

Education

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Urena in the Dominican Republic. She has authored scholarly articles and chapters and presented at national conferences, according to the release.

MCC 1 of top 150 community colleges in the country

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program on Jan. 27 named Mesa Community College as one of the nation's top 150 community colleges eligible to compete for the 2017 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence and \$1 million in prize funds, as well as Siemens Technical Scholars Program student scholarships, according to a press release.

The prize, awarded every two years, is a recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges and recognizes institutions for exceptional student outcomes in four areas: student learning, certificate and degree completion, employment and earnings, and access and success for minority and low-income students.

"Community colleges have tremendous power to change lives, and their success will increasingly define our nation's economic strength and the potential for social mobility in our country," said Josh Wyner, execu-

tive director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program. "This competition is designed to spotlight the excellent work being done in the most effective community colleges, those that best help students obtain meaningful, high-quality education and training for competitive-wage jobs after college. We hope it will raise the bar and provide a roadmap to better student outcomes for community colleges nationwide."

Mesa Community College and 149 other community colleges announced they were selected from a national pool of more than 1,000 public two-year colleges using publicly available data on student outcomes in three areas:

- Performance (retention, graduation rates including transfers, and degrees and certificates per 100 full-time equivalent students)

- Improvement (awarded for steady improvement in each performance metric over time)

- Equity (evidence of strong completion outcomes for minority and low-income students)

"MCC launched 'Mission 2020' in 2009, with the ambitious goal of increasing student completion of degrees and certificates by 50 percent by year 2020," said MCC President, Dr. Shouan Pan. "We are well on our way to achieve that goal, and are resolved to continue our pursuit of educational excellence."

A list of the selected colleges and details on the selection process are available at www.aspenprize.org.

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