

# February 10, 2009

# the Bulletin

MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

## City of Scottsdale Partners with Mesa Community College Electronics Program



Mesa Community College's Electronics Program and the City of Scottsdale have announced a new partnership to provide city employees with the knowledge to meet the increasing demands of the electronic technologies used to operate city systems.

MCC faculty offer a sequence of courses at the City of Scottsdale Water Department building that enable employees to earn an Electronics Certificate of Completion on site.

"The city recognized a need for continuing education for their employees as they operate today's highly automated equipment," said JD Neglia, MCC's Electronics Program Director. "We're starting with the water department and will likely expand if Scottsdale takes advantage of other occupational areas that their employees need, such as automotive and drafting."

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Students take one class per semester for a total of 33 credit hours of instruction. Employees receive tuition reimbursement and the City of Scottsdale pays for texts and workbooks.

Bill Lutz from the City of Scottsdale said the program fits the city's philosophy to provide development opportunities to their workforce.

"This increases our employees' skill set," Lutz said. "We hope to make them more knowledgeable and provide a better chance for advancement."

Target groups are electronic technicians, water maintenance technicians, water service workers and parks irrigation techs. Instructors use City of Scottsdale equipment as much as possible for instructional purposes, emphasizing skills that are well suited to employees. A cohort of 12 students began the program in January.

Jeff Colburn, a senior water service worker with the City of Scottsdale, said he enrolled in the program to increase his knowledge of water systems.

"This will help me with advancement opportunities," Colburn said. "And it's very convenient that the classes are on site."

## New Education Abroad Opportunities

Mesa Community College's Education Abroad Program announces two new programs that are sure to spark an interest in students seeking to explore the world and earn college credits at the same time this summer.

And the programs aren't just for young adults.

"MCC's study abroad programs are open to all students of life," said Yvonne Schmidt, MCC's Education Abroad Coordinator. "Pass/fail options are available as well as transfer credits in a variety of disciplines."



The two new programs include an Arabic Language and Culture Program in Jordan, scheduled for May 28-June 27, and a Costa Rica Education Abroad Program, scheduled for July 4-August 2.

Students who choose the Arabic Language Program will be based in Amman, Jordan and take weekly cultural excursions.

"The excursions are phenomenal and will take students into ancient civilizations," Schmidt said.

Students in the Jordan program will travel to Petra, a city carved in stone and known as the eighth wonder of the ancient world; Jerash, one of the largest sites of Roman architecture; the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth; and the Hot Springs of Hammamat Ma'een, known for its therapeutic springs.

The Costa Rica Program offers students courses in environmental biology, tropical field research and photography. The program is based at LaSelva Biological Field Station, a research facility used by universities from all over the world. The area contains four major tropical life zones and includes more than 5,000 species of vascular plants, of which more than 700 species are trees.

Excursions are planned to Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve, a wildlife refuge in a rain forest; the Arenal Volcano, one of seven historically active Costa Rican volcanoes; and the Tortuguero Turtle Preserve, which contains several species of turtles and other wildlife.

The program is designed to provide an understanding of how the actions of one nation impact other nations.

MCC also offers programs in the Czech Republic, Ireland, Mexico, China and Britain. Schmidt reports that many students find studying abroad to be a life-transforming experience.

MCC Student Kiyomi Revak, who studied abroad in Britain last year, agreed.

"Through this program I discovered my weaknesses and strengths under different situations, expanded my inner world and obtained various viewpoints," Revak said.

For more information, please call 480-461-7870 or visit <http://www.mesacc.edu/international>. Scholarships are available.

### General Information Sessions on Study Abroad Programs

#### When:

|                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Tuesdays                      | Wednesdays                     |
| 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.            | 12-1:30 p.m.                   |
| Feb. 10, Feb. 24 and March 3. | Feb. 11, Feb. 25, and March 4. |

#### Where:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| MCC's Southern & Dobson Campus, 1833 W. Southern Ave.<br>Maricopa Room (Kirk Center) | MCC's Red Mountain Campus, 7110 E. McKellips Rd.<br>M213 (2nd floor of Mesquite Building) |
|--|---|

## All-Arizona Academic Team

Mesa Community College will honor four high-achieving MCC students who have been named to the All-Arizona Academic Team competition on Feb. 19 at the Fiesta Resort in Tempe. Community college scholars from all over the state will participate in the event and are chosen based on academic achievement, leadership, and community service. The competition qualifies students for placement on the national All-USA Academic Team.

### The MCC honorees include:

**Nedd Anderson**, MCC at Southern and Dobson: Nedd is a sports psychology major with a 3.91 GPA who has served 1,358 volunteer hours for Phi Theta Kappa, the Exercise Science Club, the MCC Sustainability Committee, the National Collegiate Leadership Conference, and the City of Mesa's Youth Sports. He is a recipient of the Chancellor's Scholarship award.

Nedd refers to this quote by Coach Vince Lombardi to sum up his character and life goals: "The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor."

**Miriam A. Gasca De Stone**, MCC at Red Mountain: Miriam is a business management major who came to the United States from Mexico at age 16, determined to be the first college graduate in her family. She served as vice president of Phi Theta Kappa and volunteered for Mesa's Holiday Charity Ride, the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event, and Arizona's Phone Friend.

"Phi Theta Kappa helped me discover myself and my passion for helping others," Miriam said. "The one thing I have always known is that if I lead by good example, many will be motivated to follow."

**Jennifer Holladay**, MCC at Red Mountain: Jennifer is a dental hygiene major whose passion is to educate the community about oral health education and prevention. Jennifer volunteered at the Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health and at Chandler Regional Medical Center. She also served over 500 hours as a church volunteer, reaching out to women and children.

"She has a very good way with children and treats all clients with dignity and caring," said Cindy Goodwin of Chandler Regional Hospital. "She has been an example of one person making a significant difference."

**Eric Thompson**, MCC at Southern and Dobson: Eric is a psychology major who has overcome bipolar disorder and homelessness to become a remarkable leader and scholar. Eric is the first student in the history of the college to receive two of the Maricopa Community College District's highest academic achievement awards, The Chancellor's Scholarship and The Foundation Scholarship.

Eric was one of four students chosen to present the results of his graduate-level research study on trait anxiety at the Western Psychological Conference this past spring.

Paul A. Elsner, MCCCDC Chancellor Emeritus, said, "As Chancellor of the MCCCDC, and after 23 years in that position, I have seen the best of student leadership over the years. Eric represents the uppermost top rung of such student leaders."

The MCC honorees have logged thousands of hours of combined service work for MCC and the community. These outstanding students receive a four-semester tuition waiver from the Arizona Board of Regents to one of Arizona's public universities and cash scholarship awards based on team status. Nedd, Miriam and Eric received first team status. Jennifer received second team status.

The All-USA Academic Team will be announced at a later date in USA Today. Phi Theta Kappa, USA Today, and the American Association of Community Colleges sponsor the competition.



## Disney Professional Development Workshop at MCC

Mesa Community College is bringing Disney Institute's traveling professional development program, the "Disney Keys to Excellence," to Mesa on March 3. This full-day, interactive workshop provides the opportunity for area business professionals to experience the "business behind the magic." Walt Disney World® instructors will teach proven Disney success strategies, which participants can adapt and apply to their own organizations.

"Professional development programs that we offer at the Walt Disney World® Resort and Disneyland Resort have proven extremely popular," said George Aguel, senior vice president for Walt Disney Parks and Resorts. "Community leaders around the country started asking us to bring similar programs to their cities, and the 'Disney Keys' program does just that. Participants will discover Disney success stories and learn about management philosophies and behind-the-scenes operations that have made the Disney Parks and Resorts a benchmark for businesses around the world."

According to Aguel, Disney Institute programs are unique in the world of business. "What makes the Disney learning experience so different and meaningful," says Aguel "is that we don't simply teach theory. We showcase philosophies and strategies that have made Disney Parks and Resorts a success – ideas that are easily adaptable to other organizations."

With the establishment of the Disney Institute in 1986, thousands of business leaders from more than 35 countries and 40 industries have attended business programs at the Disney Institute in Florida. The "Disney Keys to Excellence" is the only Disney Institute professional development program that goes "on the road" to select communities around the U.S.



The Phoenix Area "Disney Keys" program will showcase four 90-minute sessions:

**Leadership, Disney Style** – Discover how effective leadership has been the catalyst at Disney to drive employee/customer satisfaction and bottom-line results, from the company's inception to today.

**Management, Disney Style** – Examine the importance of integrating an organization's corporate culture into selection, training, and care of employees.

**Service, Disney Style** – Explore world-renowned Disney principles for service excellence.

**Loyalty, Disney Style** – Learn key practices and principles in building and sustaining loyalty that have made Disney a trusted and revered brand around the world for more than 75 years.

Registration and tuition fees for the program are \$424 per person and include course materials and a full day of catered meals and beverages.

For more information and to register for the "Disney Keys to Excellence" program, call 877-544-2384 or visit [www.keysAZ.com](http://www.keysAZ.com). For individual and group discounts, please visit [www.keysAZ.com](http://www.keysAZ.com).

For MCCCCD employees, receive \$50 off the guest admission price by using promotional code MCCSFCE and pay only \$345 per guest.

Contact Information: Barb Bindon, Program Development. ExecutiveSolution Infusion, LLC  
877-544-2384 ext 45, [bbindon@keysUS.com](mailto:bbindon@keysUS.com). [www.keysUS.com](http://www.keysUS.com)

## Newsbytes

### --FAFSA Deadlines

**What:** Please remind your students to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2009-10 school year as soon as possible.

**When:** Priority Deadline is April 3, 2009

**Where:** FAFSA form: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> or visit MCC's Financial Aid Office

**More:** For any given school year, applications are accepted beginning in January for the upcoming year and throughout the school year, giving students basically 18 months to apply. The first Friday in April prior to the start of the school year is the "priority deadline," which means the applicant is much more likely to get the limited funds.

### --Business Card Update

It is recommended that employees use up their current supply of business cards with their old email address and order new ones using "mesacc.edu" when it's time for a new supply. Employees will receive emails sent to "mail.mc.maricopa.edu" through a re-direct set up by Technology Support Services.

### --Annual ASET Conference

Join the Arizona Society of Economics Teachers for a Saturday morning conference at Mesa Community College featuring provocative speakers, lesson applications, and a hot breakfast!

Participants receive the NEW National Council curriculum: "Focus: Globalization."

**Where:** Mesa Community College

**When:** 7:30 a.m. - noon, Saturday, February 21

Registration Fee: \$20

For more information, visit <http://www.azecon.org/pages/aset.html>

### --Biotechnology/Life Science Dept. Alumni Speaker Series Announced

Interested in what MCC Life Science alumni are doing after graduation? Attend the Alumni Speaker Series on the second Wednesday of February, March and April for inspiring stories of our graduates.

**Wed. Feb. 11,** 4-5 p.m.: Cheryl Dunham, biology teacher, Arcadia High School

**Wed. March 11,** 4-5 p.m.: Belay Zeleke, University of Arizona pharmacy student

**Wed. April 8,** 4-5 p.m.: Rachel Tatti, lab technician, biotech industry

Events take place at MCC's Southern and Dobson campus in LS101.



### --MCC Librarian Itibari M. Zulu Edits Book

MCC Librarian Itibari M. Zulu has recently edited a book titled 'Global Peace Leadership Summit 2007: Africa and the Diaspora' with Adewale M. Aderemi of the Department of Political Science at Lagos State University (Lagos, Nigeria), published by The African Diaspora Foundation. The book consists of 14 articles by academics and activists who live and work in Africa and was developed from a peace education conference held in Los Angeles, California in 2007.