



From left: Education Forward Arizona CEO Rich Nickel, Mayor John Giles, Interim-President Kimberly Britt, Google Regional Head of Data Centers for Arizona Kate Franko at the press announcement on March 4. (Photo courtesy of the City of Mesa)

NEWS

City of Mesa and Mesa Community College announce expansion to Mesa College Promise program

Adam Terro 03/05/2024

The City of Mesa and Mesa Community College announced on March 4 an expansion to the accepted applicants to include adults for the Mesa College Promise program at MCC.

Mesa Mayor John Giles, Vice Mayor Francisco Heredia, Councilmembers Jenn Duff, Mark Freeman, Julie Spilsberry and Interim President Britt were all in attendance.

With the updates, applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible for benefits:

- Demonstrating financial need through FAFSA completion and supporting documentation
- Earned a high school diploma or GED
- Not previously attended college or some college with no degree
- Enrolling at MCC in a minimum of 6 credits as a degree or certificate-seeking student in an eligible program of study

MCC had 88 students in the fall of 2021, 201 students in fall of 2022 and 200 students in the program in fall of 2023. More than 70% of students are the first in their families to attend college, according to a news release by MCC.

MCC also utilizes the program to support the Achieve60AZ program which aims to have at least 60% of Arizona adults have a “high-value” workforce certification or college degree by 2030, according to the release.

“The Mesa College Promise, aimed at adults, embodies our collective commitment to the Achieve60AZ goal. By offering accessible pathways to higher education, programs like the Mesa College Promise play a pivotal role in allowing us to achieve this much-needed goal,” said Rich Nickel, CEO of Education Forward Arizona.

Education Forward Arizona is a non-profit organization which, “advocates for and acts on education improvements that advance the quality of life for all Arizonans,” according to their [website](#).



Mesa Mayor John Giles speaking during the press announcement on March 4. (Photo courtesy of the City of Mesa)

MCC said more than \$760,000 has been donated to the Mesa College Promise program through government and private business matched funds since the creation of the program in 2021.

Google has also donated an additional \$100,000 to the program, announced by Mayor Giles at the 2024 State of the City address on Feb. 13.



[Adam Terro](#)

Adam Terro is the Sports Editor for the Mesa Legend. He joined the staff in January 2021 and first published with the Legend in fall 2020. His passion is for sports, specifically football and basketball.

The Mesa Legend

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