

Education for our growing community



Community Education has expanded its services to accommodate the needs of our growing community. According to Barbara Thelander, Director of Continuing and Community Education,

“Approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ of our instructors now offer courses at both MCC at Southern and Dobson and MCC at Red Mountain.”

This is all part of a strategy to attract more students from the areas North and East of MCC's Southern and Dobson campus. “The heaviest number of students are currently drawn from the areas South and West of the MCC at Southern and Dobson campus.” Other exciting happenings in Community Education include integrating the registration process for non-credit courses into the credit course system.

Language classes, Feng Shui, Photography, Fishing, and Car Care are just a few examples of courses offered through Community Education. To find those unique subjects tailored to meet the interests

of our community, Barbara and her staff chart trends in personal interest and depend on entrepreneurial instructors to bring new ideas.

Community Education isn't all fun and games. Campus departments can partner with Community Education to offer Continuing Education Units (CEUs) to practicing professionals. Community Education also offers GED prep courses. “Over 125 students are enrolled in our GED prep courses, which are offered in both English and Spanish,” Barbara said. Strategic priorities for the department include expansion of CEU and Spanish GED offerings.

To learn more about Community Education, contact Barbara Thelander at 461-6256 or check out their website at www.mc.maricopa.edu/organizations/community/comm_ed.

It's all in the #s

MCC's Community Education enrolls approximately 3,500 students per semester in over 200 non-credit class sections. The Community Education department also oversees the Senior Adult Program, and supports New Frontiers for Learning in Retirement, a peer-led, peer-taught membership organization. New Frontiers currently enrolls 300 members and offers 60 sections.

Newsbytes

- MCC's phone directory is available online at www.mc.maricopa.edu/apps/mymcc/phonebook/view/pb_search.jsp.
- Professional Staff Association (PSA) members are now able to attend meetings via videoconferencing. The videoconferencing takes place in the VCN classroom at Southern and Dobson (near Media Services) and at Red Mountain in the Mesquite Bldg., Conference Room.
- Join us! Homecoming 2002. Saturday, November 9; President's Tailgate Barbecue, 4-6 P.M. (East side of bookstore, grassy area); MCC Thunderbirds vs. SCC Artichokes, 6 P.M.

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**MESA
COMMUNITY
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Bulletin

What is the AmeriCorps program?

AmeriCorps is a national service program initiated by President Clinton, often referred to as the "domestic Peace Corps." AmeriCorps provides thousands of Americans of all ages and backgrounds with education awards in exchange for community service. Nationally, over 150,000 AmeriCorps members have helped to meet the nation's critical needs in the areas of public safety, education, human needs, and the environment.



Bits & Snippets

What was MCC's mascot before the Thunderbird?

Answer to last issue's question: The shortest term an MCC president ever served was 6 months by Bill Holt.

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

NSF awards \$395,256 in scholarships to MCC and PC

By Carol Achs

Students majoring in computer science, engineering, or mathematics are eligible to receive financial help through the CSEMS (computer science, engineering, mathematics scholarships) program. CSEMS, which is funded through the National Science Foundation (NSF), will fund 15 MCC students and 15 Phoenix College (PC) students each semester for the next four years. The grant will provide \$1,500 each semester to each student who qualifies. In addition to financial assistance, each student will be matched with a mentor, receive tutoring, and attend activities designed for CSEMS students at both MCC and PC.

CSEMS is designed to attract economically disadvantaged full-time students to pursue careers in computer science, engineering, or mathematics. One-third or more of MCC's

recipients will be from under represented groups. The first round of scholarships will be awarded spring 2003.



The grant is administered by Mike Sims, Paul Nunez, Lea Neibarger, Carol Achs, Judy Taussig, Sherman Forbes, Joni Grover, Omar Perez, and Pat Peppin.

AmeriCorps seeks student volunteers

MCC received more than \$350,000 in a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service, which oversees the AmeriCorps program. Service Learning director Duane Oakes is now seeking to recruit additional men and women to community service.

Volunteers commit hours to community service in exchange for vouchers toward education expenses. With the exception of qualified work-study positions, the service hours completed must be unpaid. Students already engaged in service learning can now apply their hours to the AmeriCorps program. "You don't have to do anything but come and serve," Duane said.

About 200 of MCC's 300 volunteer positions in the UCAN Serve AmeriCorps program still need to be filled. AmeriCorps members serve in three different goal areas: Education Services, Public Health and Safety, and Community Strengthening.

Duane calculates that the grant money will provide more than 120,000 hours of service, creating a noticeable positive impact on the community. AmeriCorps service also benefits the volunteer by

providing leadership training, job experience and skills, and civic education.

Please share this information with students. If you're interested in an in-class presentation or for more information, contact Duane Oakes (461-7214) or Erika Wren (461-7243) at MCC's Center for Service Learning.

MCC Volunteer Lupé Contreras reads to students at the Mesa Arts Academy.



Exchange AmeriCorps service for tuition and books!

- 300 hours of service = voucher for \$1,000 (over 1 year)
- 450 hours of service = voucher for \$1,250 (over 1 year)
- 900 hours of service = voucher for \$2,362.50 (over 2 years)