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Bulletin

FAA Certification for Electronics Program

You may soon be able to thank a Mesa Community College student for ensuring safe and smooth-running operations at airports throughout the country. The Federal Aviation Administration has certified MCC as an official Airway Facilities-Collegiate Training Initiative

(AF-CTI) Partner School. The certification makes MCC the only AF-CTI Partner School in Arizona and one of 38 in the country.

MCC students are now eligible for FAA scholarships, internships, and eventual full-time employment as electronic technicians. The program also provides training opportunities for current FAA employees who want to advance their careers.

JD Neglia, MCC Electronics Program Director, said the FAA's goal is to establish a pipeline for a new workforce of electronic technicians as a large number of current technicians near retirement age. Electronic technicians are responsible for the maintenance of automated air traffic control landing systems, radar systems, and other equipment.

"All airports are just bristling with electronic systems, and the technicians who run them must be extremely capable," JD said. "This is a great opportunity for our electronics technology students."

MCC instructors recommend students for the AF-CTI program upon completion of the MCC electronics program. If accepted, students do six months of training in Oklahoma City. When they complete the program, they are qualified for employment at

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport or other airports throughout the country.

An FAA assessment team visited MCC this past fall for a thorough

examination of the electronics program. The team certified the existing electronics program with no changes. This means students who have already nearly completed the program have access to this opportunity with no additional coursework, and students who have already graduated can also take advantage of the program.

Plans are underway for a ceremony at MCC where FAA officials will officially present a plaque recognizing MCC as an AF-CTI Partner School.

"This career truly has job security," JD said. "This is the kind of job that will never get outsourced. It's a future-proof kind of career."



Dubai Conference Broadens Perspectives

A women's leadership conference in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, gave two MCC students a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit a royal palace, chat with Benazir Bhutto, and take a hair-raising dune-buggy ride.

Last month, MCC students Megan Martin and Gayle Bently attended "Insight Dubai," a five-day conference that brought together 100 females for a cross-cultural exchange of ideas. Judy Christensen, Religious Studies faculty, accompanied the students.

"The conference is a great idea to get together young people from around the world and let them meet each other and learn together and play together," Judy said. "Megan and Gayle were fantastic attendees and did us proud."

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Dubai Women's College paired up 50 of their students with 50 visiting students. The women discussed economics, Islamic law, and violence against women. Gayle and Megan said they plan to stay in touch with many of the attendees and liked how the trip broadened their understanding of the world.

"The trip opened my eyes to how lucky I am," Gayle said. "Before I didn't even see women's issues as being at the top the list of world problems, but now I can see myself helping to further women's rights."

Megan, a journalism major, said she was thrilled to meet Former Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

"I learned about her in history class ... so it was really cool to sit down and chat with her for about 10 minutes," Megan said. "I got to find out a little bit of political inside knowledge, which is always fun."

Megan also enjoyed the dune-buggy ride.

"We were screaming the whole way," Megan said. "The driver

was playing really loud Arabic pop music and everyone was clapping along. It was so fun."

Judy opted out of the dune-buggy ride, but enjoyed talking to a wide variety of people and dispelling a few stereotypes she never knew she had. She said every Dubai college girl covered herself, by choice, with a traditional black shayla and abaya.

"I thought the local girls might resent having to be covered, but they actually see it as a status symbol," Judy said.

Megan said, "One of the women told me a man is more likely to approach a woman who is completely covered—for them, modesty is beautiful, while here, everything is out in the open."

Judy said even with different clothing, the Dubai college students were still recognizably teenagers, with cell phones and laptops, surfing the Internet, and trying to figure out their future.

It's a constant reminder every time you travel that people are people. We're a lot more alike than we think we are."



"Gayle Bentley, Megan Martin and Judy Christensen hold gifts from the Shaikha of Dubai."

Ethics workshop provides problem-solving tools

As a society, we are faced with ethical dilemmas nearly every time we pick up a newspaper, whether it's medical controversies, political scandals, or environmental concerns.

In our workplace, we must pause and consider ethical dilemmas that occur in higher education, such as academic freedom, hiring practices, accountability to the institution, and responsibility to the community.

For MCC employees who are grappling with moral dilemmas such as these, the MCCCDC Ethics Workshop teaches practical problem-solving techniques to solve a questionable situation.

The Ethics Workshop is a collaborative effort of the Maricopa Initiative on Ethics & Values Sub-Committee and Employee & Organizational Learning. During the workshop, facilitators Ann Adams, a Certified Human Resources Professional, and Debra Campbell, an MCC Philosophy faculty member, clarify the distinction between values and ethics while analyzing MCCCDC's values.

Debra emphasizes that the workshop is not about changing an employee's values, but more about providing a toolbox full of theories to help with a difficult decision.

To lead workshop participants through problem-solving steps, Debra first teaches the basics of a few moral theories, such as

Ethical Egoism, Utilitarianism, and Kantian Ethics. Next, she asks participants to choose one of the theories and apply it to a theoretical problem. After discussing the choices and consequences of those choices, a final decision can be made.

Debra said she has been impressed by how carefully people think through all the different solutions.

"It's interesting how people consistently seek more information and try to understand ethical dilemmas," Debra said. "This speaks well for compassion in our district."

MCCCDC offers the workshop to all employees twice each semester at various locations. The next workshop is Tuesday, April 4, 8:30 – 12:00, at Scottsdale Community College, Azurite Room. Debra also teaches PHI 250, Ethics in Higher Education, as a three-credit class. For more information on the workshop, go to <http://www.dist.maricopa.edu/learn/> or call Darlene Cieplinski at 480-731-8281.



Debra Campbell, MCC Philosophy faculty, is the subject matter expert for the District's ethics workshops.

MIRA: A new way of looking at risk

The rapid changes in the world in the past few years make it necessary to continually reassess risk factors in our educational institution. To help employees weigh the costs and benefits of a situation or activity, the Maricopa Integrated Risk Assessment (MIRA) project provides information to adapt to a changing environment.

MIRA is the result of a task force created in 1999 by MCCC Chancellor Rufus Glasper. Since that time, the MIRA project has developed assessment tools, training sessions, and a website packed full of risk evaluation tips in an ongoing effort to embed risk assessment and management into the district's daily operations so as to minimize surprises and maximize opportunities.

By visiting the MIRA website at www.maricopa.edu/mira and clicking on "Risk Assessment Tools," employees can view the risk categories that will structure a process for developing strategies to manage risks.



After determining whether an activity is in the low, mid, or high severity range, the employee can then consider potential strategies, which include avoidance, reduction, control, or transfer. For example, is the learning opportunity associated with a lab experiment worth the risk? If deemed worthwhile, can the risks be reduced?

The MIRA committee makes it clear that the success of risk management depends on the coordinated and cooperative response from employees on every level - individually and collectively. But the MIRA project also reminds people that risk is not always a negative concept.

"Most successful, innovative, and exciting ideas are born because someone took a risk. MIRA has been created to help understand the opportunities and minimize the consequences of the risks we take."—tutorial on the MIRA website.

Contact Ruth Unks, MCCC Risk Manager, at 480-731-8879 for more information.

MOSAIC program at MCC

As Mesa Community College employees, we all interact daily with people from various backgrounds. In an effort to create a workplace and a classroom that is respectful and inclusive of everyone, MCC is helping to launch MOSAIC, a new program developed by the Maricopa County Community College Employee and Organizational Learning Team. MOSAIC, which stands for Maximizing Our Strengths as an Inclusive Community, is a series of six sequential workshops designed for all MCCC employees. Rory Gilbert, the District's EOLT Diversity Coordinator, teaches this spring's MCC workshop series. She said these classes are more in-depth than previous diversity classes. The program is divided into three levels with two classes per level. Through active engagement, participants learn from each other on all levels. The first level of classes is "Knowing Ourselves and Others." Participants take a personality profile that helps them understand themselves and others. The workshops work to broaden perspectives and develop intergroup communication skills.

The second level is "Recognizing Bias and its Consequences." Today, bias tends to be subtler than in



the past, so employees learn how to recognize and respond to harmful (discriminatory, biased, or exclusionary) comments, attitudes, and behaviors.

The third level is "Strengthening Maricopa through Action." Participants learn how to work within the organization to continually remove barriers and understand how inclusion impacts the entire organization.

"We do activities to learn more about each other and how to be comfortable discussing issues so we are no longer walking on eggshells around these issues," Rory said. This spring's MCC MOSAIC workshop series has already started, but it's not too late to get in on the 3-day session held May 15, 16, and 18 at South Mountain Community College. Call 480-731-8281 for more information. MCC will host another MOSAIC workshop series next fall. For more information on Fall 2006 MCC MOSAIC workshops, contact Laura Ballard in the Center for Teaching & Learning at 480-461-7690. Rory is also looking for people who are interested in becoming MOSAIC workshop facilitators. Contact Rory at 480-731-8211.