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MCC welcomes other higher-learning institutions

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Submitted by Shouan Pan, Mesa Community College president, and Patrick J. Burkhart, provost of MCC's Red Mountain Campus and Downtown Center.

As Mesa Community College prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2015 as a foundational provider of higher education for the East Valley, we are pleased to play a new role as a transformational partner in supporting the arrival of several new colleges and universities in Mesa.

These new institutions, along with our long-standing partnerships with the three state universities, significantly add to the intellectual capital of Mesa and strengthen our region's competitive advantage in attracting and retaining a talent pool.

Our aspiration, in support of the East Valley's civic leadership, is to see this transformation realized in new economic opportunity, cultural advancement and an enhanced quality of life for every resident in the region.

The landscape of education at all levels, but particularly within higher education, is evolving at light speed. New methods of delivery, new levels of accountability and higher expectations from student consumers and employers are driving innovation, reform and shifts in the marketplace.

Fueled by new investments in educational, cultural and information technology infrastructure, and energized by the innovative and creative spirit of an outstanding faculty, MCC remains a potent and vital force in shaping our collective future.

Our college embraces the opportunity to lend its expertise and join our educational partners to enable the rise of Mesa and the East Valley as a destination for higher education.

MCC has earned a national reputation through its strong track record of academic excellence, student achievement, and strategic leveraging. These traits enable us to keep the focus on the college's most important priority: student success.

Fifty-one percent of MCC's students plan to transfer to a four-year college or university with a degree or certificate from MCC.

MCC looks forward to seeing the recent investments in educational offerings come to fruition in the East Valley. ... and which will expand educational opportunities in the next 50 years.

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