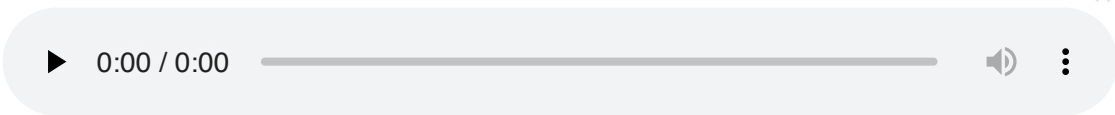


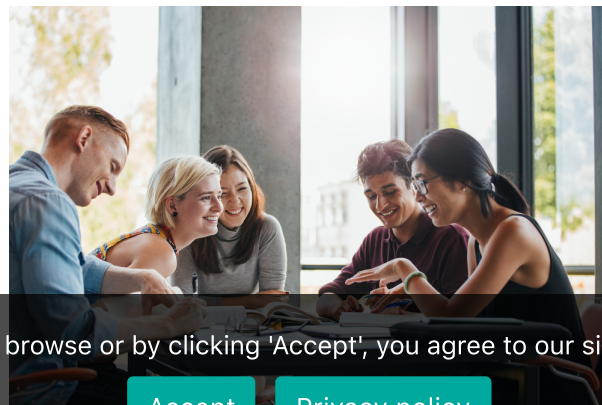
Empire Southwest Partners with MCC, NAU to Advance Employee Careers

By **Staff** on January 02, 2021

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Empire Southwest is partnering with Mesa Community College and Northern Arizona University to help employees continue their education and earn college degrees. This collaboration provides a convenient path toward earning a professional certificate or an associate’s degree from MCC as well as a bachelor’s degree from NAU.



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“Empire Southwest is proud to have a relationship with MCC and NAU,” said Jim Smith, Empire’s executive vice president. “At Empire, we realize the need to have employees with a wide variety of skills and talents. While we have a large percentage of our employee population in the skilled industrial trades, we also must continue to develop employees in all aspects of our business. The partnership with MCC and NAU coupled with the large investments Empire has made in training and development programs is a win-win for all those who want to take advantage of this opportunity.”

With this partnership, Empire employees can receive college credits by completing 16 corporate training sessions from the Empire Training Institute. The credits can then be applied toward a Certificate of Completion (CCL) in Organizational Leadership and an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Organizational Management through MCC.

After employees have completed their courses at MCC, they can transfer up to 90 college credits toward a bachelor of interdisciplinary studies in industrial leadership from NAU. Employees can complete the remaining 10 NAU courses (30 credits) through NAU at Mesa Community College or online.

“Our faculty assessed the learning objectives of Empire training to match to our courses and as a result, we are now able to accelerate Empire employees’ opportunity to earn a degree at MCC with an established pathway to a bachelor’s program at NAU,” said Michael Voss, dean of career and technical education. “This collaboration with Arizona higher education creates a local option for Empire employees as an alternative to the company’s current agreement to send employees out of state to participate in advanced leadership training.”

NAU’s industrial leadership curriculum is designed to train future leaders who are employed in the fields of construction, manufacturing, and production. The

coursework incorporates relevant, real-world content while emphasizing communication, collaboration, and teamwork

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“A workforce with diverse skill sets is critical to Arizona’s new economy and we are grateful to our statewide community college and business partners for the comprehensive vision that allows us to advance successful programs,” said NAU President Rita Cheng. “At NAU, we recognize the quality learning experiences taking place at Empire. It is important that we incorporate this training into our degree programs to advance the education of working professionals. Our partnership with Mesa Community College makes this pathway a very affordable and streamlined experience for students.”

The collaboration between Empire, MCC and NAU provides an efficient and cost-effective model for employees to improve their skills, expand their knowledge and earn their college degrees as they continue their career at Empire Southwest.

[Details about the Empire Southwest employee program are available on MCC’s website.](#)

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