

MCC receives \$110K endowment, will aid students with disabilities

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Mesa Community College officials say they'll be able to help more students with disabilities as the result of a \$110,000 endowment from Special Olympics Arizona.

The money will enable MCC's Disability Resource Center to expand the number of scholarships for disabled students as well as to hire tutors, purchase specialized software and even provide note takers for those needing assistance in class, the school said in a statement released Thursday.

"The endowment will grow even larger over time and is a unique resource for our students," said the college's development director, Jared Langkilde. "It provides not only scholarship funding but also assistance for disability testing, certification, tutor assistance, software, hardware and any other critical resource requisite for a college education."

The endowment is the latest fruit of a relationship between MCC and Special

Olympics Arizona that dates back to 2009, college spokeswoman Angela Askey said, noting in a release, "Each year, MCC hosts the Summer Games, providing children and adults with intellectual disabilities an opportunity to compete and develop self-belief."

The MCC Disability Resource Center provides extensive services at no charge for students with a variety of documented disabilities, she added.

MCC President Shouan Pan hailed the gift, saying it "will help to provide MCC students with the services they need to further their educational goals and successfully complete a college education."

Tim Martin, president and CEO of Special Olympics Arizona, said his organization felt the endowment will "provide for and enhance our existing programs while seeking new and innovative programs to challenge our athletes."

A list of the center's available resources can be found at www.me-sacc.edu/disability-services.