



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

January 2022 | Newsletter



IE Director's Corner

*Welcome to the
Spring 2022 semester!*



Dear MCC Student:

First, I would like to convey our best wishes to all of you on the start of the New Year! May you all have a year full of progress, health and happiness.

As classes will begin on Jan 15, 2022, please let us know if we can assist you with registration or your class schedules. My team members can also advise you on the many support services available to you which are all designed to help you succeed. Send us any messages to our team of advisors at ie@mesacc.edu.

I would also like to welcome our new international students. We know that it has been a difficult journey for some of you given the delays in visa processing, backlogged appointments in some countries and all the challenges caused by the pandemic.

We all need to adhere to MCC's COVID-related policies to keep everyone safe. You will need to wear a mask anytime you are on campus. You will find hand sanitizer stations in every section of campus. If you would like to be tested, you can just simply walk over to the MCC parking lot on the east side of campus where Embry Health provides free 24/7 walk-in testing (appointment preferred). Make an appointment at <https://embryhealth.com/covid-19-testing/>. Please let us know anytime you have a question on any COVID-related concern you might have.

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.

The beginning of the year normally brings great promise. Please focus on staying safe and allowing us to help you with any assistance you might need.

Best wishes,

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



**Take the
CliftonStrengths
Assessment!**

Happy New Year! Welcome to a new semester at MCC!

My name is Yvonne Schmidt. While my primary responsibility as the Study Abroad Coordinator is helping students study abroad in one of our faculty led summer programs, 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.

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 top 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! If you are interested in being the first to participate in this new initiative, please email me to get started! Prepare to unlock some powerful insights!

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!

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 upcoming travel plans outside the U.S. 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.



Upcoming Holidays

- January 13 - Korean American Day
- January 15 - Maka Sankranti (Hindu Harvest Festival)
- January 17 - Martin Luther King Day (CAMPUS CLOSED)
- January 27 - International Holocaust Remembrance Day



Martin Luther King Day

In honor of civil rights leader, Martin Luther King, the **campus will be closed on Monday, January 17**. Celebrate with the City of Mesa MLK Parade & Festivities in downtown Mesa!

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade & Festival

The parade begins at 11 a.m. on January 17, 2022, kicking off on Center Street in Downtown Mesa at Martin Luther King Jr. Way. The parade will continue south on Center Street to First Street, and then travel west on First Street and conclude at Robson. The festival will be located on Macdonald Street, just north of Main Street in Downtown Mesa from 12 - 4 p.m.

THUNDERBIRD TECH STUDIO

Get real-time assistance using technology for class participation and course assignments!

We Assist With

- Canvas course navigation & assistance
- Google Suite for Education (e.g. Drive, Calendar, Mail) and Microsoft Office and 365
- Cranium Cafe, Cisco Webex, Google Meets, and Microsoft Teams questions
- Webcam and microphone setup & testing
- Mac and Windows operating systems
- Technical issues hindering online learning
- Tutoring and technology-related questions for CIS105 and BPC 110 courses

For hours of operation and to access the T-bird Tech Studio, visit:

www.mesacc.edu/students/thunderbird-tech-studio



MESA MARKET

FOOD & HYGIENE FOR STUDENTS

NOW OPEN



FREE FOOD + FREE HYGIENE

WHAT IS THE MESA MARKET?

The Mesa Market is a free food and hygiene pantry for MCC students. Students are welcome to select up to 10 food and 5 hygiene items per week. Visit us in Student Life at either campus.



Donations are always appreciated!

Southern/Dobson Campus

KSC 355
480-461-7285

Red Mountain Campus

Mesquite 210
480-654-7759

WE CARE WEDNESDAYS

DRIVE-THRU FRESH PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION AT MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

First Wednesday of each month at
SOUTHERN/DOBSON CAMPUS
10 AM-12 PM

Or until supplies last

F	Sept 1	S	Jan 5
A	Oct 6	P	Feb 2
L	Nov 3	R	Mar 2
L	Dec 1	N	Apr 6
		G	May 5

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



Third Wednesday of each month at
RED MOUNTAIN CAMPUS
10 AM-12 PM

Or until supplies last

F	Sept 15	S	Jan 19
A	Oct 20	P	Feb 16
L	Nov 17	R	Mar 16
L	Dec 15	N	Apr 20
		G	May 18

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.

MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer
For more information call (480) 461-7285

MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) is an EEO/AAE employer and an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or national origin. All acts of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and access to our career and technical education programs at 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 this notice, contact the following number to reach the appropriate coordinator: (480) 461-7285. For additional information, see also the listing of all coordinators within the Maricopa College system, and the Maricopa County website.

We Are Here to Help You Succeed!



For Information, visit:

www.mesacc.edu/student-life/services-campus-resources



**Read the Spring 2022 semester
T-Bird Times**

The next edition of the T-Bird Times will be published on 2/4/22 (and will continue to be published on the first & third Friday of each month).

You can always get to the T-Bird Times by visiting:
www.mesacc.edu/student-life

MCC INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION TEAM CONTACT INFORMATION

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»Be the«
CHANGE
-you wish
to see in the
WORLD



Email:

questions@mesacc.edu

Visit: www.mesacc.edu/international



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