

continued from front, Jerry Walker

education creates a situation in which many of the beneficiaries of public education can vote to raise taxes but do not have to pay for the increase.

Walker served in the U.S. Navy from 1966–1999 in locations such as Vietnam, Liberia, and Mauritania. Upon his retirement, Walker served as Public Health Educator for the Gila River Indian Community and currently works as a Health Education Consultant. He is a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, and Marine Corp League. Walker holds a Bachelor of Science in Sociology/Psychology and a Master of Science in Counseling.

When asked what message he would share with MCC employees, Walker stated “I don’t believe anyone can or should be limited by what other people think of them. Never tell people they can’t. Always tell people they can, and you’ll help them if they’ll let you.”

Sudan’s Lost Boys visit MCC

MCC’s International Education Department and the Center for Global Tolerance and Engagement recently hosted a presentation by The Lost Boys of Sudan. Now young adult men, they tell the story of fleeing the violence and bloodshed of their war-torn homeland with thousands of other Sudanese children – many of them orphaned and all facing starvation and death as they walked more than 500 miles to Ethiopia.

Their sad plight and persistent hope for a better future has been documented in newspapers, magazines, and on CBS News *60 Minutes*. Today many of the Lost Boys of Sudan are achieving their dreams of an education in cities all across America: Chicago, San Diego, Houston, Boston,



Seattle, Atlanta, and more. Four hundred reside in Phoenix.

For more information or to make a donation, visit the website for the Arizona Lost Boys Center in Phoenix: www.azlostboyscenter.org.



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Bulletin



Meet Jerry Walker, MCC’s newest Governing Board rep



Jerry Walker, elected to the MCCC Governing Board in November 2004, represents Scottsdale Community College and MCC’s Red Mountain Campus. Ed Contreras represents the Southern and Dobson campus.

Jerry Walker joined the Maricopa Community College’s Governing Board in November 2004, filling the position vacated by Nancy Stein. “I was heavily opposed in the election, so I was initially surprised to learn that I had won,” stated Walker. After learning of his victory, Walker began preparing for his new position with a focus on two areas: non traditional education and bachelor’s degrees. “I am an advocate for bachelor’s degrees in community colleges. Nursing students have 97 credit hours when their coursework is completed. That’s almost a bachelor’s degree.” Walker worked with state legislator Russell Pearce to have the issue of community colleges offering bachelor’s degree introduced in the legislature.

Originally registered as a Democrat, Walker changed his affiliation to the Republican party in the 80s and went on to serve as 3rd Vice Chairman of the Arizona Republican Party, Legislative District 19, from 2000–2004. An advocate for limited government and taxes, Walker proposes changing the model for funding public education. “I support a 1 cent, statewide sales tax dedicated to education,” Walker stated. Walker notes that the current reliance on property taxes to fund

continued on back, see Jerry Walker

Celebrating 40 Years

Mesa Community College receive accreditation for the first time in August 1967.

Graduating nurses, an Arizona priority

AZ Legislature looks at funding for Nursing

Our country's nursing shortage has not gone unnoticed by Arizona legislators. In 2002 Senate Bill 1260 directed the Arizona Board of Regents to develop a five-year plan for increasing the number of Nursing graduates statewide. Senate Bill 1294, currently on the agenda in the State Legislature, addresses the financing of such a plan.

Introduced by State Senator Carolyn Allen from Scottsdale, the bill appropriates \$4 million annually over five years to universities and community colleges to expand the capacity of nursing education programs in Arizona. The appropriation totals \$20 million over the implementation period. An equal match from the federal government brings the total to \$40 million over five years.

MCC Nursing Department chair Myrna Eshelman noted that a portion of the \$40 million would also be used to assist nurses who want to become Nursing educators. "There is such a shortage of educators in Nursing," she said. The funding could help to educate nurses with bachelor's degrees who want to earn a master's or a doctorate.

MCC Nursing program welcomes paramedics

The Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association, through a Campaign for Caring grant, awarded MCC's Nursing program more than \$48,000 to graduate more nurses. Grants were awarded to several Arizona colleges in a push to double the number of graduating nurses by 2010.

Nursing Department chair Myrna Eshelman responded to the grant opportunity by proposing a "Paramedic to RN" program. "I kept getting calls from paramedics who inquired about shortcuts for becoming a nurse," she said. Fire Department paramedics retire as early as age 45 and often want to pursue Nursing as a second career. Myrna told them that there were no shortcuts and no credit for their coursework and experience.

With the challenge to increase the number of Nursing graduates and the possibility of funding to do it, Myrna began researching existing "Paramedic to RN" programs across the country. She designed a program for MCC modeled after one at North Harris College in Texas. The program gives credit to paramedics for their knowledge and experience and identifies what is yet needed to meet Nursing competencies. If anything is missing, paramedics can fill the gaps in summer courses. "Nursing is a four-semester program," Myrna explained, "so the paramedics bypass the first two semesters,



take a summer intensive, and then pop into our third semester.

"The beauty of this program is that it requires no additional faculty or classrooms," Myrna continued. "Attrition after the first year leaves vacancies in the third semester, which allows entry for returning LPNs and paramedics."

MCC's first cohort of the "Paramedic to RN" program begins in Summer 2006 and will graduate in Spring 2007. The plan is to duplicate the program at other Maricopa Community Colleges, based upon demand.

New SIS Deployment Date

For those of you who have trouble adapting to change, have we got a deal for you! The implementation timeline for Maricopa's new Student Information System (SIS) has been moved from July, 2005 to February, 2006. The decision to deploy next February was measured by various risk factors including Oracle's acquisition of PeopleSoft. Look for the updated timeline in the future edition of MCC's new SIS newsletter scheduled to be sent electronically in late March.

MCC Website to be revamped

MCC's website is scheduled for a face lift this spring. "Our goal is to have Phase I of the redesign completed by the end of the summer, if not sooner," stated Paul Hietter, Distance Learning Coordinator and chair of the newly formed Web Oversight Committee. The committee determined that the look of MCC's homepage will change and the number of direct links off the homepage will be reduced to eleven.

Other features of Phase I include creating a system for managing and tracking website projects and edits. Turnaround time for certain jobs and the roles and responsibilities of individuals who perform work on the web will be outlined. A web-based form for requesting webpage edits and projects will help to streamline the process. The committee will also devise a communication plan for providing updates to MCC employees, describing the work and responsibilities of the Web Oversight Committee.

The Web Oversight Committee was formed based on the recommendation from an ad hoc committee assembled by MCC administration

to determine if there was a need to revamp MCC's website. The ad hoc committee determined that MCC's current website is underutilized and created a long-term plan for the redesign and future maintenance of the site that was approved by College administration just before the 2004 winter break.

The Oversight Committee began meeting in January and is charged with:

- Implementing a plan for the redesign and maintenance of MCC's website
- Establishing bylaws and structure (including lengths of terms and service of committee members)
- Conducting continuous reviews of MCC's website
- Advising webmaster on priority of redesign and new projects
- Hearing concerns regarding the website from the MCC community

The committee consists of representatives from the faculty, Student Services, Institutional Advancement, Information Technology, and the student body.

Additional information about the redesign of MCC's webpage is available through Web Oversight Committee members:

- Paul Hietter, Chair
- Jonathan Baney
- Trisha Brazda
- Richard Felnagle
- Sonia Filan
- Joe Files
- Joni Grover
- Andrew Kasian
- Spencer Peterson
- Naomi Story
- Dennis Wilson

Requests for webpage edits and projects can be made via <http://everest.mc.maricopa.edu/workrequest/workrequest/mxml>. Log in using your MyMCC account user ID and password.