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Home Meet Your Neighbor Meet Your Neighbor: Debby Smith

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Debby Smith

Meet Your Neighbor is a feature of the Independent that introduces readers to a community member. To receive a profile form or to nominate a neighbor, send an e-mail to [emesanews@newszap.com](mailto:emesanews@newszap.com). Debby Smith works at Mesa Community College Red Mountain Campus.

Name: Debby Smith

School: MCC at Red Mountain

How long I have worked in education: 37 years (five years as a student worker while in college and 32 years as a full-time employee for the Maricopa Community Colleges).

Why I chose to work for this school: I got my start in Career Services as a student worker at Scottsdale Community College. I loved what I did there and knew I wanted a career at a community college. When MCC added a Career Center in 1985, I came here and have stayed ever since. I moved from the Southern and Dobson campus to the Red Mountain campus two years ago and I love the beauty of the desert landscaping and being close to nature. And the students are awesome.

What I like most about what I do: I like helping students the most. I help them with job search, resume writing, interviewing skills, along with career and educational planning.

Where I came from: I was born in Chicago and moved to Arizona in 1976 when I was in high school. I graduated from the very first graduating class of Mountain View High School in Mesa.

People who inspired me (and how): Both of my parents inspired me. My mother inspired me with her always-positive attitude. She always looked at the bright side of any situation. My father inspired me with excellent work ethics.

My guiding philosophy: Golden Rule: treat others the way I want to be treated.

My advice to today's youth: I always tell students, "You aren't going to get a job with only your college degree."

There are steps you need to take before you graduate: do an internship, join organizations related to your major and network with others in the industry of your choice. Take an entry-level job in your field of study so you can put some related experience on your resume. Also, one of the most important things employers look for is the ability to get along with others. College is a time when you can develop your interpersonal communication skills.

One thing I want students to know about me: I am friendly and love helping them.

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