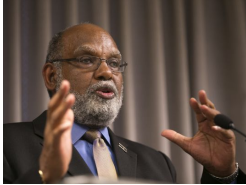


Rufus Glasper to retire as chancellor of Maricopa Community Colleges



Anne Ryman, The Republic | azcentral.com 2:21 p.m. MST December 3, 2015

Glasper, who has worked for the college district for more than 29 years, will take a post with a non-profit education group.



(Photo: David Wallace/The Republic)

Rufus Glasper, longtime chancellor of Maricopa Community Colleges, is retiring to become head of a non-profit education group in the Valley.

Glasper announced to employees Thursday that he is accepting a position as president and CEO of the League for Innovation in the Community College, a national organization headquartered in Chandler.

Glasper has worked for the college district for more than 29 years with nearly 13 years as chancellor. The 10-college system is one of the largest community college systems in the country. He also has served as the system's director of finance, chief financial officer and vice chancellor.

"This decision was not an easy one," Glasper wrote in a memo to the system's employees on Thursday.

"I believe that the many organizational and academic initiatives that are now in motion throughout the Maricopa Community Colleges are well on their way to enhancing the district's position as a leader among community colleges nationally."

Enrollment at Maricopa colleges boomed during the Great Recession as is typical during economic downturns. But more recently, enrollment declines and state funding cuts have created budget pressures.

Enrollment at Mesa Community College, for example, could force the college to downsize or even close its Red Mountain campus. A [recent college report \(/story/news/local/mesa/2015/11/27/mcc-losing-students-red-mountain-campus-risk/76217450/\)](#) said full-time enrollment at Mesa has dropped by nearly a quarter since the 2010-11 school year and by more than a third at the Red Mountain campus.



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[\(http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/mesa/education/2015/11/06/mesa-leaders-outraged-over-mcc-rebranding-plan/74766380/\)](http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/mesa/education/2015/11/06/mesa-leaders-outraged-over-mcc-rebranding-plan/74766380/)

Maricopa Community Colleges was rocked by scandal in 2013 after it was revealed the district waited seven months to notify 2.4 million current and former students that their academic or personal data was compromised in a [security breach \(http://archive.azcentral.com/community/phoenix/articles/20131127arizona-college-students-data-breach.html\)](#). The district spend millions of dollars as a result.

Maricopa Community Colleges serves more than 265,000 students a year, offering credit and non-credit courses. The system employs about 9,600 people.

During Glasper's tenure, officials worked with state schools, such as Arizona State University, to develop more pathways to help students transfer to the state universities from community colleges after two years.

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