

THE DEMOCRACY COMMITMENT

21 OCTOBER 2013

CONSTITUTION DAY EVENTS ACROSS MARICOPA

Last month, communities all over the United States celebrated the 226th anniversary of the signing of our nation's Constitution.

While the celebration of this holiday is an invention of the Twentieth Century, the spirit goes back to 1787 when the dust had settled from the Revolution, and delegates from the 13 newly independent states had finally reached consensus on what this new paradigm shift—a government beholden to its people—would be, and how it would function.

Volunteers from **Scottsdale Community College's Student Leadership Forum** celebrated the



day by registering new voters and educating fellow students on the Constitution. When asked why she participated, Theresa Sweeney said "It is important to donate time to an event such as Constitution Day because students need to have the opportunity to learn about civic

engagement and get involved in the community. Although it was only for a few hours, it was important to engage with students and discuss such an important part of U.S. History."

Phoenix College also hosted AZ State Rep Juan Mendez in a talk on religion and the US Constitution.

CIVIL DIALOGUES

Glendale—The Omicron Lambda chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at **Glendale Community College** has been hosting a series of talks on The Democracy Commitment. GCC also has a full slate of events scheduled daily for "Civility Week," which runs from

October 21st through October 25th.

Scottsdale—On September 25th, SCC hosted Civil Dialogue: K-12 Public Education: Abolish or Embellish; a Civil Dialogue discussion co-sponsored by ASU Hugh Down School of Human

Communication and Scottsdale Leadership Inc. SCC has more upcoming dialogues focusing on topics ranging from education to suffrage and equality.

For more information, contact Therese Tendick: therese.tendick@scottsdalecc.edu

UPCOMING EVENTS

- *Civility Week at Glendale Community College begins Monday, October 21st*
- *Scottsdale Community College will be hosting "Arizona Deliberates: Shaping Our Future: How Should Higher Education Help us Create the Society We Want." on October 30th*

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PEACE POLE DEDICATION AT MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Mesa—On October 7th of this year, a peace pole was dedicated to **Mesa Community College**. At the unveiling, various leaders of organizations as well as staff and students of MCC promoted peace and spoke against violence.

Lucas Bodine, the ASMCC student body president had this to say: “The Peace Pole is an outward expression of a group of individuals’ personal commitment to peace.

The Peace Pole that was dedicated in the center courtyard will be a beacon of peace for our students. For anyone that walks on campus and observes the peace pole, I hope that their commitment to preserve and maintain peace is strengthened. Even with this memorial, I would encourage all in the community and around the college to promote peace and non-violence in their individual lives.”

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

THIS YEAR, OVER
4,000 PARTNER
ORGANIZATIONS
WORKED TO
REGISTER NEARLY
29,000 NEW
VOTERS

Glendale—The **Glendale Community College** chapter of M.E.Ch.A. (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán) hosted a voter registration drive for the National Voters Registration Day on September 24th.

This year, over 4,000 partner organizations nationwide participated in the event, registering nearly 29,000 new

voters.

The coordinated “National Voter Registration Day” effort was born of the fact that in 2008, 6 million Americans did not vote because they did not know how to register or they missed their state’s voter registration deadline, according to the US Census.

The effort was formed to

make sure no American is left out of the most essential piece of democracy.

For more information, visit nationalvoterregistrationday.org

SEPTEMBER 11TH MEMORIAL DAY



Mesa—On September 11th of this year, the president of ASMCC organized a memorial commemorating and remembering those involved in the tragedy that occurred on September 11th, 2001. The colors were presented by Military students that attend Mesa Community College. A

moment of silence was orchestrated followed by speeches delivered by Mayor John Lewis of Gilbert, MCC President Dr. Shouan Pan, and Arizona House Representative J.D. Mesnard.

CIVILITY WEEK EVENTS AT GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Glendale—GCC has a lot of events going on *this week* spotlighting how to engage those around us with more civility. Workshop topics include meaningful conflict resolution, cultural factors influencing resolution, and effective communication. There will also be a “Legal Immigration” simulation hosted by Border-Links which will turn participants into potential immigrants navigating our current legal immigration system.

This will be followed by a dialogue about the commonly experienced questions of immigrants and the legal system.

Other activities include The Human Library, a volunteer fair, stress-reduction, civility, and character building workshops.

The week will come to a close on Friday with “Civil Dialogue: Hot Topics with Cool heads” where partici-

pants will learn a new structured format for public dialogue that builds bridges across the chasm of public viewpoints. Volunteer participants consider a provocative statement and take a position on the statement ranging from “agree strongly” to “disagree strongly.” Then, following guidelines for civility, the audience participates in the dialogue with their own opinions and questions.



JOIN THE
CONVERSATION
#GCCcivility

ELECTIONS!

Many local cities, schools and other jurisdictions are having elections on **November 5th**. If you are eligible, don't forget to vote! For more information, go to:

<http://recorder.maricopa.gov/web/elections.aspx>

If your campus has any upcoming events related to spreading the spirit of civic engagement, please submit them to:

paul.huffman@domail.maricopa.edu

