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CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

This year MCC proudly celebrates 40 years of being an educational partner with the citizens of the East Valley.

On April 12, 1965, the Maricopa County Community College District Governing Board determined that the Phoenix College Mesa Extension would become Mesa Community College with the opening of classes in fall 1965. Over the years, MCC has fostered a strong relationship with the community and has earned a reputation of excellence in education.

Join us in celebrating MCC's birthday, April 12, 2005

COMMEMORATIVE ROSE PLANTING
Rose Garden at Southern and Dobson
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
Center Courtyard, MCC at Southern and Dobson
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

PROGRAM
11:30 a.m.

Attendees assemble in the shape of the number 40 for a commemorative photo
12:00 p.m.

Cake cutting
12:30 p.m.

Questions can be directed to the Office of Institutional Advancement at 480-486-7441. Parking is available in the southeast lot, accessible from Langmore Road.

JOIN THE CELEBRATION!



continued from front, Reaccreditation

In preparation for the NCA visit, MCC employees spent two years engaged in a self-study process. "We asked you to share with us what you learned in the self-study process, how you learned it, and what you did with it," Dr. Lee said.

The HLC team focused on the college's capacity to carry out its mission, challenges expected during the next decade, connection to and engagement with community, and what distinguishes MCC as an organization of higher learning. Dr. Lee offered particularly high praise for MCC's connection with community. "MCC's relationship to community is a model for all institutions of higher learning," she said.

Satisfying the five criteria is at the core of the HLC team's recommendation for accreditation. In addition, team members act as peer consultants and offer suggestions to assist the college in making improvements. The team made recommendations in two areas of challenge for the future: developing distance learning and handling growth.

The Bulletin is published by the Office of Institutional Advancement every other Thursday from September to April for employees of Mesa Community College. Please visit www.mc.maricopa.edu/alumni for submission deadlines and publication dates.

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The Maricopa County Community College District is an EEO/AA Institution.

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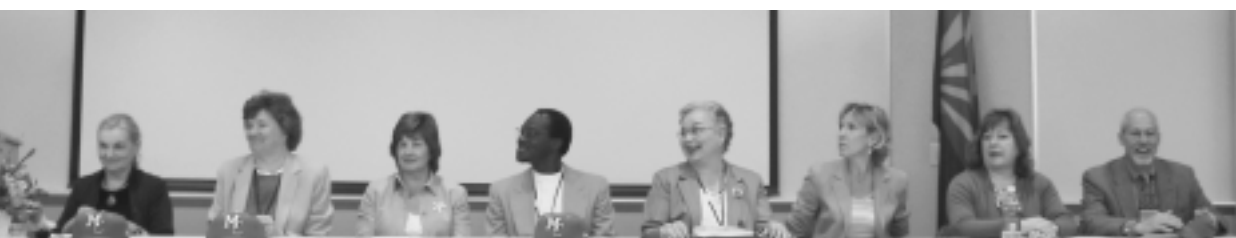


NCA team recommends reaccreditation

On March 9, Dr. Peg Lee, chair of a team representing the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association (NCA), announced the team's intent to recommend MCC's reaccreditation for another 10 years. At the conclusion of the team's three-day visit to the college, Dr. Lee presented a report to MCC employees in an Exit Interview.

Accreditation by the NCA is based on five newly defined criteria: (1) Mission and Integrity, (2) Preparing for the Future, (3) Student Learning and Effective Teaching, (4) Acquisition, Discovery, and Application of Knowledge, and (5) Engagement and Service.

continued on back, see Reaccreditation



An eight-member team from the Higher Learning Commission visited MCC March 7-9.

Celebrating 40 Years

September 1965 – Tibschrany Bros. Construction Company of Mesa begins building on the new campus. First phase of buildings include the Student Union, Life Science, and Maintenance buildings.

MCC's first CAT technicians graduate

One of MCC's greatest strengths is its attentiveness to the community's training needs for specialized and technical careers. A shining example of the college's commitment to technical education is its new Caterpillar Technician Training program. Students emerge from the program with an AAS degree and the skills they need to enter the workforce as heavy equipment technicians. Our college is one of 10 nationwide that provides this degree program.

The Caterpillar Technician Training Program, also known as the THINK BIG apprentice program, was developed through a collaboration between MCC and Empire Southwest Corporation, a Caterpillar

dealership and one of Mesa's largest employers. "THINK BIG comes from Caterpillar's corporate headquarters in Peoria,



Illinois," said Joe Rauscher, director of MCC's Caterpillar Technician Training program. "Now they're going global with programs in

Chile and Peru, and a huge program in Canada."

Caterpillar is the world's leading manufacturer of construction and mining equipment, diesel and natural gas engines, and industrial gas turbines. "CAT" is a logo recognized worldwide in the fields of construction, transportation, mining, forestry, energy, and more. MCC students learn to maintain and repair Caterpillar's giant yellow machines, from tractors and dozers to skidders and scrapers.

Sixteen students enrolled in MCC's Caterpillar program when it began in 2003, and a second class of 24 was accepted in 2004. Every eight weeks, students alternate classroom instruction with paid internships at Empire Southwest. In May, MCC's first class of Caterpillar technicians will graduate.

Partnership forged to offer dental programs at Red Mountain Campus

Mesa Community College and the Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health (ASDOH) have developed a memorandum of understanding to begin offering programs in Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene at MCC's Red Mountain campus in Fall 2005. Students would have the option of completing coursework in three areas:

- Certificate of Completion in Dental Assisting
- Associate in Applied Science in Dental Assisting
- Associate in Applied Science in Dental Hygiene

"The dental programs will be the first occupational programs to be developed specifically for the Red Mountain campus of MCC," stated Dr. Joseph Pearson, Dean of MCC's Extended Campus. Students will complete coursework on the Red Mountain campus and travel to ASDOH's new dental clinic (scheduled to open in April 2005) located less than 7 miles from the campus for clinical coursework.

The occupational programs were developed in response to workforce forecasts which indicate that both Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene will be within the ten fastest growing health care occupation categories (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics). "Current dental assisting and dental hygiene programs within

MCCCD do not meet identified growing employment needs in these occupational areas," according to Pearson. "Current programs within MCCCCD have student waiting lists through AY 2008." Development of the programs at the Red Mountain campus provides service to students in the far East Valley.

The accreditation process is underway, and the search for the program director was completed with the hire of Ms. Monica Williamson Nenad, RDH, M.Ed. Please contact Ms. Nenad at 472-0806 or monica.nenad@mccmail.maricopa.edu for additional information.

Art faculty member signs publishing deal

What began as an opportunity to review textbooks from Thomson Publishing evolved into a publishing deal for Cyndi Greening. Cyndi's ideas on how the books could be made more useful piqued the interest of a representative from Thomson, who referred them to an editor. The book deal rocketed from there.

The initial series includes four books: Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, and QuarkXPress. The books are intended to be broad-based in their market appeal although Cyndi's primary goal is that they be used as texts for colleges, universities, trade schools, and secondary schools across the U.S.

"The books will provide the technical information so faculty can focus on the more critical (and interesting) topic of aesthetic development and guide the students in creating a more developed body of work," states Cyndi. These books are for beginning level students so the books may also be used by the general interest consumer market. There are discussions currently taking place for Cyndi to do a more complex "Master Series" of each title, if the beginning level titles are well received, as well as a possible series on digital video production and animation using programs such as Final Cut Pro, Motion, Shake, DVD Studio Pro, and Maya.

