



SUBSCRIBE NOW and get 3 months for the price of 1 **SUBSCRIBE**



search: All azcentral.com

Hi, Sally Manage my account e-Newspaper

News Sports Money Things to do Politics Opinion Watchdog Travel Food & Home Health Traffic Weather

Ahwatukee | Chandler | Gilbert | Glendale | Mesa | Peoria | Phoenix | Pinal | Queen Creek | Scottsdale | Southwest Valley | Surprise | Tempe

Community » Mesa » Article

0 Comments

MCC dancer has new heart but old passion to perform

SHARE URL EMAIL

FONT: A A A

Recommend 7

Tweet 0

Wed Jul 17, 2013 11:17 AM

Submitted by Mesa Community College spokeswoman Sally Mesarosh.

Mesa Community College student Mia Welch is not only alive and well after a heart transplant a year ago, she's celebrating her new life by performing in a dance showcase Thursday.

Welch, who received a new heart at age 21 because of congestive heart failure, is back dancing after being bedridden for six months.

In 2010, Welch had earned a spot on MCC's dance company but had to put her dance goals on hold when she developed the condition.

"Mia is doing great," said Tina Rangel, the MCC dance company director. "She's a little nervous about getting back in. She's taking baby steps, but she's back."

Welch said she knows she has hard work ahead of her, but she feels stronger than she has in a long time.

"Being able to dance again feels like a dream come true," Welch said. "I wanted this for so long, and now I'm here and I'm dancing. I couldn't ask for anything better."

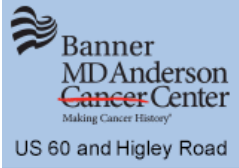
Welch, who works part-time, received [scholarship](#) money to take the summer dance class at MCC. Her dance goal is to get back to where she was three years ago.

"I know it will take me a while, but I will get there," Welch said. "MCC and the dance teachers have helped me since before I even got sick, challenging me to try new things and always supporting me every step of the way. It's been a hard few years and life changing. But I have my life back, and I couldn't be happier."

The Summer Dance Showcase is 7 p.m. Thursday in the east gym at MCC's Southern Avenue and Dobson Road campus. Tickets are \$5 and proceeds will go to dance [scholarships](#).



Click here to find out how.



YOU MAY LIKE

by Taboola



Randy Travis in Critical Condition After Stroke



Bikini clad woman kicked out of water park

MORE FROM AZCENTRAL

- Ariz. man found dead had rattlesnakes in backpack
- Police charge website that hosted murder video
- Police: ASU associate professor exposes himself to Tempe officer
- Naked woman distracts victim during robbery
- Death of Phoenix 'Serial Shooter' Dale Hausner ruled a suicide
- Woman who sold virginity: I am still a virgin

Save thousands by refinancing your home loan with Desert Schools.

Learn More

DESERT SCHOOLS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Exclusive selections for our subscribers

- Rain brings new threat to Yarnell
- 3-year-old receives alternative stem cell transplant
- Stone Temple Pilots to play Tempe
- Doug Haller's Pac-12 preseason ballot
- Phoenix City Council races raise record cash

Most Popular Top Videos

- Arizona Bucket List: Mesa edition
- Gilbert man accused of stealing from his dad's Mesa shop
- Recent Mesa restaurant reviews
- Jodi Arias makes brief courtroom appearance
- Mesa man accused of robbery-stabbing
- Free backpacks, school-safety fairs at Southeast Valley McDonald's
- Suspected mugger in two Mesa holdups arrested
- Railroad crossing on Dobson awaits major upgrade
- Mesa business profiles