

Bits & Snippets

What was the land that MCC at Southern and Dobson occupies used for before it became a college?

Answer to last issue's trivia question: The MCC counselor from the 1970s who later became a MCCC college president was Arnette Ward.

Submit ideas for "Bits & Snippets" to Marcy Snitzer at marcy.snitzer@mcmail.maricopa.edu.

continued from front, downtown campus



Rendering of the Mesa Arts Center scheduled to open in 2005 (Photo courtesy of City of Mesa)

and leveraging, allowing each entity to do what it does best.

Potential challenges were also identified by the task force: negative impact on existing campuses, legal aspects related to these types of community partnerships that have not been

explored, and the possibility that an additional campus may stretch administrative and operational resources beyond limits. The task force report will be completed by mid-April.

Input from employees and the community

Employees and community members had an opportunity to provide feedback on the possibility of opening a downtown campus at lunch meetings on February 26 and March 3, respectively. After receiving background information, attendees were asked to respond to a series of questions:

1. Is a downtown campus a good idea for Mesa Community College? For the City of Mesa?
2. What programs and services would you suggest the college offer?
3. Do you have a vision in your mind of what a campus in downtown Mesa would look like? What could you contribute to make your vision a reality?
4. What is your advice for next steps in potential development of a downtown campus for Mesa Community College?
5. How great a priority is a downtown campus, and the related partnerships, for Mesa Community College on a scale of 1–10, 10 being very important, and why?

Early discussions among both groups indicate there is support for an expanded MCC presence in downtown Mesa. The nature of that presence, however, is yet to be determined. A common theme among both employees and community was the need for further discussion and a needs analysis to determine programming possibilities. Dr. Christiansen offered final remarks: "We are still in the exploratory stage, and we want your thoughts and opinions."

Responses to the questions posed at each luncheon were compiled by and are available through the Office of the President. To learn more about the work of the Feasibility Task Force, contact Brian Johnson, Dean of Student and Community Services and Chair of the Task Force.

Check out the new and improved events calendar!

<http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/apps/calendar/display.jsp>

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Bulletin

MCC Safety and Emergency Procedures



National events have brought a heightened sense of awareness and safety consciousness to local communities. MCC has safety and emergency procedures in place and is expanding the safety plans to meet the needs of our changing campus and community.

MCC produces a pamphlet entitled *Safety and Emergency Procedures* annually. The pamphlet covers a variety of topics, including how to respond to violent situations, suspicious persons and packages, and natural disasters. “*The Safety and Emergency Procedures* pamphlet is the core

safety document for our campus,” stated Ron Etter, Dean of Administrative Services. “All employees are encouraged to obtain a copy and review it periodically.” The most recent version has a bright green cover; copies are available through the Office of Institutional Advancement.

A committee representing areas such as College Safety, Information Technology, Media Relations, Maintenance and Operations, and Counseling is developing a plan that addresses issues such as notifying employees and students of emergency situations, liaising with the media, providing support services such as counseling, and developing business recovery plans. “It basically provides the next step to our emergency response,” Ron said. “While the *Safety and Emergency Procedures* pamphlet provides core information for initial response, this plan will deal with the subsequent issues.”

Additional efforts are underway to increase safety at both MCC at Southern and Dobson and MCC at Red Mountain through the use of electronics. Panic alarms have been installed in areas at both MCC at Southern and Dobson and MCC at Red Mountain where there is greater potential for problems, such as counseling, the library, the student center, and reception areas for faculty offices. If a dangerous situation were to occur in the area, a push of the button sends a silent alarm to College Safety and an officer responds in approximately 30–60 seconds. Departments interested in requesting an alarm should contact Steve Corich, Director of College Safety.

College Safety is also in the process of obtaining video monitoring systems for MCC’s parking areas, outdoor areas throughout our campuses, and buildings that experience high traffic. The system, which is tentatively scheduled for installation this summer, will be monitored by College Safety 24/7.

MCC downtown campus: a good idea?

Community, business, and educational partnerships; expanded and enhanced services; responding to growth issues and demographics: just a few of the factors to consider in discussions about expanding MCC’s presence in downtown Mesa through a partnership with the City of Mesa.

Background information

Mesa Community College and the City of Mesa have been in conversation regarding the possibility of expanding MCC’s downtown presence. The City of Mesa has several projects underway designed to revitalize the downtown area. The Mesa Arts Center (scheduled to open in 2005) and a proposed aquatic center pose attractive opportunities for a joint venture between MCC and the City of Mesa.

In Fall, 2002, Dr. Christiansen convened a feasibility task force charged with examining the idea of a downtown campus for MCC. According to the briefing paper prepared by the task force, a downtown campus could be beneficial for several reasons:



The Centennial Center hosts a variety of events. MCC currently has two extended sites in downtown Mesa. (Photo courtesy of City of Mesa)

- According to the 2003 Facilities Master Plan report, MCC at Southern and Dobson is already operating above recommended space planning guidelines. Growth trends in the East Valley

indicate that congestion at existing campuses will worsen; an urban campus in downtown Mesa could relieve some of that congestion.

- Proximity to resources such as the Mesa Arts Center, businesses, museums, conference facilities, and city offices provide opportunities for expanded and enhanced programs through partnerships.
- Research indicates that there is a heavy Latino population in the downtown area; the convenience of a downtown campus could be one way to better meet the needs of that demographic.

One of the defining characteristics of a downtown campus could be partnerships with public, private, and educational entities. In addition to the City of Mesa, several other potential partners have been identified: the East Valley Partnership, Mesa Public Schools, ASU East, and the Arizona School of Health Sciences to name a few. Partnerships would allow for savings through economies of scale

continued on back, see downtown campus