SIS Countdown

The countdown begins! The estimated go-live date for the new Student Information System (SIS) is in October - just six months from now. In a February 2007 memo, District Project Directors Steve Creswell and Paul Dale state, "Everyone involved in the Project remains committed to meeting the implementation date and is excited about the increased capabilities of the new system."

When is the big day? The estimated roll out dates are:

• Thursday, October 4, 5:00 p.m. * - View only access to Legacy SIS (our existing system) begins

• Monday, October 8 - Go live with SIS portion of PeopleSoft

• October 9 - All colleges report in

• October 15 - Fall back to Legacy if needed

*Students may not be able to register for classes October 4 - 8 because the colleges will not be able to verify information. This is being looked at as a district-wide decision so that all colleges use the same business processes.

What are the benefits of the new SIS?

• 24/7 access

• Fully integrated, web-based system

• Significantly improves and increases student and faculty self-service

• Links to on-line learning tools and course management systems

• Aligns MCCCD business practices to assist with "data driven decisions"

• Central site for searching district-wide course listings and availability

• The ability to run "what-if" scenarios to aide students in planning courses

• Recruitment tools - Legacy SIS does not have this type of function available. (Note: The recruitment portion will be implemented after the October Go Live date)

How is the new SIS different from Legacy?

• Modular and role driven rather than screen driven

• Web-based graphic interface similar to the interfaces for CFS and HRMS

• SIS information will be available to all MCCCD colleges, eliminating the need to complete forms for each campus a student attends

What modules exist in the new system and what do they do?

• Academic Advising - Degree audit function enables advisors to ask "what if" questions for planning a series of courses that lead to a specified degree. Eventually, this function will also be available as part of student self-service.

• Campus Community - Maintain biographical and demographic information about people and organizations as well as checklists, communications, and comments.

• Curriculum Management - Define Course Catalog and Schedule of Classes, manage attendance and grading.

• Financial Aid - Process and manage financial aid applications and awards.

• Records and Enrollment - Enroll in classes, produce transcripts, process transfer credits, transcripts and graduation.

• Student Admissions - Enter and maintain applications, process test scores, application and transcript loads.

• Student Financials - Maintain student accounts, payments and collections and calculate tuition.

• Student Recruiting - Maintain prospect, recruiter information and view and load test scores. (Note: The recruitment portion will be implemented after the October Go Live date)

• Veterans' Benefits - Identifies a person as a veteran and what types of benefits the student is eligible to receive.

What will it look like when I log in?

• The interface will be similar to the one you see in HRMS. (see screen shot).

• When you log in, you will see a list of options available specifically to you based on your user access or "role" within the system. Examples include:

• Faculty Self Service

• Student Self Service

• Student Administration

• The system will deliver portions of the nine modules listed above based on what you need to accomplish your job duties.

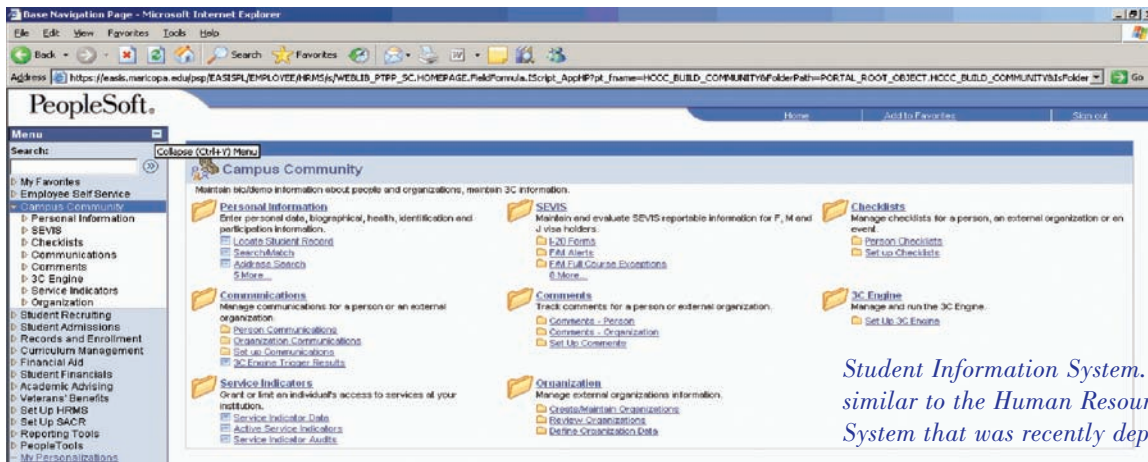• Only a few employees known as Super Users will have access to all nine modules and all the sub-menus within them.

Have any components of PeopleSoft already been rolled out successfully? Yes!

• College Financial System

• Human Resources Management System

What are the some of the next steps before SIS can go-live?

• Usability and conversion validation testing are underway. The testing ensures that data is transferred correctly from Legacy to the new SIS.

Student Information System. The menu layout is similar to the Human Resources Management System that was recently deployed at MCC.

• Integration of existing support systems and transfer of existing reports to new SIS.

• Resource 25, the facilities and class scheduling software, needs to be functioning at each of the colleges before SIS implementation. Resource 25 will enable employees, students, and community members to view spaces available on campus and submit reservation requests. It will include information about the room features (such as permanently installed audiovisual equipment) and provide users a single location for requesting related media services, computers, and maintenance items. Once approved, the event automatically uploads to an event calendar, creating a single source of event information.

• Training! Training will be conducted in two phases:

 o Phase 1 – Train the Trainer begins in May

College functional experts (trainers) will be trained in system functionality and how to deliver training to the college staff (end user).

College SIS trainers will then take what they learned, address their college-specific needs, and customize their training where required.

o Phase 2 – End User Training will be available summer through early fall (dates are contingent upon the District Training schedule).

College functional experts (trainers) will train the college staff (end users) on system functionality.

• The college also recognizes the importance of providing on-going training for employees after go-live.

To learn more about SIS, visit the District-wide SIS site at http://www.maricopa.edu/nss/ or the MCC SIS site at http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/sis/

Project Status at a glance – Graphical Representation http://www.maricopa.edu/nss/documents/StudentAdminDashboard.pdf

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Want to test drive the new SIS? You can preview the system and play with some of the data (without fear of messing it up!) by logging into EASIS Plus (Early Access SIS). Be advised – at this point you can view the entire system. When the District goes live, you will only see the portions necessary for you to complete job duties.

Your Enterprise ID

If you don't know your enterprise ID, visit the Personal Administration Tool (PAT) at https://memo3.maricopa.edu/usertool.html and follow-the log-in directions. Once you're in the PAT, click on "My Profile." Your enterprise ID is listed under "additional information" toward the bottom right.

Current SIS Users

If you currently have an SIS account, send your Enterprise ID with a request to have your account unlocked to Records and Registration, Attn: SIS Account Manager.

New SIS Users

Your supervisor will need to complete the form at http://everest.mc.maricopa.edu/services/employee/empservicesrequest.mxml to request that an SIS account be established for you. You will then receive instructions to complete the FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) Tutorial and a Security Statement. These documents are available at http://www.maricopa.edu/legal/ferpa/ferpa_tutorial/ferpatutorial.htm and http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/publications/security_statement.pdf. Send the completed and signed documents along with your Enterprise ID to Records and Registration, Attn: SIS Account Manager.

Log in to EASIS Plus

Once your account is established, visit the District new SIS site at http://www.maricopa.edu/nss/.

1. Click on the "Project Intranet" link in the top right corner.

2. Enter your entire district email as your user name (example: marcy.snitzer@mcmail.maricopa.edu) and your password for district email.

3. Click on the "EASIS Plus" link in the left column.

4. Click on the "EASIS Plus Log In." (If a pop-up box about a security certificate displays, click the "yes" button)

5. Your User ID is your Enterprise ID*. Password is your district email password.

End of Year Events

Student Success Showcase
April 25 at 6 p.m.
Location: Red Mountain campus

Physical Science Groundbreaking Ceremony
April 30 at 9 a.m.
Location: Employee lot south of the Life Science building at Southern and Dobson campus

Athletic Banquet
April 30, 6 p.m.
Location: Navajo Room at Southern and Dobson campus

Academic Honors and Awards Banquet
May 1 and 2, 6-9 p.m.
Location: Navajo Room at Southern and Dobson campus

Academic Distinction Reception
May 9, 3:30 p.m., program starts at 4 p.m.
Location: Reading Room at Southern and Dobson campus

Spring Brunch
May 11, 8 a.m.
Location: Navajo Room at Southern and Dobson campus and Community Room at Red Mountain campus

Commencement
May 11, 8 p.m.
Location: Kirk Center Lawn at Southern and Dobson Campus.

Please contact Heather Miles at 480-461-7296 or Jennifer LaForge at 480-461-7794 for more information on events.

New Transfer Partnership with Athlone Institute of Technology

Mesa Community College announces a new transfer partnership with Athlone Institute of Technology (AIT) in Ireland for MCC students who wish to pursue a bachelor's degree from AIT. MCC Students who complete an Associate in Applied Science degree in Biotechnology or an Associate in Applied Science degree in Business (International Trade or Project Management tracks) will be able to seamlessly transfer to AIT to complete a bachelor's degree in those fields of study.

Details are still being finalized, but Barry Vaughan, director of MCC's Study Abroad in Ireland program, said specific information will be available to students in Fall 2007 to begin study in Fall 2008.

Stan Kikkert of MCC's Biotechnology Program said the partnership provides MCC students with both academic and internship opportunities.

"International education is important in general and this partnership opens up lots of exciting opportunities for students," Stan said. "AIT has a very strong internship program in biotechnology. Students can not only earn an academic degree, but they will also have the opportunity to work in the biotechnology field."

Preston Cameron in MCC's Business Department said the transfer partnership offers MCC business students two degree paths—International Trade or Project Management—plus the opportunity for students to broaden their business education in an international setting with multinational representation.
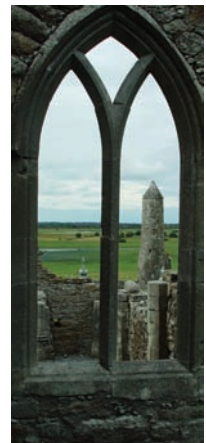
"This is an excellent networking opportunity for business students who want to work or do business in Europe," Preston said.

AIT is located in Athlone, Co. Westmeath, Ireland, in the Irish midlands on the river Shannon, between Dublin to the east and Galway to the west. The thriving town is home to several global corporations and located in a historically strategic location in south-central Ireland.

The cost of the program is comparable to what an MCC student would pay for tuition and room and board at Arizona's state universities. The opportunity is an extremely worthwhile investment in a student's future, according to the faculty involved.

"How do you put a value on international education?" Preston asked.

For more information about the program, contact Stan Kikkert at 480-461-7599 or Preston Cameron at 480-461-7729.

Inaugural Classes Graduate

Mesa Community College congratulates the inaugural classes of the MCC Dental Hygiene Program and the MCC Gila River Fire Department Recruit Program as these dedicated candidates for graduation receive their degrees on May 11.

MCC Dental Hygiene student Trish Jenkins is the first in her family to receive a college degree.

• The MCC Dental Hygiene Program was created in response to the increasing demand for hygienists. Students attend classes at MCC's Red Mountain campus and complete clinical coursework alongside dental students at the nearby A.T. Still University's Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health. Graduates are awarded an Associate in Applied Science degree in Dental Hygiene and are eligible to take the written and clinical exams necessary to obtain Arizona state licensure.

"I like to call our first class our 'pioneers' because they help us get the program together as we go along," said Phebe Blitz, MCC's Dental Hygiene Faculty Program Director. "They've worked with special needs patients and worked in a dental team environment, referring patients back and forth to dental students."

MCC student Trish Jenkins, a single mother of three children and the first in her family to receive a college degree, called the program "challenging, but completely worthwhile."

"I know I can make a difference in people's lives," said Trish, who already has a hygiene job lined up in a Chandler dental office. "Receiving proper dental care can affect people's lives and health in so many different ways."

Phebe said she looks forward to seeing the program continue to grow and attract quality faculty and students.

• The Gila River Fire Department Recruit Program was created when the Gila River Fire Department approached MCC for help training firefighter recruits from the reservation. Students attend classes at MCC's Williams campus.

"This is a unique class," said Ron Knight, Director of MCC's Fire Science Program. "The students were enrolled at MCC, but also employed full time by the Gila River Fire Department."

Training captain Zach Chitwood said it is important to the Gila River Indian Community to protect their people and land, while maintaining self-sufficiency and providing employment for their population of approximately 26,000 residents, plus a fluctuating transient population.

"We took community members from ages 19 to 42 who had absolutely no experience," said Zach, who worked the team for 12 hours a day, 5 days a week, for 21 weeks. "It was unbelievable how all the students melded and formed an amazing team. I couldn't be more proud of these students."

MCC's Gila River Fire Department recruits in training.

MCC student Noel Murgia, one of three female graduates, found the training physically difficult. Five-foot, 3-inch Noel struggled to wear the 50-pound firefighting gear and carry 130-pound dummies.

"But in the end, it was all worth it," said Noel, 25. "It's awesome helping out my community. You get respect and you are a role model for the younger girls in the community."

Tribal members blessed an eagle feather and presented it to the recruits, wishing them success in their endeavors. The students hung the feather on the class flag throughout their training.

n said the program was so successful that MCC has been asked to provide the training again.

Red Mountain construction update

Plans for MCC's Red Mountain campus construction are on the move, with building specifications recently submitted to the District. Money from the 2004 bond initiative make the proposed construction plans possible, with $20 million dedicated to making the Red Mountain campus a more comprehensive campus.

Inflation has gone up by approximately 43 percent since initial plans were drawn up and is expected to rise an additional 17 percent by the middle of the construction process. This translates into building half of what was planned, but Jo Wilson, Red Mountain's Dean of Instruction, said faculty and staff continue their commitment to the campus expansion.

"Red Mountain faculty and staff have made it a priority, despite the inflation increases, to never compromise quantity over quality," Jo said. "We are committed to making the facility a quality building with the accommodations and technology that are necessary for its success."

The new building will house a major science addition with four Life Science labs and include a music/drama multi-use room which will be used for classes and performances. The building will expand instructional space and provide additional offices for faculty and students. The selection of architects will begin in the summer.

Note: As MCC transitions into new leadership, "The Bulletin" will recognize faculty and staff accomplishments formerly found in the President s Weekly Communique. Please send your suggestions to Marcy Snitzer at marcy.snitzer@mcmail.maricopa.edu.

Recognition to...

Dr. Skip Pollock faculty in the Psychology Department. Skip was honored as MCC's Woman of Distinction at the Maricopa Community College Women's Leadership Group's Women of Distinction Luncheon at the Phoenix Zoo on April 18. Skip is an advocate for women and works hard to educate females about how to handle the special stresses of their gender. She presents classes and workshops on domestic violence and is a favorite contact for many students who go to her for personal and professional advice.

Jeremy E. Scott, student at MCC's Southern and Dobson campus, who was named to the national 2007 All-USA Community College Academic Second Team. Jeremy holds a 4.0 GPA and is majoring in business management. His volunteer activities include Phi Theta Kappa, the Boy Scouts of America, and Chandler Christian Church Youth Ministries. He has received the President's Honor's Scholarship, the Coca Cola 2-year Colleges Scholar Award, and the Social Sciences Department Outstanding Student Award. Jeremy, who currently owns two businesses, including one he started at age 16 selling toys over the Internet, plans to be a business developer.

Dawn Rhodes and Erika Harp, Phi Theta Kappa advisors, for being recognized at the PTK International Convention in Nashville, TN, with the Distinguished Advisor Award and the Paragon Award for New Advisors, respectively.

Donna Adams and Jean Watermolen, For graduating from the Women's Leadership Group Mentoring Program. The program provides an opportunity to explore and enhance personal and professional goals while providing a support network through regularly scheduled group activities and meetings. Donna is the Administrative Assistant for the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Jean is an Admissions and Records Technician in Records and Registration.

Coach Penny Powell and the Women's Tennis Team, For an undefeated season and regional championship. The team will compete in the championship in Tucson on May 5 and 6. Congratulations and good luck!