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MY TURN SHOUAN PAN

Reflect on our past, reinvest in our future



Community colleges are on the minds of many these days, and for good reason.

From the latest proposals from Washington to the recent public endorsement in the *New York Times* by American icon Tom Hanks — who credits the community college he attended for making him “what I am today” — there’s never been a better time to spotlight the benefits of a community college education.

Mesa Community College is celebrating its 50th anniversary, and we’ve been a vital cog in the economic engine of Mesa and the East Valley since the beginning.

Our graduates have gone on to start businesses in the community and work for Fortune 500 companies across the globe. We’ve prepared them for university transfer and exposed them to learning and development through community

and civic engagement on and off campus, stressing the importance of giving back to their community through service.

President George W. Bush knew the importance of community colleges. He came to visit while in office to praise the work of our workforce training and development, and today MCC’s Arizona Advanced Manufacturing Institute is on the leading edge of training the workforce of today and tomorrow.

This past fall, U.S. Reps. Matt Salmon and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona visited MCC to see for themselves the value we provide their constituents.

Those constituents include military veterans like Tina Carroll, IT professionals Molly O’Dwyer and Jesse Sneed, and corporate executives like Safeway’s Karl Schroeder and National Bank of Arizona’s Deborah Bateman.

I invite you to relive our history

with us, visit mesacc.edu/50 to witness how far we’ve come in five decades, and how many lives we’ve touched in the process. It’s what we do best, and at MCC, we’re proud of our legacy. We value our enduring relationships with our community partners and we appreciate the continued support from our community leaders.

As we have proven for the last five decades, the ties that bind us all together in the MCC family are strong. Each student success is another strand in the fabric of the community we have built together in the East Valley.

I encourage us all to reflect on the importance of education and work together to find the resources to invest in our most important asset, the minds that will take us on a journey not yet charted.

Shouan Pan is president of Mesa Community College.