

Show me the learning!

Assessment Week 2004 is scheduled for February 23–27. Watch for recruitment notices with the familiar header “Show me the Learning.” MCC’s assessment program, now in its eighth year, has done exactly that; it shows a tremendous amount of learning taking place at MCC. The Assessment Week 2003 results show the following:

- In all assessment areas the average scores of completing students (post-group) are significantly higher than the scores of beginning students (pre-group) for Spring 2003.
- Evidence of student learning is clear across both general education and career and technical areas based upon assessment results of the past several years.
- When examining results across measures of the past three years, students had the most difficulty with skills involving the use, application, and/or evaluation of knowledge.
- In general, all students are relatively more skilled in making and supporting personal observations than in recognizing opposing positions and seeing topics in a broad perspective.
- Compared to beginning students, completing students show a stronger sense of social obligation, are more likely to engage in social action, have more appreciation for cultural differences, and show more knowledge of cultural differences.



With several years of data compiled, assessment results are now becoming integral pieces in departmental and college planning. The Results Outreach Committee (ROC), a sub-committee of the Student Outcomes Committee (SOC), has created formal recommendations for using assessment results. The committee’s recommendations were endorsed by Faculty Senate and

have been presented to Dean of Instruction, Gail Mee. Plans are moving forward with faculty focusing on using results to improve curriculum and instruction.

Assessment results are published annually through the Office of Research and Planning at www.mc.maricopa.edu/organizations/employee/orp. Click on “Student Assessment” for information.

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What will be different about the new system?

Joni highlighted a few NSIS benefits and changes:

- Greater security in terms of hackers and inappropriate use
- Ability to send e-mail simultaneously to all students or to a specific group
- One ID per student, even if the student is enrolled in more than one Maricopa Community College
- New vocabulary (Examples: “Term” will be the new word for “semester,” “units passed” will replace “hours completed,” and “social security number” will be labeled “national ID.”)
- Self-service component for students

Training and hands-on opportunities will assist employees in learning how to use the new system. Joni noted that MCC will also publish a newsletter to guide users. To learn more about the NSIS, visit this website: www.maricopa.edu/nss.

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

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New system catapults colleges into 21st century



Joni Grover, Senior Associate Dean of Student Services

Some call it the NSS or the SIS. Joni Grover, Senior Associate Dean of Student Services, identifies the District’s plan for a new high-tech web-based information program as the NSIS – New Student Information System. Joni should

know because she also serves as MCC’s Project Plan Manager for the NSIS.

Within this role, Joni works with more than 40 MCC employees who represent different campus components and offer input regarding specific processes. From the student services side, input is needed on registration, admissions, financial aid, class scheduling, non-credit courses, cashiering, etc. Faculty offer input on the new system from the instructional side. Joni then shares this input with the District team. With feedback from each of the Maricopa Community College teams, experts can direct the District in designing the new system.

Why do we need a new student information system?

“The current system is antiquated,” Joni said. “We need to achieve a more current level of technology and capability.” The existing system dates back to 1984 and is incapable of

providing options that are available today. PeopleSoft is the software company providing the program for the new system.

How is the planning and implementation for this project structured?

The project comprises four system setup and design phases, which include testing and conversion. Joni explained that the NSIS can be tested within the system that already exists. To implement the new system, the District will follow the Big Bang Theory. “The universe will be created all in one big bang,” Joni said. “The District will roll out all colleges, with all functionalities, at the same time.” District teams expect to initiate the Big Bang between December 2004 and February 2005.

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Employee spotlight

MCC welcomes its newest employees! As our campus grows, it becomes increasingly difficult to meet all the new employees joining our exceptional team. In an effort to facilitate better communication and a warm welcome, the names of new, board approved hires will be listed occasionally in *The Bulletin*. The list below includes new hires from July to October, 2003. Welcome to MCC!

(Please note: Some names will be familiar since the list includes existing employees who have been hired into new positions.)

New Hires	Department
Andrew Baldwin	Faculty – Reg – Hire
Gretchen Berning	Faculty – Reg – Hire
John Birchett	Faculty – OYO
Daniel Brendza	Faculty – OYO
Clayton Call	PSA – Reg – Hire
Cynthia Connolly	PSA – OYO
Kara Conrad	Faculty – Reg – Hire
Sonia Esposito	Faculty – OYO
Amadou Gaye	Faculty – Reg – Hire
Keith Heffner	Faculty – OYO
Paul Hietter	Faculty – OYO
Robert Hunter	Faculty – Reg – Hire
Kimberly Johnson	Faculty – Reg – Hire
Emi Kawasaki	PSA – Reg – Hire
Walter Keithley	Faculty – Reg – Hire
Stanley Kikkert	Faculty – Reg – Hire
Kai Kim	Faculty – Reg – Hire
Mark Lierley	Faculty – OYO
Jo Ann Lopez	PSA – Reg – Hire
Sara McCarthy	PSA – Reg – Hire
Pam Olerich	Faculty – OYO
Susan Olson	Faculty – Reg – Hire
Gregory Reents	MAT – Reg – Hire
Scott Russell	Faculty – Reg – Hire
Robert Samson	Faculty – Reg – Hire
Robin Schambe	Athletic Specialist – OYO
Kona Scholes	PSA – SPF – Hire
Andy Seagle	Faculty – Reg – Hire
Jill Sheport	Faculty – Reg – Hire
Robert Sunkees	Faculty – OSO
Michael Thomas	PSA – Reg – Hire
Shawna Thompson	PSA – OYO

Student satisfaction at MCC



The Office of Research & Planning would like to extend a sincere thank you to all of the faculty members who administered the *SACE* survey! The *SACE*, an acronym for *Student Assessment of the College Environment*, was administered in late October to over 2,100 students. The survey measures overall student opinions of the college and their experiences by asking the respondent to rate their satisfaction on 58 items categorized into five major areas: Instructional Services, Student Services, Administrative and Physical Services, Student Focus, Social and Cultural Services.



Ten additional customized items relate to areas of specific interest to MCC.

The *SACE* is a standardized measure of student perceptions developed by the National Initiative for Leadership and Institutional Effectiveness (NILIE) at North Carolina State University.

The results of the *SACE* will be reported in early Spring of 2004 and will be an integral component of our NCA Higher Learning Commission Self Study evidence.

Islamic lecture series drawing positive response



Gailynn Valdes
MCC Director of International Education

Response to an International Education lecture series, “Islam and Muslims in My Community,” has been very positive, according to Gailynn Valdes, Director of International Education at MCC. About 50 people attended the first lecture, “Muslims in Arizona,” held Sept. 23. “It’s the highest attendance we’ve had (for a lecture),” Gailynn said.

The annual lecture series normally focuses on a variety of topics. But with an increased nationwide focus on Islam and Muslims following the 9-11 terrorist attacks, International Education staff decided to feature a series of Islam-related topics. “This seemed like a really good time to focus on this particular topic,” Gailynn said. The series is a joint project with Phoenix College and Paradise Valley Community College and is grant funded. MCC’s Center for Global Tolerance and Engagement is also involved in presenting the lecture program.

In addition to the series of six topics presented by Muslim leaders in the community, the series will include visits to a mosque and Islamic school and participation in an Eid al-Fitr (the Festival of Fast-Breaking) dinner at the end of Ramadan, the Month of Fasting.

Ida Mansourian, Coordinator for Study Abroad and Special Projects for International Education, drew from her own Muslim background, as well as input from colleagues, in selecting topics for the lecture series. “I asked, ‘If you want to learn about Islam, what do you want to learn?’” she said. She believes the resulting topics will help increase understanding of Muslims. “If you watch the news, you know we need to understand each other,” Ida said. “The more we educate people the more people learn not to be judgmental.”

Upcoming topics for the lecture series are:

- Similarities of Islam and other religions – Feb. 17, 2–4 PM
- Panel discussion, Islam and Muslim women – March 11, 2–4 PM
- Panel discussion on Islam from different culture’s point of view – April 7, 2–4 PM

All lectures will be held in the Kiva Room and are open to faculty, staff, students, and members of the community.