

AROUND MESA

\$2.6M awarded to MCC for programs that help students

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded Mesa Community College two TRIO Student Support Services grants totaling \$2,618,000 over five years to fund the college's TRIO program, which provides services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds.

One grant continues funding for the existing program that serves 140 students and a second will expand services to another 120 participants pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering or math.

The program fosters "a campus climate in which limited English proficient students, historically underrepresented students, students with disabilities, homeless students, and other disconnected students feel encouraged to pursue two- and four-year degrees," the college said in a release.

"We are excited to be able to continue providing the wraparound support our students need to succeed, especially during this time when even more of our students are struggling to continue their education," said Lydia Perez, program manager.

Both grants help college students who are low income, those whose parents do not have a four-year college degree or students with disabilities.

The array of services the grants provide include academic tutoring, financial aid advice, career and college mentoring, help in choosing courses and other assistance.