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Mesa partnership helps GED-to-college shift

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Special to The Republic | azcentral.com
Fri Nov 23, 2012 9:09 AM

Submitted by Angela Askey, a spokeswoman for Mesa Community College.

The Mesa Counts on College partnership between the city of Mesa, Mesa Community College and Mesa Public Schools has announced a new GED to MCC program designed to increase the college- completion rate in the East Valley.

"The primary focus of Mesa Counts on College is to increase post-secondary attainment, which in turn supports [workforce](#) and economic development in Mesa. MCC and Mesa Public Schools have worked more closely than ever before on integrating our resources and efforts to expand access to higher education and increase college completion," said Shouan Pan, the program's board chairman and MCC president.

The pilot program will provide individuals between ages 16 and 26 who are working to complete a General Equivalency Diploma an opportunity to advance their education.

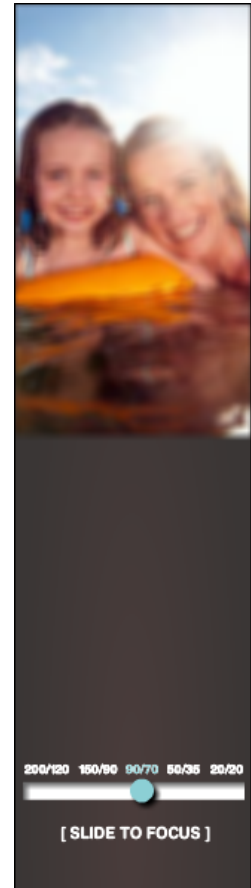
The GED to MCC is an innovative program targeting community-college-bound learners. Participants will work toward the completion of a GED certificate and take an introductory community-college-success course that will help prepare them for a [college education](#).

Michael Cowan, superintendent of Mesa Public Schools, said, "Research tells us workers make more money with more education. It also helps our community. Having a skilled workforce attracts more businesses with higher-paying jobs."

Participants must have ability to read at an eighth-grade level (determined at time of application); ability to attend class 12 hours weekly; must be in the U.S. legally and able to provide documentation to qualify.

The traditional GED preparation coursework will be enhanced with students receiving information on tutoring services, academic and career counseling, and financial-planning assistance.

Application packets and instructions will be available at the Mesa Education Center (855 W.Eighth Ave.) after Dec.1. The deadline to apply is Jan.14.



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