

Nora Reyes success story

Dr. Nora Amavisca Reyes has been selected by the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), District 1, to receive the Latino Educator Leader Award. Nora was recently recognized at the Arizona LULAC District 1 Conference, which took place at the Wells Fargo Conference Center in Phoenix. She was nominated by Ray Gano, District 1 director of LULAC, Arizona chapter. Nora was selected from a committee of prominent members of the League for her unselfish and outstanding contributions throughout her professional career.

“I believe...that each one of us being recognized is merely a representative of many who have supported us, believed in us, and made numerous personal sacrifices for us in order to give us the opportunities which have enabled us to be where we are today,” said Nora. “Being recognized by an organization with the philosophy and purposes of LULAC truly validates the efforts I have undertaken through my



personal and professional endeavors to promote equal opportunities for all and to increase appreciation for the richness of our multicultural society.”

Nora is a residential faculty member in MCC's Education Dept. where she teaches Cultural Diversity in Education and Children's Literature to aspiring teachers. She also serves as director of the Xalapa

Study Abroad program for educators and social workers.

Nora has a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, a master's in Multicultural/Bilingual Education, and a doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction with a specialization in Bilingual Education. She has been teaching at MCC since 1997 and “loving it.” Nora is the youngest of seven children and the only one born in the United States, just months after her family's emigration from Mexico. Nora is bilingual. She grew up in a Spanish-speaking household.

Other awards Nora has received include the Maricopa Institute for Learning Fellowship (2004–2005) and the MCC Faculty Excellence Award (2003). She is the recipient of two recent grants: the District International and Intercultural grant (2002) and the EDP grant (2001). Nora also participated in MCC's Kaleidoscope program (2000–2001).

The Bulletin is published by the Office of Institutional Advancement every other Thursday from October to April for employees of Mesa Community College. Please visit www.mc.maricopa.edu/alumni for submission deadlines and publication dates.

Coordinator, Communications and Alumni Relations, **Marcy Snitzer**, marcy.snitzer@memail.maricopa.edu, 461-7792;
Assistant, Communications and Alumni Relations and Lead Photographer, **Jennifer LaForge**, jenner@mail.mc.maricopa.edu, 461-7794;
Writer, **Karen Peters**, karen.peters@memail.maricopa.edu; Graphic Designer, **Cindy Brown**, cindys@mail.mc.maricopa.edu
Mesa Community College, 1833 W. Southern Avenue, Mesa, AZ 85202



The Maricopa County Community College District is an EEO/AA Institution.

APR 15 '04 the Bulletin



And the thunder rolls!

Later this month MCC will be struck with over 300 local high school seniors scouting out Thunder Day. The Office of Admissions and Recruitment is hosting the first-ever high school senior preview day to showcase MCC and to boost an interest in college among future high school graduates.

Fourteen local schools will bus students to the Southern and Dobson campus on April 29. High schools include Westwood, Desert Vista, Mesa, Highland, Gilbert, Hamilton, McClintock, Red Mountain, Desert Ridge, Chandler, Skyline, Mesquite, Desert Hills, and Mountain View.

Thunder Day was developed to market MCC to students from local high schools. Kathleen Perales, Coordinator of Recruitment Services, Admissions and

Recruitment, believes that the students need to be physically on campus to experience the culture and acclimate to the college environment. “We need to expose them to as much as we can,” Kathleen said.

MCC faculty and other professionals will host career seminars to help students understand that there is more than one way to enter a career path. Students can attend career seminars on justice and law, education, nursing, computer technology, engineering, and communication to learn more about each profession. The Technology, Theatre and Performing Arts, and Biotechnology departments will feature open houses for students who wish to visit the departments directly. These departments will also have hands-on demonstrations.



Other departments or programs participating in Thunder Day are MCC Study Abroad, Physical Education/Exercise Science, Career Success Center, Geography, Center for Service-Learning, Fire Science, Counseling, and Athletics.

For more information about Thunder Day, please contact Kathleen at 654-7751 or kamelton@mail.mc.maricopa.edu.

Careers in Communication - planning a strategy



Rachel Williams, a panelist at last year's event, has been invited back for Careers in Communication 2004. She is the Benefits Manager for the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Students who graduate with a degree in Communication enjoy literally hundreds of career options. But choices often come with a challenge, and the challenge to Communication students is to design an educational path that will lead them to the career of their choice.

MCC's upcoming third annual Careers in Communication event will assist

Communication majors in meeting this challenge. Activities focus on choosing the right communication courses, pursuing internships, choosing areas of emphasis that will maximize employment opportunities, and getting advice from communication experts.

The Careers in Communication event will take place on Wednesday, April 21, in the Paul A. Elsner Library, Room 145, from 11 AM to 1 PM. The event is open to everyone.

During the first hour of the event, six panelists – each with a college background in Communication – will share their education and career experiences:

- Vicki Nguyen, Fox 10 News
- Rachel Williams, Arizona Diamondbacks
- Nikki Mancuso, University of Phoenix
- Gerardo de los Santos, League for Innovation

- Bart Davis, Salt River Project
- Neil Giuliano, Mayor of Tempe

Panelists will also discuss extracurricular and employment activities they pursued while in college that prepared them for their first jobs. Students will have an opportunity to talk directly with the panelists and collect materials relating to careers, interviewing and résumés, service learning, and university transfer.

Dr. Carolyn Fay, MCC Communication faculty, said she is excited about the panel of prominent community members who will discuss strategies they employed on the way to their own successful careers. "You've got to take the right sequence of courses, choose the right internships," Carolyn said. "It's not magic."

Event planners for Careers in Communication include Dr. Susan Olson, Jim Mancuso, Kathie May-Updike, Sheila Merritt, and Dr. Carolyn Fay.

Semester's end brings accolades for students

In springtime at MCC, receptions, banquets, and ceremonies are nearly as abundant as new blooms in the Rose Garden. The cause for applause is MCC's outstanding students, who richly deserve recognition for their accomplishments during the year. Following is just a sampling of the upcoming events designed to honor our students.

Athletic Banquet

Monday, April 26

6–7:30 PM, Navajo Room

MCC's Athletic Banquet encompasses all sports for the entire year. Each coach recognizes two students from his or her respective sport. Athletic Director Allen Benedict selects one student to receive a special Athletic Director's Award.

Academic Honors and Awards Banquet

Wednesday, May 5

7–9 PM, Navajo Room

One hundred fifty students are recognized – each within their own discipline – for their academic achievements. Departments turn in nominations to associate deans Carol Achs, Larry Thacker, and Rodney Holmes, who make the final selections. Scholarship recipients are recognized.

ASMCC End-of-the-Year Banquet

Saturday, May 8

6–9 PM, Navajo Room

Nominations for the Associated Students of MCC awards come from just about anyone – faculty, staff, students, and clubs. End-of-the-year awards include Who's Who, the Dean's List, Student of the Year, Faculty of the Year, and Advisor of the Year (club advisors). Director of Student Life and Associate Dean of Student Services Joni Grover, the ASMCC executive board, and Dean of Student and Community Services Brian Johnson share the responsibility for selecting the honorees.

Academic Excellence Reception

(High, Higher, and Highest Distinction)

Wednesday, May 12

3–5 PM, Navajo Room

Eligibility for an award at the Academic Excellence Reception is based solely on a student's grade point average, which must be 3.5 or higher.

Thanks to ASMCC president Bonnie Capen and MCC Public Relations and Special Events assistant Heather Miles for contributing to this report.

Ride your bicycle for a chance to fly

Would you like a chance to win round-trip airline tickets for two just for riding your bike to work, to class, or for fun? Valley Bike Week offers this opportunity and more. Each time you ride your bike for work or for pleasure during Valley Bike Week, April 17–25, you are eligible to enter the Bike Week Contest sponsored by Valley Metro for a chance to win the Grand Prize and many other great prizes.

The event officially kicks off Saturday, April 17, with a Bike Swap Meet at Phoenix Municipal Stadium and two Lions Club bike rides. Additional activities include

- the Glendale Family Bike Ride;
- a helmet raffle benefiting Phoenix Children's Hospital Safety House;

- the Capitol Ride, where state legislators ride from Patriots Park to the State Capitol to raise awareness of Bike Week and bike safety; and
- Bike to Work and School Day on April 21.

The Bike Week signature event – Bike to BOB – is Sunday, April 25. The Bike to BOB Family Fun Ride is a three-mile ride from Margaret Hance Park to the Diamondbacks game. Cost is \$12 for game ticket, bike safety check, T-shirt, pre-ride food and fun. If you are interested in participating in the events and contest sponsored and coordinated by Valley Metro, visit MCCC's Trip Reduction website at www.dist.maricopa.edu/trip/ or www.valleymetro.org for complete information.



Questions? Contact Karla Pace, 731-8832, MCCC's Trip Reduction Program.