

Mamma Mia! Interior Design students give Italian flair to MCC Red Mountain student lounge



Interior design student Jana Ashcraft and instructor Cheryl Blankenship work on the stone floor of the new student lounge for the Red Mountain campus.

Interior design students at MCC's Red Mountain campus traveled to Italy – albeit through their imagination and design work – when they created a new look for the student lounge at Acacia Village. Students redesigned the room as part of a classroom project under the direction of Cheryl Blankenship, an MCC adjunct faculty member.

The new student lounge, which was previously used as a classroom, was creatively

converted by the 15 students in Blankenship's Interior Materials class. The room now sports a Tuscan theme with faux-finished walls, man-made stone applied to other wall surface areas, and a mural depicting a Tuscan balcony with Roman columns overlooking an Italian countryside. Other touches developed by the interior design students include new window treatments with dark forest green shuttered frames to give the room a rustic feel.

The design was one of two submitted for approval. Students also had to submit a written budget for the project and make an oral presentation to the committee on the benefits of each design.

"This is an advanced class, and the students learn much more than decorating or simply putting pretty colors together," Blankenship said. "The interior materials class encompasses design knowledge that gives students the ability to read blueprints, design and supplement floor plans, and also work with the mechanical and technical pieces of putting a room or home together, such as lighting, air conditioning, and heating."

The finishing touches to the student lounge should be completed this month with new furniture and countertops scheduled for installation shortly thereafter.

Blankenship brings her own years of experience as a professional interior designer to the classroom and is pleased with the positive response she has received from students.

"We started the interior design program at MCC Red Mountain two years ago, and since that time, enrollment has doubled with students who are interested in pursuing this area of study as a possible career choice," she said.

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Special Edition



Vote by Mail

For your convenience, Vote by Mail ballots can be picked up in the Office of Institutional Advancement (IA) on the Southern and Dobson campus, or call IA at 461-7446 before October 11. To pick up a Vote by Mail ballot at the Red Mountain Campus, call Yvonne Schmidt at 654-7703. Early ballots must be mailed by October 22, 2004.

MCC begins Prop 401 educational effort

This past summer, MCC began informing and educating employees, alumni and the citizens of our community about the MCCC bond: what the bond means to MCC and what the bond means to homeowners.

MCC's portion of the bond monies will be \$111 million. These dollars will be used to meet the tremendous growth taking place across the college's campuses and sites including the extensive growth in Internet-based programs. All bond monies are new capital dollars to be used for new buildings, refurbishing old facilities, upgrading and replacement of technology and equipment, additional parking, and ongoing upgrades of security equipment and systems.

The \$951 million MCCC bond is for new capital dollars for all 10 Maricopa Community Colleges.

Details can be found in the MCC bond brochure and the college's FAQ. Both documents are available in the Office of Institutional Advancement.

Employees are needed to continue the college's outreach efforts. Anyone who would like to participate in the college's Prop 401 educational effort, please call Janet Felton, executive assistant to the president, at 461-7500 or e-mail her at jfelton333@yahoo.com.

Frequently Asked Questions about Prop 401

- Q.** I understand that the November ballot will be very long and very cumbersome. Where will the Maricopa County Community Colleges bond appear on the ballot?
- A.** You are right about a long ballot. The November ballot will be multiple pages. At this time, we know Prop 401 – the MCCC Bond – will be placed toward the front of the ballot. Initiatives are not listed in numerical order. The final placement of ballot initiatives will be set by the end of September. Watch for the exact location of Prop 401 in an upcoming Bulletin.
- Q.** In the MCC bond brochure, the example you gave in terms of an increase in property taxes (as a result of the MCCC bond request) was for a \$100,000 home. How would I determine the increase in property taxes on my mother's condo which is about \$75,000 and my house which is \$200,000?
- A.** On the \$100,000 home used in our example, the property tax increase would be \$15.83 a year. So for your mother's \$75,000 condo, the property tax increase would be 75% of the \$15.83 or \$11.87 a year. On your \$200,000 home, your property tax increase would be double the \$15.83 or \$31.66 a year.

MCC partners with high schools to train students for bioscience careers

Industry estimates indicate that nearly 10 lab technicians will be needed to support one research scientist in Arizona's fast-growing biotechnology field, and Mesa Community College has already put plans and partnerships in place to produce a qualified bioscience workforce that will meet that demand. MCC's target audience? High schools.

Two new partnerships with local high schools will help bridge the critical gap in training students for new careers in biotechnology. The first partnership, a two-week teachers workshop conducted in July, provided science teachers at Mesa, Westwood, and Dobson high schools with training and manuals to help them incorporate bioscience into their current curriculum. MCC plans to expand the teachers workshop to Mountain View High School next year and other Mesa high schools thereafter as the program is developed.

"Because biotechnology is relatively new, K-12 education systems are not currently equipped to educate and inform to a level that would prepare students for two-year biotech programs and beyond," said Lewis Obermiller, director of MCC's Biotechnology Program. "MCC's training programs will help create a skilled Arizona workforce to support and retain bioscience companies like T-Gen, Q-Med, and Medicis."

The second MCC partnership is the 2+2 program which begins in Fall 2004. This program will place high school juniors who have qualified through assessment testing into college-level biology and science classes to better prepare them for a biotech degree. The students will simultaneously earn high school and college credits for a total of four college credits upon completion of the course. Already, 120 high school students have enrolled in the program. Once students complete the program, they will graduate with an associate's degree or certification which they can use to immediately enter the workforce. Students may also opt to continue their bioscience education for a four-year degree at Arizona State University by transferring their MCC credits.

