prior to joining MCC, Dr. Julie Voller served as Interim Dean of Student Affairs at Phoenix College (PC). Previously, she served as Director of Academic Advising & Transfer Services at PC and as a Director of Research and Strategic Planning at the Maricopa Community College District Office. Since coming to MCCC from ASU in 2013, Dr. Voller has been a leader and champion for District-wide Guided Pathway planning, working with faculty, administrators, and staff across colleges to redesign the student experience.



Dr. Voller has co-edited several books and has authored articles on citizenship learning, staff professional development, and reward and recognition. She currently serves as co-editor for the NACADA Review. Julie earned her Doctorate in Educational Leadership and Innovation, and her Master of Education in Higher and Adult Education from Arizona State University. She lives in Tempe with her spouse and their dog, Blizzard. Her step-son just completed his sophomore year at ASU. She is a fan of the Harry Potter books, the works of author John Green, and musical theater.

We welcome Dr. Voller to Mesa Community College and International Education and look forward to continuing to elevate the student experience!

MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

International Education

Fall 2021 New International Student Orientation



Date: 8/13/2021 (Friday)
Group A: 9:00am – 11:30pm
Group A+B Lunch: 11:30am – 1:00pm
Group B: 1:00pm – 3:30 pm

Location: LB145 MCC Library

Lunch will be provided!
Welcome to MCC!!!

10 Tips For College Success

1. Go to class!
2. Participate in class.
3. Get some sleep (especially before a test!).
4. Pay attention to the syllabus (it's your roadmap).
5. Sitting in front forces you to pay attention).
6. Take good notes.
7. Don't be afraid to ask for help. MCC has FREE tutoring!
8. Get a strategy for studying (goals & scheduling).
9. Manage your time.
10. Make friends and network.

For more information, go to:

<https://www.educationquest.org/college-students/tips-for-college-success/>

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

The Maricopa County Community College District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs or activities. For Title IX/504 concerns, call the following number to reach the appointed coordinator for additional information, as well as a listing of accommodations within the Maricopa College system.



From Your Advisors

BY JENNIFER VINCA

Quarantine

Please see Centers for Disease Control ([CDC travel guidelines](#)) to determine if and how long you should quarantine after your arrival to the US.

Travel Signatures

New Students

No travel signature is needed if you are arriving in the US for the first time, with an Initial Attendance I-20.

Continuing Students

If you are currently in your home country and planning to return in person for the Fall semester, or traveling outside the US this summer, you can request a travel signature to reenter with the online form: [Travel Signature Request](#). Note that you must be registered full-time for Fall semester to be eligible for a travel signature.

OPT Employment Authorization

If you will graduate this summer or fall (August or December 2021), you can apply for OPT (Optional Practical Training) employment authorization in your field of study for up to 12 months. The first step is to apply for graduation (next column), and then submit the online form: [Optional Practical Training I-20 Request](#)

Class Registration

Class registration is now open for Fall semester! Register now to get the classes you need at the times you want! If you need to know your required classes for next semester, please submit the online advising request: [Pre-Advising Worksheet](#).

Format Requirements for Fall 2021 Class Registration

For Fall 2021, F-1 visa students must maintain full-time status (12 credits minimum). Of these 12 credits, 9 credit hours must be In Person or Live Online courses. "On your own time" online classes will be limited to a maximum of 3 credit hours per semester. Any exceptions to this requirement must be approved by your International Student Advisor or the Director of International Education.

For students studying from their home countries, a reduced load of Live Online classes may be approved given class scheduling and availability matters. In this case, a consultation is required with your advisor for review and approval.

Graduation Deadlines

Do you plan to graduate this year? *Graduation does not happen automatically!* You must submit a graduation application before the applicable deadline:

Application Deadlines:

- Fall 2021- November 1
- Spring 2022 - March 1



Please read the instructions on the Enrollment Center's website for the [Steps to Graduation](#) <https://www.mesacc.edu/graduation/steps-graduation>.

For more information on any of the above information, please write to jennifer.vinca@mesacc.edu.

On the Road to Success!



Learn & Earn!

Honors Achievement Award
\$244 - \$500 per semester

Do you have a 3.25 GPA? The Honors Achievement Award (\$244-\$500 per semester) is open to all students who have completed 12 college-level credits within the Maricopa Colleges, have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 and are currently enrolled in at least 6 graded credits (no pass/fail or non-credit).

To be awarded funds, you must maintain a 3.25 GPA, complete an honors course (or honors contract in a regular course) with at least a "C" grade and participate in one co-curricular activity during the semester.

- Students on F1 Visas are eligible to apply for the Honors Achievement Award with an I-94 on file.
- For all students, an HB2008 State Residency Form (Declaration of Residency) must be completed to receive the scholarship funds.

Any students who qualify for this award should either email any of the office staff listed at www.mesacc.edu/honors, call the Honors Office at 480-461-7079, or visit them in the Kirk Center 35S.

Learn more and apply online at:
www.mesacc.edu/honors/honors-achievement-award-scholarship.



If you are interested in graduating with Honors, as well as graduating from the Honors Program (two separate distinctions), info can be found at:
www.mesacc.edu/honors/applications-forms.

Things I Wish I Knew Prior to Coming..

...That I would need a car!

I was from countries where I could easily get around with subway, bus, train, tram, etc. Here it exists, but it takes much longer to arrive at your destination.

-Guili I., Germany & Argentina

...Summer was hotter than expected and I needed chapstick!

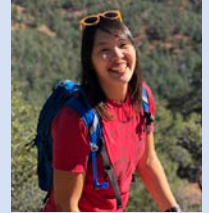
I still remember the scorching August heat when I first arrived in Arizona! In some parts of the world, chapstick is not used. In Arizona, it's a must have due to dryness. It can not only save your lips but can also potentially save your date!

-Jia-Wei Z., Taiwan



MCC Alumni Shooting for the Stars!

Meet Erzhen Soktoeva from Russia!



Hi everyone! My name is Erzhen and I am from Eastern Russia near the Mongolian border. I came to the US in 2008.

While at MCC I was involved in the International Student Association (ISA) and worked at the admissions office. Being part of ISA was an amazing way to meet new friends and participate in different activities like hiking, talent shows, volunteering. I still stay in touch with the friends I made over a decade later. I also belong to Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society while at MCC which helped push me academically and meet great people!

After MCC, I transferred to ASU, and based on my aunt's advice I went to study supply chain management, since I had no idea what to do with my life. She chose it because it had the best promises of a working visa after graduation. And she was absolutely right! I managed to get two internships during my time at ASU: One at Petsmart in Phoenix as a store operations intern and the second one at Dell in Austin, TX as a demand forecasting intern. And even though I didn't get a full-time job from either of those places, having them on my resume helped me get a job at Microsoft IT organization after college. Microsoft sponsored my working visa. I was lucky to get it on my first try!

I spent almost 5 years at Microsoft and gained many technical skills, however, I realized I did not enjoy working for a large corporation and I also wanted to go back to school to pursue a career more closely aligned with my interests. So I moved back to Arizona and got a full-time job at ASU Decision Theater where I used to work as a student worker during my undergrad. While here for the past 4 years, I finished my Masters degree in User Experience, and am now leading the UX/UI team at ASU Decision Theater. I get to work with scientists and policy makers to design decision making policy software and then work with developers to bring it to life.

In addition to working at ASU, I also run my own business to help people develop a better relationship with technology called Slow Tech Journey (slowtechjourney.com). I started it during this past year of the pandemic and am hoping to eventually focus on that full-time.



Got Apps??

Apps and tools can help you manage your time, calendar and money! Here are a few free resources to get you started this semester (many have paid upgrades):

- **Ankiapp**: flashcard app
- **Any.do**: to-do lists, reminders
- **Duolingo**: language learning
- **Evernote**: note-taking & task-management system
- **Google Calendar**: calendar
- **Google Drive**: free cloud storage & collaboration
- **Grammarly**: checks grammar
- **MyLifeOrganized**: task management tool
- **Mint**: money management
- **Quizlet**: flashcard app

MyInfo - A MCCCDC tool that provides you access to personalized information, including class schedules, books, grades, and more! This app supplies the critical information you need for your continued success & engagement on campus. MyInfo is available in the Apple App Store and Google Play Store simply by searching for the "Maricopa MyInfo" app.

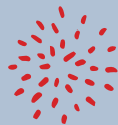
Need a Ride to Get A Vaccine?

Lyft is Giving Free Rides!

See if you qualify!

<https://lyftup.typeform.com/to/k6xYpwVV>

Arizona Vaccination Program Login
<https://www.azdhs.gov/index.php>



The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and its Federal government partners fully support equal access to the COVID-19 vaccines and vaccine distribution sites for undocumented immigrants. It is a moral and public health imperative to ensure that all individuals residing in the United States have access to the vaccine. DHS encourages all individuals, regardless of immigration status, to receive the COVID-19 vaccine once eligible under local distribution guidelines. For more info, read: <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2021/02/01/dhs-statement-equal-access-covid-19-vaccines-and-vaccine-distribution-sites>

To Locate, Register, and Schedule an Appointment

<https://azdhs.gov/covid19/vaccines/index.php#registration>



Set Yourself Up For **SUCCESS** with a Student Success Bootcamp!

Choose from two **FREE** Live Online boot camps.
Each boot camp will be held over two days.

Session 1: Monday & Tuesday | August 9-10 | 1:00-3:15 pm
Session 2: Wednesday & Thursday | August 11-12 | 6:00-8:15 pm

Topics that will be covered include:

- Learn how to navigate Canvas to make the most of your semester
- Learn about college resources available to support your success
- Learn tips for how to capitalize on motivation and reduce procrastination
- Use tools to explore careers and choose a major
- Examine strategies to manage stress and anxiety
- Discuss the importance of self-care in surviving college
- Foundations for Student Success
- Boot Camps
- Math Boot Camps

REGISTER



You will need your MEID and password to register

For Information, contact Allison Sleigh

P: 480-461-7667

allison.sleigh@mesacc.edu



Welcome to the Fall 2021 Semester!

Academic Calendar



NEW TO TOWN?

Phoenix's independent source of local news and culture



For Metro Phoenix Info

go to www.phoenixnewtimes.com/



11 International Grocery Stores in Greater Phoenix

www.phoenixnewtimes.com/restaurants/international-grocery-stores-in-metro-phoenix-9112420

New Times Best of Phoenix 2020

www.phoenixnewtimes.com/topic/best-of-phoenix-6471912

UPCOMING BOOT CAMPS

www.mesacc.edu/students/foundations-student-success/boot-camps



Who Should Sign Up?

- If you want to improve your EdReady scores for placement
- If you are enrolled in a Fall English course or any course requiring college-level reading

Session Dates/Times

- **Reading:** August 9-10 (Monday & Tuesday) - 10 am to 12 pm
- **Writing:** August 11-12 (Wednesday & Thursday) - 10 am to 12 pm

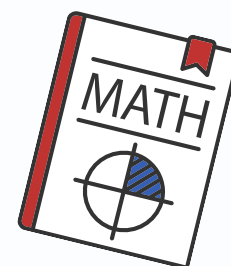
How Do I Register?

www.mesacc.edu/fss/boot-camps/reading-writing-boot-camps

For questions, contact Foundations for Student Success @ (480) 461-7667.



MATH BOOT CAMPS



- Foundations 1: Entering MAT081, 091 or HESI review
- Foundations 2: Entering MAT12X
- Foundations 3: Entering MAT15X or Intermediate Algebra review
- Liberal Arts: Entering MAT112 or MAT14X
- Calculus: Entering MAT220

For Dates and Times in July & August, Visit

www.mesacc.edu/students/foundations-student-success/boot-camps/math-boot-camps



Who Should Sign Up?

- Students who are enrolled in CSC 100AB or CSC110AB this coming semester.
- Students who are curious about the Computer Science program at MCC.

How Do I Sign Up?

Sign up online: www.mesacc.edu/fss/boot-camps

Your MEID and password are required for registration

Have More Questions???

Contact Allie Berkman at allison.berkman@mesacc.edu or call 480-461-7388.



Who Should Sign Up?

- Students who are enrolled in AST 111, AST 112, GLG 101, GLG 102, GLG 105, GLG 110, or PHY 101 this coming semester.
- Students who are curious about the Physical Science programs at MCC.

How Do I Sign Up?

Sign up online: www.mesacc.edu/fss/boot-camps

Your MEID and password are required for registration

Have More Questions???

Contact Allie Berkman at allison.berkman@mesacc.edu or call 480-461-7388.



STUDENTS BE AWARE!



SCAMMERS USING SEVP AND HSI PHONE NUMBERS TO TARGET INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) has been made aware of a spoofing scam involving individuals using an SEVP Response Center (SRC) phone number (703-603-3400) or a Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) office phone number (757-441-6533) to target nonimmigrant students.

Fraudulent callers are claiming to be SEVP representatives and asking students to provide their immigration information, such as their Alien Registration Number or Form I-94, "Arrival/Departure Record," information, or face deportation.

If you encounter, or are a victim of this spoof call, you are encouraged to report the incident to the HSI tip line. If you are unsure about the validity of a call from an SEVP official, you can also reach out to your designated SEVP field representative or contact the SRC.

Tips and items to remember:

- NEVER divulge personal or financial information to unknown callers.
- SEVP officials will NEVER ask stakeholders to provide credit/debit card/gift card numbers, wire transfers, or bank routing numbers, or to make bitcoin deposits for any purpose.
- Report all suspicious calls to the HSI tip line and if you are unsure about the validity of a call from SEVP officials reach out to your designated SEVP field representative.

If you have any additional questions regarding this matter, please contact the SRC at 703-603-3400 or 800-892-4829, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET, except federal holidays.



If you are new to the summer heat here in the Sonoran desert, don't worry, with each passing month the temperatures will drop! By the middle of the fall semester, you will enjoy the cooler temps and you will have acclimated to the dry heat.

Arizona is the only state in the U.S. that contains four separate desert regions (each vastly different), the Chihuahuan in the southeast, the Mojave in the upper west, the Great Basin in the Colorado Plateau, and the Sonoran desert, which is where we live.

In Arizona, the dry desert air can be responsible for depleting the body's moisture. One of the easiest solutions is to **STAY HYDRATED!** Some tips to drink 2 liters per day include:

- Set up reminders on your phone to drink a glass of water at different points throughout your day.
- Keep your water bottle close by as a reminder to drink. Stainless steel water bottles can keep your beverages cold for up to 24 hours.
- Try infusing your water with some fruits or herbs to make it tastier and more refreshing. Some popular mix-ins include cucumber, mint, lemon, and strawberry.

For tips on how to acclimate to hot weather, check out wikiHow at: www.wikihow.com/Acclimate-to-Hot-Weather.

HOLIDAYS IN *August*

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International Day of the World's Indigenous People

There are an estimated 476 million indigenous peoples in the world living across 90 countries. They are inheritors and practitioners of unique cultures and ways of relating to people and the environment. They have retained social, cultural, economic, and political characteristics that are distinct from those of the dominant societies in which they live. Despite their cultural differences, indigenous peoples from around the world share common problems related to the protection of their rights as distinct peoples.

Indigenous peoples have sought recognition of their identities, their way of life and their right to traditional lands, territories and natural resources for years. Yet, throughout history, their rights have been violated. Every August 9th commemorates the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, chosen in recognition of the first meeting of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations held in Geneva in 1982.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/indigenous-day/background>

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World Humanitarian Day

On this day, the world commemorates humanitarian workers killed and injured in the course of their work, and we honor all aid and health workers who continue, despite the odds, to provide life-saving support and protection to people most in need.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/humanitarian-day>

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Raksha Bandhan

Raksha Bandhan is one of the most ancient festivals celebrated in India, dedicated to the pious bond between a brother and a sister. On this day, sisters apply tilak to the brother's forehead and tie a sacred thread 'Rakhi' on their wrist as a mark of affection and pray for his long life. The brothers in return offer gifts and promise to protect her all his life.

<https://knowindia.gov.in/culture-and-heritage/festivals/rakshabandhan.php>

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International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition

The night of August 22-23, 1791, in Santo Domingo (today Haiti & the Dominican Republic) saw the beginning of the uprising that would play a crucial role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. It is against this background that the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is commemorated on August 23rd each year. This International Day is intended to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade in the memory of all peoples.

<https://en.unesco.org/commemorations/slavetraderemembranceday>

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Women's Equality Day

Women's Equality Day in the United States, is a day to commemorate the 19th amendment to the Constitution that gave women the right to vote.

MORE HOLIDAYS IN *August*

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International Day Against Nuclear Tests

Since nuclear weapons testing began on 16 July 1945, nearly 2,000 have taken place. In the early days of nuclear testing little consideration was given to its devastating effects on human life, let alone the dangers of nuclear fallout from atmospheric tests. Hindsight and history have shown us the terrifying and tragic effects of nuclear weapons testing, especially when controlled conditions go awry, and in light of the far more powerful and destructive nuclear weapons that exist today.

On 2 December 2009, the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly declared 29 August the International Day against Nuclear Tests by unanimously adopting resolution 64/35. The resolution calls for increasing awareness and education “about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and the need for their cessation as one of the means of achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.”

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/end-nuclear-tests-day>

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Janmashtami

An annual Hindu festival that celebrates the birth of Krishna, the eighth avatar of Vishnu. <https://knowindia.gov.in/culture-and-heritage/festivals.php>



National Thrift Shop Day August 17

A thrift shop is a retail establishment that sells gently used items. Typically, charitable organizations run the stores to raise money for charitable purposes. Because the public donates most of the items, prices are lower than typical retail.

To make your budget stretch farther, here are some **local thrift shops in Mesa** that you might want to check out! Check for COVID-19 hours of operation before you go.

Sunshine Acres

Boutique & Thrift Store

3404 N. Higley Rd

Supports Sunshine Acres
Children's Home

Deseret Industries

1020 W. Broadway
Supports job training and
placement programs

Goodwill Industries

Multiple Locations
Supports skills training, career
services and job placement

360 Thrift

1244 S. Gilbert Rd
1102 N Higley Rd

Purchases items from
organizations such as
schools, churches, little league
teams and other non-profit
organizations giving them
much needed funding

Purple Heart Desert Thrift

4517 E. Main
Supports veterans
and people in crisis

White Dove Thrift Shoppe

1255 W. Guadalupe
Benefits Hospice of the Valley
patients and families

Bargain Central

Warehouse

251 N. Morris

Overstock, scratch & dent,
damaged box &
returned items at
35%-75%
off retail prices

Campus Events



For Information, visit:

<https://www.mesacc.edu/student-life/services-campus-resources>



Student engagement is one of the highlights of the MCC student experience!

www.mesacc.edu/student-life

MCC INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION TEAM CONTACT INFORMATION

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- **Joy White**
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Speaks Tagalog & Visayan



Email: questions@mesacc.edu

Visit: www.mesacc.edu/international



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