

“The facility is amazing,” said Ana Gonzalez, a junior Management and Organizational Behavior major from Queen Creek, Ariz., who was named the Alhambra Residence Hall’s first resident assistant.

“I couldn’t ask for more,” she added. “Everything is new. Students love the fact we are in Mesa, and that we are so close to school and all of the restaurants and businesses. We are really thankful that they chose this location.”

The Alhambra opened as the Pioneer Hotel in 1894. Once among Mesa’s most posh lodging options, the Alhambra was devastated by fire in 1921. Although it endured while other local hotels were shuttered, torn down or redeveloped, the building fell into neglect and eventually served as a transitional-living facility and residential hotel.

Phoenix-based developer Venue Projects and California-based Community Development Partners bought the building for about \$1 million in August. Shortly thereafter, Perez reached out to BenU at Mesa officials, who were seeking a residential facility for students and agreed to lease the property.

Prior to the renovation project, student housing was made available through an agreement with the Phoenix Marriott Mesa.

The new residence hall is located near the Mesa Arts Center and about a mile from BenU at Mesa’s main campus building at 225 E. Main St. In a private ceremony in January, the building was blessed by Fr. James Aboyi, V.C., a parochial vicar at the Holy Cross Parish in Mesa who serves as BenU at Mesa’s chaplain. [www.ben.edu/mesa](http://www.ben.edu/mesa).



## **Escalating college credential attainment**

An enhanced partnership between Mesa Public Schools (MPS) and Mesa Community College (MCC) aims to increase attainment of post-secondary credentials. Beginning with the 2017-18 school year, six Mesa high schools will have a full-time MCC college advisor to assist students in preparing for their futures.

Other institutions of higher education have successfully used this model of embedding a college advisor in high schools to increase college enrollment and the pursuit of a post-secondary credential.

The college advisors will become an integral part of MPS by assisting students in earning college credits through Early College programs; facilitating placement testing; developing career plans using the MPS Education and Career Action Plan (ECAP); guiding students through the enrollment process; and assisting students with financial aid and scholarships so they may pursue their educational goals at MCC. [www.mesacc.edu](http://www.mesacc.edu)

## **MCC nursing program ranked #1 in Arizona**

Mesa Community College’s (MCC) nursing program was recently ranked number one in Arizona according to RegisteredNursing.org. Arizona’s 28 RN programs were judged based upon analysis of current and historical percentages of graduates who pass the NCLEX-RN exam. Programs reviewed include schools that offer an Associates in Nursing (AND/ASN), BSN, or Directy-Entry MSN Degree.

Whether earning a degree or preparing to transfer, MCC’s Nursing Program is both rigorous and flexible in accommodating nursing students. Learn more at [www.mesacc.edu/departments/nursing](http://www.mesacc.edu/departments/nursing).