

## A message from the VP of Academic Affairs, James Mabry



Three months since starting at MCC, and I have seen little of Phoenix and nothing of the beautiful state of Arizona. I have, however, deeply immersed myself in the life of the college. Having worked at community colleges in New York and Florida, I find many traits common among community colleges — small classes, innovative faculty, dedicated staff, a student body diverse in many ways — all part of the rich educational mix at MCC.

While Mesa Community College is similar in many ways to community colleges nationwide, it has its own distinct culture. The MCC culture combines innovation, pride, and competitiveness in ways that sometime frustrate but always intrigue. Like many colleges there are silos that impede comprehensive approaches to serving the whole student. In each and every area of the college I find student-centered individuals of great ability working to promote student success. Bringing cross-divisional teams together to work in structured collaborations that share information and ideas is a necessary step at MCC and one that will further promote success for all our students.

The college has a long history of innovation. Toss out an idea, a concept, or a learning centered strategy and they are off and running. But a competitive struggle to be first and a thousand ad hoc decisions may not produce the best way forward. A dialogue to generate common understandings along with common policies and procedures may frustrate some. Working collaboratively and purposefully we can create a whole that is greater than the sum of the parts.

Building a shared vision and purpose takes structured discussions and open and transparent decision-making. It also requires principled and data based decision processes. I have said in many forums, if I cannot explain a decision, something is wrong. Equity is important and we try to evaluate and judge on similar norms. This means exceptions, even ones with local validity, may not fit the greater good.

We are embarking on some engaging discussion at MCC and I look forward to working with everybody on campus to solve the many challenges that the college is facing. I truly believe that by working together in open and purposeful ways, we will help take MCC from good to great.

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## New U.S. Citizen votes for president

Three months since Whitney Watome interviewed with us prior to the election, so the voice of the article is future oriented.

This November MCC student Whitney Watome will celebrate her first year of citizenship in the United States by voting in the presidential election.

“It is nice to know that I am a part of it now,” Whitney said. “I can do something this time.”

Whitney was born in Ghana and lived with her grandparents until she followed her parents to the United States when she was four years old. Her parents immigrated “because the U.S. was rockin’ with different opportunities.”



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“I’ve been here for a long time and it felt like this is my home. It was time to become a citizen because my green card was going to expire,” she said. “Becoming a citizen is a proud moment for a lot of people. It means something different for every person.”

The benefits of citizenship for Whitney include being eligible to work in government jobs, being eligible to apply for financial aid and a sense of security to be able to remain in the United States with her family. She will also exercise her right to vote and takes that privilege very seriously.

While researching candidates running for the office of president she said that she is looking for “somebody who’s determined and motivated to do something. Someone who catches my attention with words that I can identify with.”

Whitney has sought information regarding the election from sources such as CNN, Newsweek and Anderson Cooper at AC360°. She predicts that her peers will have a strong impact on the election.

“It’s going to be great. The youth have it this time. The ‘80’s babies are opinionated kids and this will be the first time they can vote for president,” she said. “The outcome of this election will be different for everyone. I’m excited to vote for president.”

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## Something New on Campus

Forty-four Banners featuring students with collegiate themes are now on display at the entrances and parking lots at both the Southern and Dobson and Red Mountain campuses. Each banner displays a message which is the result of a collaboration between faculty and marketing. The message are listed below.

Also, new is signage at the Downtown Center indicating MCC’s presence and partnership with NAU Additional signage projects for MCC are in the works. Watch for forthcoming information.

### Banner Themes

- Leadership Experience
- Transfer Preparedness
- Career Readiness
- Cultural Diversity
- Scientific Inquiry
- Personal Achievement
- Community Engagement
- 21st Century Learning
- Global Awareness
- Undergraduate Research
- Honors Opportunity
- Environmental Awareness
- Collaborative Learning



### Newsbytes



#### Location, Location

\* Career & Re-Entry Services and the American Indian Center will be temporarily relocated to PS4W while their offices are being remodeled. They will be in that location from Nov. 3-26. Services will be limited from Dec. 1- 5 as they move back to newly remodeled facilities.

\* Exercise Science and Education Faculty Offices are now permanently in PS9 (formerly the old physical science faculty offices). PS8 will be remodeled and eventually house exercise science and nursing classes. Remodeling plans for PS8 are in the works, with completion scheduled for 2010.

\* The athletic offices have moved to the former exercise science offices in PC4N.



Mesa Community College presents Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream Symposium in partnership with the Pachamama Alliance on Friday, Nov. 14. The DVD presentation will explore new ways of seeing sustainability, spiritual and social justice challenges and opportunities of the early 21st century. The symposium offers MCC staff, students and the general public an opportunity to come together with conscious, aware people who care about what’s happening in the world, our community and with our families.

When: 1-4:30 p.m., Nov. 14.

Where: MCC’s Southern and Dobson Campus, Library Community Room, LB145.

Contact: Lora Lassiter in the Office of Institutional Advancement



Science Outreach The faculty of the new MCC planetarium and physical science building recently hosted 120 fifth-grade students from the Mesa Public School District’s Zaharis Elementary School. Students participated in science experiments and viewed a presentation in the planetarium. Tiffany Cameron, Preston Cameron’s daughter, was one of the Zaharis teachers who brought their students to MCC. Tiffany received an associate degree from MCC in 2003 and went on to earn a bachelor’s degree from Northern Arizona University in education.



#### Dracula “Draws” Attention to Blood Van

Join Count Dracula on Nov. 19 at the United Blood Services Van on the MCC campus near the clock tower. The lead actor in MCC’s upcoming theatre production of Dracula will be making a guest appearance at the blood van to encourage people to donate blood and attend MCC’s production of Bram Stoker’s classic, Dracula, which runs December 4, 5, and 6 at 7:30 P.M., and December 7 at 2:00 P.M. at the Theatre Outback.



#### Thanksgiving Food Drive

When: Monday, November 10 – Friday, November 21

Where: Please drop your canned food off at the front desk inside the Kirk Student Center

## Recognitions

**--Cisco 10th Year Anniversary:** MCC's Department of Business and Information Systems Network Academy recently participated in a Celebratory Salute recognizing the 10th anniversary of the Cisco Networking Academy. MCC CATC coordinator, Mark Anderson, coordinated the event with Cisco.

Seven alumni from the academy, three of which were from our own MCC Network Academy, shared their personal success stories. Our own residential faculty member Bob Samson was included in the alumni success stories.

Representing Mesa Community College were: Dr. Shouan Pan, President Mesa Community College; Rodney Holmes, Provost for the Downtown Center; Larry Thacker, Dean of Occupational Programs; Linda D. Collins, Department of Business and Information Systems Chair and Director of B&II; Mark Anderson, CATC Director, Occupational Program Director Network Academy, and Residential Faculty Member; Bob Samson, Residential Faculty Member, Network Academy; and Mark Lierley, Network Academy faculty member.



**-- NAACP Education Award:** Nina Robinson, MCC's director of Multicultural Services, received the East Valley NAACP Education Award at the recent NAACP "Building Bridges to Equality" program. Nina received the award for her commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of all the students served through her office. Nina is well known for the development of the annual Diversity Leadership Camp where she has immersed more than 450 students in activities designed to foster cultural awareness while developing positive cross cultural relationships.

