



Mesa Community College Celebrates 25th Anniversary of Rose Garden: Partnership with Rose Society, Volunteers Grow

January 27, 2023 by [Ozil](#)

The 25th anniversary of Rose Garden was held in December at Mesa Community College, 1833 W. Southern Ave.

Members of the Mesa City Council who attended the event; Mesa Community College leaders, faculty and staff; and officers and volunteers from the American Rose Society and Mesa-East Valley Rose Society, according to the release.

Those who shared their memories of the formation of the Rose Garden included former MCC President Dr. Larry Christensen. Jared Langkilde, former Rose Garden director and current president/CEO of the HonorHealth Foundation; Peter Condon, Rose Garden Executive Director; and LeRoy Brady, Rose Garden Architect.

During the ceremony, MCC President Dr. Tammy Robinson, in collaboration with the Rose Society and community volunteers, said, "Come. be happy. Prosper. More than a conservatory, the Rose Garden is a kindergarten living laboratory where college students learn about biology, plants, and horticulture, as well as nature-inspired works.

President Robinson also noted that The Rose Garden will bring international recognition to the city of Mesa and Mesa Community College, among the best things to do in Mesa, such as Canadian adventure travel website Trekplorer, Tripadvisor, Vacation Ideas magazine, Yelp and Japanese travel site Trip 101.

Diana Sommers, president of the American Rose Society, spoke about the long and colorful history of roses. 35 million year old flower fossils have been found in Europe. Millions of dollars are spent each year growing and selling roses in Arizona, which produces more than 75 percent of the country's rose bushes because the climate allows them to bloom for nearly eight out of every 12 months. In the year In 2000, the rose garden at Mesa Community College was approved by the American Rose Selection Association to be one of 26 experimental gardens, making it one of the top three AARS experimental gardens in the nation.

On behalf of MCC, Tanya Smith, Associate Coordinator for Administration in MCC's Executive Office, accepted the Presidential Citation from the American Rose Society for the Rose Garden, saying, "For 25 years of appreciation and celebration of the roses you have supported with the largest garden in the desert. Southwest.

Condon, associate director of the MCC Arboretum, acknowledged the volunteers who helped find and cultivate the rose garden. Among those recognized for their service were Helen Baird, Leroy Brady, Marylou Coffman, Carol Holkenbrink, Mike Jepson and Steve Sheard. He also recognized Mike Cryer for his nearly two decades as volunteer coordinator.

The celebration concluded with the presentation of stationery commemorating the 25th anniversary and speakers and dignitaries joining MCC President Robinson for a cake cutting.

Open to the public, the best months to visit the Rose Garden are from April to June and from October to December when the roses are in full bloom. The largest public rose garden in the desert Southwest, the Rose Garden is part of MCC's 140-acre arboretum, the first in Arizona to receive accreditation from the Arbinette Arboretum Accreditation Program and the Morton Arboretum. MCC is the only community college in Arizona to be named a Tree Campus USA by the Arbor Day Foundation.

Learn more at mesacc.edu/rosegarden.

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