



# 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

October 2021 | Newsletter



### Director's Corner

Welcome to October!

Dear MCC Students:

My message for the month is that all students should apply for a Spring 2022 scholarship from the Maricopa Foundation. Hundreds of scholarships are available with one application!

Please apply for financial scholarships available to international students by completing the application at the link below. **Deadline is October 17, 2021.** See the flyer in this newsletter for all the details. You can't win, if you don't play!!

**Tutorial:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=rrRp7\\_RUVBU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rrRp7_RUVBU)

**Application:** <https://mcccdf.academicworks.com>

bolsas financeiras

المنح المالية

재정 장학금

金融獎學金

becas financieras

học bổng tài chính

আর্থিক বৃত্তি

金融獎學金

pinansiyal na mga iskolar

bourses financières

οικονομικές υποτροφίες

مالي بورسونه

beasiswa keuangan

financiële beurzen

финансовые стипендии



Please feel free to write to me directly if you need any assistance from me or my team members. Keep reading, attend your classes, and ask for help if you need help!

Best wishes,

Aziz Alhadi

Director, International Education (Building 36N)

[aziz.alhadi@mesacc.edu](mailto:aziz.alhadi@mesacc.edu) | 480-461-7753



### Student Spotlight James Boumalhab



Greetings Everyone! My name is James Boumalhab, and I am a U.S. citizen. You may have started questioning my presence in this newsletter since I am not a true F-1 "international" student.

Well, even though I am a U.S. citizen on paper, I am an international student in terms of every aspect of my human nature. Even though I was born in the U.S., I moved to the beautiful country of Lebanon when I was an infant and grew up there. As a result, I speak Arabic and a little conversational French. However, due to dreadful economic conditions, the USA was my only hope to achieve my goals. Eight months ago, I arrived in the United States to pursue a dream, and it is to become the best engineer possible! I am currently majoring in Mechanical Engineering here at MCC and planning to finish my bachelor's degree at ASU. I still have approximately a year and a half till my departure to ASU.

I have always been a family-oriented person. They have always been a top priority in my life and they will always be! Even though many things have changed due to my departure to the USA, we are always in touch via phone calls and video chats. My parents are not present in the U.S., so I would like to give credit to my aunt, who has been there for me since my arrival to AZ. I am a huge fan of sports, specifically soccer and motorsports. Since, my arrival in the US, I haven't been too sports-oriented due to the settling down process; however, I am planning to get back to it as soon as possible.


This is my first semester on campus at MCC, and I enjoy every bit of it! The professors are just amazing!! They put in heroic time and effort to assure our success, especially during the pandemic. I truly appreciate their hard work. Furthermore, I recently started working in the International Education Department. I work at the front desk and it has been great! I really enjoy helping students prosper in terms of their education. In addition, it is a blast working with my fellow colleagues. However, the best part of my job is meeting students from all over the world. Building relationships with students from many cultures is a way to understand different perspectives within the world in which we live.

# Hundreds of scholarships available with one application! International students are eligible to apply!

**Tutorial:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=rrRp7\\_RUVBU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rrRp7_RUVBU)

## Apply now for Spring 2022 Scholarships!

Application Deadline  
October 17, 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.



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



# From Your Advisors

JENNIFER VINCA, YVONNE SCHMIDT,  
SUPIE SENALUANG, & JOY WHITE

## 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!

## OPT Employment Authorization

*Graduating this Fall 2021 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 Ms. Joy White with any questions or to set up a consultation: [joy.white@mesacc.edu](mailto:joy.white@mesacc.edu)

## Class Registration

Spring 2022 class registration will begin on **November 8**. 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 – Fall 2021](#).

For questions related to your visa or I-20, send an email to [ie@mesacc.edu](mailto: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:

- 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](mailto:jennifer.vinca@mesacc.edu).



**What is Student Life & Leadership?**

- CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS
- STUDENT GOVERNMENT
- CAMPUS & VIRTUAL EVENTS
- LEADERSHIP TRAINING
- MULTICULTURAL PROGRAMMING
- MESA MARKET & WE CARE WEDNESDAYS
- AND MUCH MORE!

**Come Cheer On The MCC Thunderbird Teams!**  
<https://mesatbirdsports.com>

**Follow Mesa Thunderbirds Athletics on Twitter at: @TBird\_Athletics**

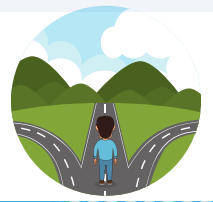
Get INVOLVED at MCC! Find us in KSC 35S and Mesquite 210 | [www.mesacc.edu/student-life](http://www.mesacc.edu/student-life)

## Student Clubs and Organizations are an important part of your experience as a student of Mesa Community College!

Students who get involved during college are generally more successful than those who don't, and they also report having a much more rewarding experience and feel a sense of belonging at their college.

View each club to learn more about: what each club is about, contact information, meeting days & times.

<https://sites.google.com/mesacc.edu/clubsatmcc/home?authuser=0>



## CAREER SERVICES

offers a variety of resources and assistance for career planning!  
[www.mesacc.edu/career](http://www.mesacc.edu/career)

Mesa Community College Career Services

**Professional Development Workshops**

Invest in yourself...



**VIRTUAL**  
 Tuesdays and Thursdays  
 10am - 11am  
 6pm - 7pm

**IN PERSON (BA-10W)**  
 Wednesdays  
 2pm - 3pm

For information on topics and links to join our virtual workshops visit [www.mesacc.edu/career/events-calendar](http://www.mesacc.edu/career/events-calendar)



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>

MCC's Career Services presents...

**Working Wednesdays**

Each **Wednesday\*\***  
 Sept. 1st - Dec. 1st  
 \*\*Excluding 11/24

**10AM - 12PM**

Clock Tower Sidewalk

- Meet with employers and find out about the opportunities available within their organization
- Ask MCC's Career Services team your career related questions

**2PM - 3PM**

Southern & Dobson (BA-10W)

Professional Development Workshops presented by Career Services (rotating schedule)

- Professional Networking
- Workplace Etiquette/Professionalism
- Branding Yourself
- Job Searching Skills



To view details for each Wednesday visit [www.mesacc.edu/career/events-calendar](http://www.mesacc.edu/career/events-calendar)

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MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

STUDENT LIFE

Presents...



Get the October T-Bird Times! [Click here](#) to check out campus happenings!

You can always get to the T-Bird Times by visiting the [Virtual Student Life Center](#), which is also your hub for all things Student Life.

# 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	I	Apr 6
		N	May 5
		G	

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	I	Apr 20
		N	May 18
		G	

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

FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE IN NEED OF FOOD ASSISTANCE

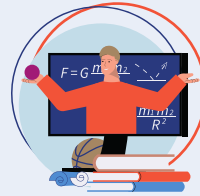
**UNITED FOOD BANK**

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

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A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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

MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGES



# FREE TUTORING!

## The Learning Enhancement Center

The LEC offers FREE tutoring in most academic subjects and provides other services to support learning and teaching.

- One-on-one and group tutoring with professional and peer tutors
- On-demand tutoring (online service)
- Computer-assisted instruction
- Comfortable settings for study groups to meet

Visit: [www.mesacc.edu/students/tutoring](http://www.mesacc.edu/students/tutoring)

# 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](http://www.mesacc.edu/students/thunderbird-tech-studio)





**NOW OPEN**

# MESA MARKET

FOOD & HYGIENE FOR STUDENTS

**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



MCC INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

# JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Exchange Cultures from All Around the World!!

COME AND GET INVOLVED!

Hello Everyone!

ISA is an MCC club that is made up of mostly international students on campus. We are almost like an international family as everyone is from different parts of the world. Our aim is to help students who are far from home feel like they are part of a big family. Come meet new friends and become a part of this AWESOME club!!! All MCC students are WELCOME!!

If you are interested in joining ISA or becoming a club officer, please fill out the form below:

<https://forms.gle/GBL3cfLSCMLxAaAi7>



For More Information

Visit: International Education - Building 36N

Email: Jia-Wei Zhang, ISA President at [jia2119068@mesacc.edu](mailto:jia2119068@mesacc.edu)

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## JOIN ISA!

<https://forms.gle/GBL3cfLSCMLxAaAi7>



### Net Impact - MCC Engagement Team

Find the Need. Take the Lead. Do the Deed.

We are proud of our student leadership programs that support MCC & the Center for Community & Civic Engagement. We have one of the national chapters of **Net Impact** with over 435 chapters in over 40 different countries. Last year our Net Impact Chapter was recognized as the undergraduate **Chapter of the Year**, competing against universities from all over the world!!

Learn more about how to make a difference in the world!

[www.mesacc.edu/community-civic-engagement/get-engaged/net-impact-mcc-engagement-team](http://www.mesacc.edu/community-civic-engagement/get-engaged/net-impact-mcc-engagement-team)



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>



## INTERNATIONAL OFFICE SPONSORS BOWLING EVENT

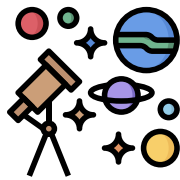
On Friday, September 24, the International Education (IE) Office hosted a "Welcome Event" at Bowlero in Mesa. This was the first off-site, in-person activity organized by the IE Office since the pandemic began in early 2020.

We were very happy that over 30 MCC students were able to attend this first activity of the semester! Stay tuned for future events! MCC's student body was represented by Vicente Ortiz, President of Student Government.

During the evening at the Bowlero, the students mingled with MCC staff and other students for an evening of food and fun. Although the sport and game of bowling was new to many of the international attendees, they had a great deal of fun learning the game.

The IE Office plans to organize and host a number of events throughout the year including music and cultural festivals, bus trips to parts of Arizona, New Mexico and even California. We encourage all students to join the International Student Association and join the fun!

# HALLOWEEN



Astronomy Nights  
at MCC Planetarium  
(south side of Physical Science Building)

Halloween, celebrated on October 31, is a popular celebration around the world, loved by adults and children alike. The meaning of the word "Halloween" is a contraction of All Hallows' Eve to literally mean "hallowed evening". The holiday that is Halloween is believed to have come to America by American colonists in the 19th century when thousands of people moved to the United States from Ireland and Britain. They brought their Halloween customs with them and combined these with traditions coming from Germany and other parts of the world.

Today, it is a multibillion-dollar industry celebrated worldwide. Many people, particularly children, choose to dress in spooky costumes in honor of the haunted holiday, parading the streets trick-or-treating.

MCC Astronomy Nights are held on the **first Friday of the month** during February, March, April, & May and September, October, November, & December. Includes planetarium shows, telescope viewing, information tables, hands-on activities, and more!

Planetarium shows run from 6:00-10:00 PM, with shows starting every 30 minutes. (Some longer shows run on a 45-minute or 1-hour schedule on select Astronomy Nights.)

All tickets to planetarium shows on Astronomy Nights must be reserved online through the Mesa Community College Planetarium page at PurplePass tickets.

<https://www.mesacc.edu/departments/physical-science/astronomy/planetarium/astronomy-nights>

**FREE**  
*Halloween Outdoor*  
**MOVIE NIGHT**  
*at* **MCC**  
**Red Mountain**  
**Fri: Oct 29**  
**6 pm**  
2307 N. Power Rd.  
Location: Acacia Village Parking Lot  
\*Bring your own chairs/blankets  
\*Masks recommended  
\*Food Trucks Available  
Disney **HOCUS POCUS**  
MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Red Mountain Campus

**YOU ARE INVITED!!!**  
PRESENTED BY THE AMERICAN INDIAN INSTITUTE AND GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY  
**TRICKS & TREATS HALLOWEEN PARTY**  
RSVP HERE:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfCD81iWg3zZezxRbi7uNT9F2WCseydrP6KFfs-mo\\_s8HcsEqQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfCD81iWg3zZezxRbi7uNT9F2WCseydrP6KFfs-mo_s8HcsEqQ/viewform)  
**DATE: OCT. 28, 2021**  
**TIME: 6:00 PM**  
**LOCATION: JARROD'S COFFEE, TEA, & GALLERY**  
**154 W. MAIN STREET MESA, AZ 85201**  
GAMES - COFFEE - PIZZA - CANDY  
WEAR YOUR SPOOKY COSTUME (AND PRACTICE SAFE DISTANCING DUE TO COVID-19)

## Other October Holidays

- Sept. 15- Oct. 15** [Hispanic Heritage Month](#)
- October 11** [Native Americans' Day](#)
- October 11** [National Coming Out Day](#)
- October 23** [Make a Difference Day](#)
- October 24** [United Nations Day](#)

WE  
WANT  
TO HEAR  
FROM  
YOU

We are looking for students to feature in our newsletter! If you would like to share your story about your home country and how you came to MCC, we would love to spotlight you in this newsletter! Email Yvonne at [yvonne.schmidt@mesacc.edu](mailto:yvonne.schmidt@mesacc.edu) for info.

# GET INVOLVED AND MEET NEW FRIENDS!

**Culture is the widening of  
the mind and of the spirit.**

Jawaharlal Nehru



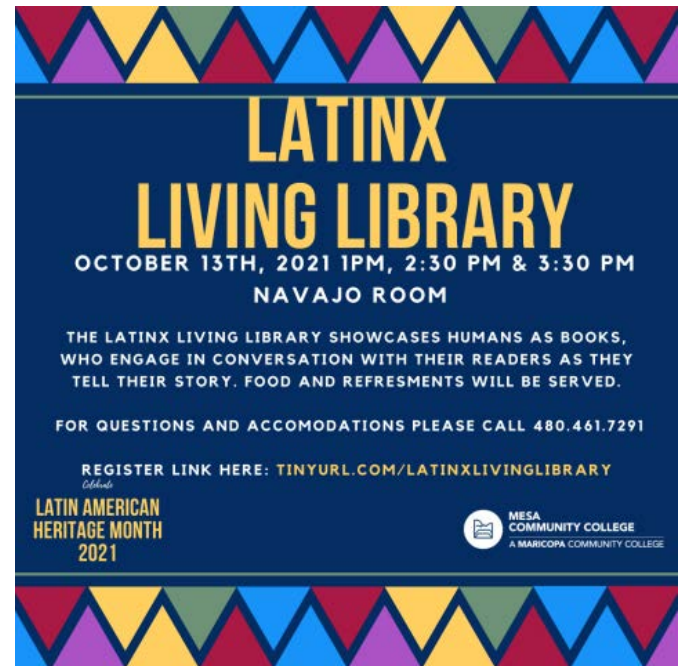
**BLACK HISTORY YEAR**  
**MUSIC: AN ART THAT MOVES YOUR SOUL**  
*The Greatness of Musicianship*

Thursday, October 7 at 10:30 am in SC-29  
Join Event: <https://tinyurl.com/MusicThatMoves>  
Password: Music

**BLACK HISTORY YEAR 2021**

Join us for a discussion with Professor Rod Golden, MCC Sociology faculty, on the many contributions of African American singers, composers, and musicians who have shaped music and inspired social change.

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**LATINX LIVING LIBRARY**

OCTOBER 13TH, 2021 1PM, 2:30 PM & 3:30 PM  
NAVAJO ROOM

THE LATINX LIVING LIBRARY SHOWCASES HUMANS AS BOOKS, WHO ENGAGE IN CONVERSATION WITH THEIR READERS AS THEY TELL THEIR STORY. FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.

FOR QUESTIONS AND ACCOMODATIONS PLEASE CALL 480.461.7291

REGISTER LINK HERE: [TINYURL.COM/LATINXLIVINGLIBRARY](https://tinyurl.com/LATINXLIVINGLIBRARY)

Celebrate  
**LATIN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2021**

MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## MCC INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION TEAM CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Aziz Alhadi**  
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Thunderbird Sun Editor
- **Jennifer Vinca**  
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*Speaks Spanish*
- **Joy White**  
Int'l Student Adviser  
[joy.white@mesacc.edu](mailto:joy.white@mesacc.edu)  
*Speaks Tagalog & Visayan*



**Email: [questions@mesacc.edu](mailto:questions@mesacc.edu)**  
**Visit: [www.mesacc.edu/international](http://www.mesacc.edu/international)**



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