

# Michael Crow heads fast-track search for new Maricopa Community Colleges chancellor

Ricardo Cano, The Republic | azcentral.com 2:47 p.m. MST January 27, 2016

*Committee's goal is to have replacement for Rufus Glasper by April; Maria Harper-Marinick named interim boss*



(Photo: Courtesy of Maricopa Community Colleges)

A search committee co-chaired by Arizona State University President Michael Crow plans to move fast to find a replacement for outgoing Maricopa Community Colleges Chancellor Rufus Glasper.

The committee's goal is to find a new chancellor for the 10-institution community college district by mid-April.

Glasper, who has led Maricopa Community Colleges for almost 13 years, [announced his plans to retire \(/story/news/local/arizona/education/2015/12/03/maricopa-community-colleges-chancellor-rufus-glasper-retire/76732580/\)](#) in early December. Glasper will serve through the end of February before taking a position as president and CEO of the League for Innovation in the Community College, a national organization headquartered in Chandler.

The district's governing board timeline includes selecting finalists by March 21 and conducting interviews and public forums the week of April 4.

The next chancellor will face the challenge of leading a community college system that has steadily declined in enrollment each year after experiencing a boom during the Great Recession. Enrollment declines at Mesa Community College [could force the closure of its Red Mountain Campus. \(/story/news/local/mesa/2015/11/27/mcc-losing-students-red-mountain-campus-risk/76217450/\)](#)

The loss of enrollment and state funding has created budget pressures for Maricopa Colleges, which is weighing whether to increase its property-tax levy by 2 percent and tuition fees to \$86 per credit hour next year.

Maricopa Colleges is also in the process of a years-long marketing and consolidation effort [that has drawn mixed reviews. \(/story/news/local/mesa/education/2015/11/06/mesa-leaders-outraged-over-mcc-rebranding-plan/74766380/\)](#) The initiative, One Maricopa, would rebrand the district's 10-school network and merge several departments from each individual college into singular operations.

## No. 2 administrator tapped as interim chancellor

Maria Harper-Marinick, executive vice chancellor and provost of Maricopa Community Colleges, was approved by the district's governing board Tuesday to serve as interim chancellor during the transition period.

Harper-Marinick, the community college system's second-highest administrator, will begin her temporary position March 1.

Governing board member Jean McGrath questioned at Tuesday's meeting whether the appointment would discourage in-house applicants from applying for chancellor.

"I think that it would discourage... excellent applicants from applying because they will see that we've already put what they would perceive as our favorite person in this position," McGrath said.

Board member Tracy Livingston said Harper-Marinick was the best-qualified administrator to step into the interim role.

## 8 community colleges recognized nationally

Eight Maricopa Community Colleges were honored by the [Aspen Institute \(http://www.aspeninstitute.org/policy-work/college-excellence/overview\)](http://www.aspeninstitute.org/policy-work/college-excellence/overview) as among the best 150 community colleges in the nation.

The award recognizes school success in areas such as degree completion and access and success for minority and low-income students.

"This is an indication of our colleges' dedication to educational quality and student success," Glasper said in a news release.

The eight colleges are: Phoenix College Community College, Chandler-Gilbert Community College, Estrella Mountain Community College, Gateway Community College, Mesa Community College, Paradise Valley Community College, Scottsdale Community College and South Mountain Community College

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Alia Beard Rau, Mary Jo Pitzl, Ricardo Cano, and  
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