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A car show with 100 entries was in the parking lot at Mesa Community College at Red Mountain. (Photo by Richard H. Dyer, Mesa Independent)

Mesa Community College wrapped a year-long celebration of its 50th anniversary with two multicultural festivals, one at MCC at Southern and Dobson and another at MCC at Red Mountain on Friday, Nov. 20.

The events celebrated MCC's 50-year legacy of preparing learners to participate in a diverse global society in a learning environment that demonstrates a respect for differences. A variety of outdoor events with festival-style booths, food trucks, arts and crafts, and a mainstage with music, dance and storytelling acts, all with a world flavor, were presented.

Navajo dancers at Mesa Community College at Red Mountain e...  



"Helping students develop an appreciation and awareness of the rich and diverse cultures that surround us is an important aspect of the education students receive at MCC," said Dr. Shouan Pan, MCC president. "Multicultural events such as this increase awareness for our entire community."

Since MCC's beginnings more than 50 years ago, the college has provided programs and undertaken partnerships geared to serve the East Valley's evolving community. MCC's Multicultural Affairs staff offers assistance to Hispanic/Latino, Black/African American, Asian, American Indian/Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students, among others.

Additionally, MCC has 578 international students, the largest number of F-1 students (those students who plan to study in the U.S full time) among Arizona community colleges. This diversified student body adds a cultural richness to the campuses, which will be reflected in the 50th Anniversary celebration.

As Dr. Pan stated in the college's Report to Our Community, "This is our moment in time. We will pause after 50 years of dedicated service to say thank you, to relive our success and plan for many more."

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