

SCHOOLNews

National Merit Scholarship competition held

Rick A Hewitt, a student at Dobson High, was selected as one of the 2015 National Merit Scholarship winners. The 2,500 Merit Scholar designees were chosen from a talent pool of more than 15,000 outstanding Finalists in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program. National Merit 2500 Scholarship winners are the Finalists in each state judged to have the strongest combination of accomplishments, skills, and potential for success in rigorous college studies. The number of winners named in each state is proportional to the state's percentage of the nation's graduating high school seniors.

Wilkes University offers partnership with MCC

Wilkes University will offer a unique degree completion program to partners in the Maricopa County Community College District. The three-in-five program offers an accelerated pathway, allowing students to complete an associate, bachelor's and business master's degree in five years. The new program furthers Wilkes' commitment to Mesa and the greater Phoenix area.

Students will enroll in one of the Maricopa Community Colleges, earning an associate in business or applied science in

a business-related field in two years. The next two years will be spent completing a bachelor's degree in business administration at Wilkes University. Upon completion, acceptance into the Wilkes MBA program is guaranteed, which will take one year to complete with summer semesters.

In its location in downtown Mesa, Wilkes offers bachelor's degrees in accounting, entrepreneurship, finance, management, marketing and sports and event management for transfer students.

For more information about the Wilkes three-in-five program, contact Admissions Counselor Ryan Hess by e-mailing Ryan.Hess@Wilkes.edu or 480-878-4407.

Red Mountain High School Spring Art Show is May 15

The Red Mountain High School, 7301 E. Brown Road, Spring Art Show runs through Friday, May 15, during regular library hours, 7:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Mesa Community College graduation ceremonies set

Mesa Community College will recognize the accomplishments of its graduates for the 2014-15 academic year at a commencement ceremony in the campus courtyard of MCC's Southern and Dobson campus. The

processional begins at 7:15 p.m. May 15, followed by the program at 7:30 p.m. The general public is invited to this special commencement ceremony during the college's 50th anniversary year.

Deborah Bateman will be the commencement speaker. Ms. Bateman is vice chairman of the board of directors for National Bank of Arizona. Bateman's career has spanned leadership capacities in many areas of banking. She is a graduate of Mesa Community College, Pacific Coast Banking School at the University of Washington and Darden's Leadership Development Program at the University of Virginia.

An active member of the community, Ms Bateman currently serves on numerous boards of directors. Ms. Bateman, the co-author of two books, "Succeeding Through Doubt, Fear, and Crisis," and "Help, I'm Moving Out on My Own," is a frequent featured speaker at seminars, meetings and conferences across the U.S.

"I encourage others to really dig deep and truly know who they are," Ms. Bateman said. "Not who your parents wanted you to be, not who your friends think you should be. But really and truly who you are. To truly be successful and have control of your own destiny, one must absolutely know themselves and their purpose."

Joining Ms. Bateman at the podium will be student speaker Valerie Le Grande, an honors student at MCC with a dual major

in social work and certificate in communications. Le Grande is one of 20 community colleges students nationwide to be named to the All-USA Community College Academic Team. Other honors include All-Arizona First Academic Team member, New Century scholar, and Guistwhite scholar.

A member of four honor societies, Ms. Le Grande is an active member of the Social Work Club and served as an officer for Phi Theta Kappa at both chapter and regional levels. Off campus, she participates in two East Valley nonprofit agencies. She has received the Lifetime President's Volunteer Service award for more than 8,000 hours of documented service. Le Grande plans to pursue bachelor's and master's degrees in social work at Arizona State University with a minor in nonprofit management and leadership.

"It is through our education that we can see outside our own cultures and personal belief systems to embrace society's changes," she said.

A website about the graduation ceremony is available at <http://www.mesacc.edu/graduation/> and includes information about the event such as maps, parking, photography and special accommodations. Every graduate has a tale to tell of the path that led them to this moment.

Commencement photos will be posted online at <http://www.facebook.com/mesacc>.

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