



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

December 2021 | Newsletter



Director's Corner

Congratulations for finishing the Fall 2021 semester!

Dear MCC Student:

Communications with the International Education Team and Your Professors

As we approach the final weeks of the Fall Semester, on behalf of myself and my team members, I would like to wish you all success in your final exams.

In preparation for the Spring semester, please be sure to communicate with us to arrange for an appointment for you with your advisor who can help you schedule your classes and review your progress to date.

We noticed that some students have registered without consulting an advisor from the International Education Office. To ensure that your courses apply to your degree and transfer and to benefit from the knowledge of the academic advisors regarding course options, it is highly recommended that you contact one of us to schedule an appointment.

My team members can also advise you on the many support services available to you which are all designed to help you succeed.

WHAT IS YOUR PHONE NUMBER???

I also want to remind you that is important also that you submit any changes in your address or phone numbers in accordance with the regulations so that we can contact you whenever necessary. You can send any changes to your contact information to ie@mesacc.edu.

Again, please let us know if there is any help we can provide you and please keep in contact with your advisors on a regular basis. Finally, I hope you have a safe and pleasant holiday break and please contact us by email if you need any assistance, even during the winter break.

The end of the year brings important holidays here in the U.S. such as Christmas and in many countries of the world. We wish you a happy holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Best wishes,

Aziz Alhadi
Director, International Education (Building 36N)
aziz.alhadi@mesacc.edu | 480-461-7753



Clifton Strengths!

Holiday greetings! My name is Yvonne Schmidt. My primary responsibility as the Study Abroad Coordinator is helping students study abroad in one of our faculty led summer programs in Britain, France, Ireland, Italy, Japan, and Mexico. I have a passion for international travel and for helping provide life transforming experiences for our students to go abroad. I also love helping our international students succeed in their study abroad programs right here in the United States! Over the years, I have provided homestays for many international faculty and staff from around the world ranging from one night to ten months. Behind the scenes, I am also the editor of this newsletter, so send me your ideas for things that you would like to read about every month!

All of us in the International Education Department are committed to assisting YOU in your personal and professional development during your collegiate journey here at MCC. Within yourself, you have many talents and gifts, some of which you may not even be aware of yet! To help you identify your talent themes, we are introducing a new opportunity for you to take the world-renowned Gallup CliftonStrengths Assessment this Spring semester at no charge.

This assessment will identify your top 5 dominant talent themes which you will be able to name, claim, and aim into future strengths. We will help you focus on questions such as "Who am I?" and "How do I best contribute to make this a better world?". This involves taking an online assessment (available in more than 25 different languages) and partaking in a follow-up coaching session. With your assessment, you will receive personalized results and resources for your top five CliftonStrengths. You may be able to put into words something you always knew about yourself but never had a label for it!

We are super excited to begin 2022 with this new opportunity to help you understand and apply your CliftonStrengths! Be on the lookout in your Canvas account for information on how begin the new year on a positive note by unlocking your talent themes. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions about this new initiative!

Enjoy your winter break!

Warm regards,

Yvonne Schmidt
yvonne.schmidt@mesacc.edu





From Your Advisors

JENNIFER VINCA, ZHAOWEN RUAN
YVONNE SCHMIDT AND SUPIE SENALUANG

Quarantine

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

Travel Signatures

If you have travel plans outside the US during Winter vacation OR if you are currently in your home country and planning to return in person for the Spring 2022 semester, you can request a travel signature to reenter the US with the online form: [Travel Signature Request](#). Note that you must be registered full-time for the Spring 2022 semester to be eligible for a travel signature! You must return to Arizona *before* the start of the Spring semester (by January 15).

OPT Employment Authorization

Graduating this Spring 2022 semester?

If you are interested in [OPT Employment Authorization](#) after graduation, you should apply **now!**

The first step is to [Apply for Graduation](#) and submit the online request: [Optional Practical Training I-20 Request](#).

Please email the IE Advisors with any questions or to set up a consultation: ie@mesacc.edu.

Class Registration

Spring 2022 class registration is NOW OPEN! If you need to know your required classes for next semester, please submit the online advising request: [Pre-Advising Worksheet](#).

How to Stay in Lawful F-1 Visa Status

- You must report your Change of Address 10 days after you move. Fill out the [Change of Address Request](#).
- If you are planning to Change Majors, complete the [Change of Major Request](#) application.
- **Enroll full-time** (12 credit hours) & **attend classes to avoid being withdrawn by the professor for non-attendance.**
- You must maintain valid immigration documents (**Passport and I-20**) at ALL times.
- Employment must be on campus for 20 hours during the regular semester and full-time during summer break. Off-campus employment requires work authorization.
- For more details, refer to your copy of the [F-1 Student Statement of Understanding – Spring 2022](#).

For questions related to your visa or I-20, send an email to ie@mesacc.edu

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:

- Spring 2022 - March 1
- Summer 2022 - June 1
- Fall 2022 - November 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 or
zhaowen.ruan@mesacc.edu.



Holidays

All around the world, December is the most festive month of the year! Explore the nine most popular December global holidays and their Symbolism (Hannukah, World AIDS Day, Santa Lucia, Yule, Festivus, Christmas, Boxing Day, Kwanza, and New Year's Eve) at <https://inspirationfeed.com/december-global-holidays/>.

Winter Break

Winter break will begin on **Thursday, December 23, 2021**. All offices will be closed on Thursday, December 23, 2021, and will reopen for business on **Monday, January 3, 2022**.



Holiday Events in Metro Phoenix

visitphoenix.com

Enjoy all that Phoenix has to offer during the holidays!

- [Holiday Lights](#)
- [Activities](#)
- [Holiday Concerts & Performances](#)
- [Home Christmas Displays](#) (abc15.com)

MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

STUDENT LIFE



Presents... **The T-BIRD TIMES**

The final edition of the T-Bird Times for the fall semester is now available!

T-Bird Times: 12/3/21

You can always get to the T-Bird Times by visiting this link:
www.mesacc.edu/tbirdtimes.

The next edition of the T-Bird Times will be published on 1/15/22.



MCC Winter Boot Camps

Intro to Astronomy and Physics
Jan. 10-12 from 5:30-7:30pm

Chemistry 130
Jan. 11-13 from 10:00-12:15pm

Chemistry 152
Jan. 11-13 from 5:30-7:30pm

Computer Science
Jan. 10-13 from 4:00-6:15pm

Math (Multiple Levels)
Jan. 10-13 (multiple times)

Reading/Writing
Jan. 6-7 from
10:00-12:00pm (Reading)
and 1:00-3:00pm (Writing)



Scan for more information and to register



MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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MCC Winter Boot Camps

What is a Boot Camp?

- A **free** opportunity to prepare for your spring courses.
- An introduction to the class you will be taking at MCC.
- An opportunity to meet faculty and peers within the discipline.

Students who attend:

- Feel more prepared for their first week of classes.
- Gain confidence in their ability to do well during the semester.

Who should sign up?

- Students who are enrolled or might enroll in the corresponding courses. Please see our website for more details on what boot camp is best for you.

How do I sign up?

- Sign up online: <https://www.mesacc.edu/fss/boot-camps>
Your MEID and password are required for registration
- Have more questions? Email fss@mesacc.edu

Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) is an EEO/AA institution and an equal opportunity employer of protected veterans and individuals with disabilities. A lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in the career and technical education programs of the college.

The Maricopa Community Colleges do 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: (480) 731-8499. For additional information, as well as a listing of all coordinators within the Maricopa College system, <http://www.maricopa.edu/non-discrimination>.

FOUNDATIONS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS



SEE YOU ON JANUARY 3, 2022!

Wishing You a Joyous Holiday Season!

Wishing you peace and every happiness this festive season and throughout the coming year!
From your International Education family and the faculty and staff at Mesa Community College



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Email: questions@mesacc.edu
Visit: www.mesacc.edu/international



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