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Mesa Community College looks to bring in new developments, biotech center

Mike Sunnucks, By Staff Report, 5/15/18

Mesa Community College is looking to bring new commercial real estate developments to and foster new private sector partnerships at its 145-acre campus.

That includes a planned biotechnology center where students can work, help do research and help assemble DNA and food poisoning kits, according to Jared Langkilde, executive director of development at MCC.

Langkilde said he couldn't disclose the potential biotech partner.

The college has proposals before the city of Mesa to rezone its entire campus at Southern Avenue and Dobson Road to allow for commercial developments throughout.

Langkilde said the current zoning is a mix of commercial and public space categories. He said the lack of uniform zoning on the campus and other Maricopa Community Colleges campus creates a challenge for bringing private development partners.

The Mesa City Council could soon consider the zoning changes, and that could allow for new developments to move forward.

"We are in discussions with a number of groups," Langkilde said.

The new projects would be tied into school programs and help students gain real-world experience and training

Mesa Community College would like to bring in a private partner to help develop a new welding center for students in that program, Langkilde said.

There no plans to redevelop existing sports field or the existing football/soccer stadium, Langkilde said. Maricopa Community Colleges — one of the largest junior college systems in the U.S. — is dropping football at Mesa and other schools after this season.