

Construction Projects Focus of President's Fall Luncheon



Mesa Community College President Dr. Larry Christiansen presented an innovative new approach for maximizing Proposition 401 bond monies during this month's Fall Lunch/Conversation at MCC's Southern and Dobson campus.

Dr. Christiansen said rising inflation prompted the need to rethink the college's original plan for the \$111 million awarded to MCC with the passage of Prop 401 last November. One of the many factors taking a chunk out of funds allocated for construction is an increase in the cost of materials such as concrete. A planned 3 percent inflation rate for concrete over the next 10 years has jumped to nearly 20 percent in just the last year.

To cope with increased costs, a team of MCC faculty members have collaborated and developed a strategy for combining new and old space and sharing facilities for the first construction projects at Southern and Dobson. Members of the team included Ann Stine, Exercise Science Faculty; Myrna Eshelman, Nursing Faculty; and Mike Sims, Physical Science Faculty. Dr. Christiansen commended the group for their "quality collaboration and excellent problem-solving."

Team discussions determined that a new Physical Science lab building would be the lead project, combined with a renovation of old space to meet the needs of the Nursing Department and the Exercise Science Department. A new strategy for Student Services will also figure prominently into future plans. The central Student Services area would remain, but some services would be incorporated into department clusters.

Plans for the Communications/Humanities and Performing/Fine Arts clusters will also be examined. New and old space will be needed to complete the program needs.

"Our ultimate goal is to solve department needs so our students are better served," Dr. Christiansen said.

At the Red Mountain campus, the largest concerns are additional classrooms and laboratory facilities and locating students closer to the center of campus, with a gradual phasing out of Acacia Village.

As for the Downtown campus, no timeline has been set, but a vision statement and master plan are being developed. MCC has also asked for monetary support from the City of Mesa on the following:

\$25 million for infrastructure support such as sewers, sidewalks, curbing, streets, and electrical.

\$15 million for parking.

A joint MCC Fire Science/ Mesa Fire Department facility.

Dr. Christiansen announced that former Vice President of Administrative Services, Ron Etter, who is now in active retirement, would coordinate MCC's construction projects.

Women's Leadership Group: Conversations with the Chancellor



Dr. Rufus Glasper

Dr. Rufus Glasper, Chancellor of the Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD), inspired members of the Women's Leadership Group (WLG) at their fall breakfast meeting with talk of "choices" and "balance."

Opening remarks were made by Mesa Community College President, Dr. Larry Christiansen, who spoke of the networking

opportunities within the WLG as an excellent way for members to navigate their way around the MCCCD.

WLG Founder and Governing Board Member Linda Rosenthal gave a brief history of the organization, which began in 1991 under the leadership of former MCCCD Chancellor, Dr. Paul A. Elsner.

During the meeting, Dr. Glasper encouraged members to take advantage of the opportunities available within the district. As the district continues to grow and change, leadership roles need to be filled in various areas. Glasper noted that the district will be looking at retirement projections to identify gaps in leadership roles so that succession plans can be developed.

Glasper emphasized the importance of focusing on what it means to be a leader, not only at the college, but also in your own community. Glasper said a leader needs to balance mind, body, and spirit, while always being available to listen intently to others.

Dr. Glasper stressed mentoring as a way to "mold your own thoughts," and asked members to envision themselves three to five years from now.

"We need people who are engaged and passionate about what they do," Glasper said. "Think about what role you want to play and how we can help you."

After his talk, Glasper visited each table to speak to individual members and answer questions.

WLG membership is open to all district employees. The WLG Mentoring Program is open to women in entry-level MAT, PSA, M&O, Crafts, College Safety, and Specially Funded positions who are Board approved for at least two years.

Laura Stock, a WLG member who recently completed the mentoring program, said the mentoring program was an amazing experience for her.

"You make so many connections with people who are doing similar things," Laura said. "It makes things happen for you."

The WLG holds monthly events for members. For more information on the WLG, visit <http://www.maricopa.edu/wlg/>

MCC awards first certificates in Global Citizenship



Lisa Smith



Lorien Hunter

Congratulations to Lisa Smith and Lorien Hunter. They are MCC's first students to complete requirements for the new Academic Certificate of Global Citizenship.

The certificate is an interdisciplinary program intended to assist students in understanding the interconnectedness of peoples and societies, developing a general knowledge of history and world events, accepting the existence of different cultural values and attitudes, and celebrating the richness of human diversity.

Lisa Smith, from the Red Mountain campus, completed her special project portion of the certificate studying "The Political, Economic, and Social Climate of the Netherlands." Lorien Hunter fulfilled her special project through a presentation on her study abroad experience in Ireland.

The certificate is administered by the Mesa Community College Cultural Science Department. For more information contact:

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Prevention Through Education theme of 2005 DV Conference



(from left to right) Danny White, Judy MacQueen, Bo Colbert, Nina Robinson, and Karen Hardin display proclamations from the State of Arizona, Governor's Office, City of Mesa, and City of Chandler proclaiming October 2005 Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Domestic violence is the number one person crime in Mesa...

Arizona averages 80-100 deaths each year because of domestic violence...

Only 20 percent of violence is reported...

One in three people are affected by domestic violence...

Domestic violence is not treated as a crisis like Hurricane Katrina or the potential bird flu pandemic because it's perceived as a "family issue"...

John Pombier, City of Mesa Prosecutor, shared powerful statistics and insights during his keynote address for MCC's Domestic Violence Awareness Conference on October 27. He discussed myths about domestic violence and encouraged event participants to change their thoughts about victims and those who perpetrate violent crimes.

Pombier focused on domestic violence as a crisis that affects every aspect of society and crosses social and economic boundaries. The address included a panel discussion with representatives from the Mesa Police Department and victim advocacy groups. Highlights included changes in the way police departments and prosecutor's offices handle domestic violence cases, mentioning, among other things, that victims can no longer have charges dismissed – all cases are prosecuted.

Conference attendees also had an opportunity to choose from a variety of workshop sessions that centered on the conference theme – Prevention through Education. “To really make a difference, education needs to reach out to both women and men,” said Detective Coy Johnston of the Mesa Police Department.

Stuff a Stocking for the Adopt-A-Family Program

Mesa Community College employees can help brighten the lives of a few underprivileged families this holiday season by participating in a new program sponsored by the Associated Students of MCC and the Office of Student Life and Leadership.

This year, as part of the annual Adopt-A-Family program, both MCC at Southern and Dobson and MCC at Red Mountain will have two trees on campus adorned with stocking stuffer tags. Volunteers choose a tag and buy a small gift or the stocking itself. The program has also expanded this year to include Mesa Downtown Center/Centennial Way and Mesa Downtown Center/Country Club and Brown.

“In the past we’ve done Angel Trees,” said Alison Whiting, program advisor. “This year, we’re asking for stocking stuffers. For the kids, it can be small toys, candy, or stuffed animals. For adults, maybe gift certificates or lotion.”

Students in need of assistance may either be nominated by an employee or apply for assistance themselves. Applicants must be MCC students with good academic standing and in financial need. This season’s applications have already been turned in, but sponsors are still needed.

Those who sponsor a family for Thanksgiving provide a ready-made dinner. Those who sponsor a family for the Winter Holiday purchase gifts for a specific family. Volunteers to wrap and deliver gifts are also needed.

Last year, the Adopt-A-Family program helped 32 student families and raised over \$7,000 in donated goods. Program volunteers have many favorite memories.

“So many people are so grateful,” said Stacy Hoerchler at MCC’s Red Mountain campus. “One four-year-old asked us if we worked for Santa.”

For more information, contact the Office of Student Life and Leadership in the Kirk Student Center at Southern and Dobson (480-461-7285). At Red Mountain, visit the Mesquite Building, Room 210, (480-654-7759). You may e-mail Alison Whiting at whiting@mail.mc.maricopa.edu. Donated items are due to the office by Dec. 16.

Staying Healthy Through the Holiday Season



"Tension is who you think you should be. Relaxation is who you are."

—Chinese Proverb

If you begin to feel a little frayed around the edges as the holiday season approaches, consider taking a break by attending a stress management lecture or indulging in a soothing massage. These are just two of many options offered to Mesa Community College employees who want to keep both body and mind in good condition as the end of 2005 draws near.

MCC's Wellness Coordinator, Gail Herndon, encourages employees to take advantage of whatever they can fit into their schedule.

"Lives are busy," Gail said. "We tend to neglect ourselves and our health. It's good to take time to stay healthy."

Events offered by the Health and Wellness Department:

- Free Massages:** Tuesday, Nov. 29 and Dec. 6, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Kiva Room, MCC at Southern and Dobson. Dates at Red Mountain Campus are not confirmed yet.
- The All Community College Health Fair:** Jan. 28, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Hoy Field, Phoenix College. Look for pre-registration by e-mail in mid-December.

MCC's Counseling Department offers a Personal Development Lecture Series that is free and open to MCC students, faculty, staff, and the community.

Lectures offered by the Counseling Department:

- Kick Butts!! Great American Smoke Out:** Wednesday, Nov. 16. Tips on how to stop smoking are presented by Meredith Smith, an MCC instructor and nationally certified tobacco cessation expert. Free giveaways.

•**Stress Management:** Friday, Dec. 2. Presented by J. Kathryn Lanzerotti, a University of Phoenix professor and yoga teacher. MCC Counselor Rita Kasapis describes Lanzerotti as a "very lively and limber 55-year-old."

All lectures are from noon to 12:50 p.m. at MCC at Southern and Dobson in the Kiva Room, located in the Kirk Student Center. For more information, call (480) 461-7588. Registration is not required.