Chancellor’s Update

For the first time in our 52-year history, the Maricopa County Community College District will have two Governing Board members who were elected from a countywide vote. The “At-Large” members will serve along with the five members elected from districts around the county beginning January 1, 2015.

The district-wide representatives are Tracy Livingston and John Heep. Other new representatives are Johanna Haver, elected in District 3 and Jean McGrath, elected in District 4. Incumbent Alfredo Gutierrez was elected in District 5.

I want to thank everyone who made our candidate forums possible so that the public could meet the candidates. It was no small task and, as civic engagement is a cornerstone of our mission, it is in fact our duty to the voters of Maricopa County.

This is a time of great change in higher education, so it's fitting that we have a big change in the makeup of our Governing Board. I want to welcome our new Board members and look forward to serving with them as we continue to help students succeed.

Phoenix College’s Sousa Named Arizona Professor of the Year

James Sousa, a math teacher and 12-year PC employee, has been named the 2014 Arizona Professor of the Year. Awarded each year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), Sousa was chosen from 400 top professors nationwide. College students – locally and from as far away as Namibia – have learned from more than 1,850 short videos Sousa has created and posted free-of-charge on YouTube.

“James brings innovation and enthusiasm to our math department,” said Dr. Anna Solley, president of Phoenix College. “I am delighted for him to be recognized for his outstanding commitment to student success, not only here at Phoenix College, but across the country and around the world.”

“It is an honor to receive this award because I know there are so many other dedicated instructors who work extremely hard to help students succeed,” said Sousa. “I enjoy helping students reach their educational goals and it is an honor to provide students with resources that they can use whenever and wherever they need them at no cost.”
Maricopa Employees Get Civic Engagement Fellowship

Three Maricopa employees have been chosen by the Arizona Center for Civic Leadership as Fellows in the Flinn-Brown Civic Leadership Academy. Jennifer Lane (faculty member at Glendale), Kevin Velasquez (Fiscal Technician, District Office, and President, United Tribal Employee Council), and Deanna Villanueva-Saucedo (Director of Public Outreach) are among a highly qualified group of 35 local winners. The Fellows are dedicated to civic leadership and public service. They work hard and serve as future state-level elected officials, agency and organization executives, policy advisors, and members of boards and commissions.

GateWay Early College High School Ranked 6th in the Nation

Newsweek magazine ranked GateWay Early College High School (GWECHS) 6th in its “America’s Top High Schools for Low-Income Students” annual report. GWECHS – the only school in Arizona to rank in the top ten – has also been given an “A” grade by the Arizona Department of Education; its dropout rate stands at zero.

All GWECHS students in the last graduating class have been accepted into college and/or university-level courses. Ten percent of students graduate with an associate’s degree before they graduate high school and, on average, students have 40 college credits when they graduate. The school has been open since 1995. Its 14 faculty and seven staff are serving 260 students for the 2014-2015 academic year.

“We are extremely excited about this achievement,” said Lisa Smith, GWECHS Principal. “Our students, teachers and staff have worked really hard to ensure the kids have real choices for their futures. The bottom line is that the GateWay faculty and staff take the time to know their students and we are able to do whatever it takes to prepare them for college.”

Maricopa Community Colleges Receive Military-Friendly Status

All ten Maricopa Community Colleges have been named 2015 Military Friendly Schools® by Victory Media. The list helps military students understand the veteran experience at colleges based on reviews from current students. Maricopa Community Colleges hosted a series of free and public events honoring veterans in early November. For information on student services available for veterans, visit www.maricopa.edu/studentaffairs/veterans.

Maricopa Skill Centers Get Federal Job-Training Grant

Maricopa Community Colleges’ two skill centers will receive part of a federal job-training grant from the U.S. Departments of Labor and Education. The Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant program better connects community colleges with employers in high-demand job industries so students are ready for employment when they graduate.

A total of $10 million was awarded to a group led by Central Arizona College along with the Maricopa Skill Center (MSC), the SouthWest Skill Center (SWSC), and Eastern Arizona College. MSC and SWSC each will receive $2.1 million to enhance manufacturing programs. This is the fourth and final round of TAACCCT funding; three Maricopa Community Colleges – Rio Salado, Estrella Mountain and Mesa – have received funding in the past.

Artists of Promise – Save the Date

Mark you calendars for the 2015 Artists of Promise event – April 15, 2015 at the Herberger Theatre, 222 E Monroe Street, Phoenix. The Artists of Promise event will honor the 2015 Chancellor Award Winners of Maricopa Community Colleges’ student visual art, choreography, creative writing, theatre, and music competitions.
Maricopa Entrepreneurs Win National Grants

South Mountain Community College (SMCC) and Maricopa Corporate College’s Center for Entrepreneurial Innovation (CEI) have been given the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE) Entrepreneurial College in Action Grants. The award comes with a $15,000 award for each institution. NACCE gave the awards at their annual meeting in Phoenix in October. The grants are co-sponsored by the Coleman Foundation - a private, independent grant maker that has donated more than $50 million to boost new businesses.

Additionally, SMCC President, Dr. Shari Olson, has been named the 2014 Entrepreneurial President by the National Association of Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE).

New Performing Arts Center at MCC

Mesa cut the ribbon on its new 462-seat Performing Arts Center (PAC) this fall. At the opening event, MCC’s students provided a sneak preview of music, dance and musical theatre and led guided tours of performance classrooms, music practice rooms, and the scene shop, in addition to the main stage. More information about upcoming shows and events is online at mesacc.edu/pac.

Maricopa Community Colleges Leaders Join National Climate Change Summit

Three Maricopa Community Colleges presidents attended the 2014 American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) Summit in Boston this past October. Dr. Linda Lujan (Chandler-Gilbert), Dr. Irene Kovala (Glendale) and Dr. Jan Gehler (Scottsdale) are Maricopa’s executive sponsors of sustainability.

Dr. Harper-Marinick named Morrison Institute Distinguished Fellow

Dr. Maria Harper-Marinick was named a Morrison Institute Distinguished Fellow at the Institute's annual “State of Our State” Conference in November. Created in 2012, the fellowship not only recognizes Arizona’s best and brightest in public policy, but also taps into their knowledge and expertise.

“Maria is a tireless proponent for better schools and brighter futures,” said Thom Reilly, Director of the Morrison Institute for Public Policy. “Anyone who’s involved in education knows Maria. She seemingly is everywhere – wherever and whenever she’s needed to push education forward, especially Latino education.”

Archaeologist, Comet Research Scientist Headline Lecture Series

Dr. William Saturno, who discovered ancient Mayan ruins, spoke as part of the Maricopa Community Colleges Honors Forum Lecture Series. Dr. Saturno is most well known for discovering the oldest intact murals ever found in the Maya world. He is an Assistant Professor of Archaeology at Boston University, and has been featured in National Geographic and on PBS’s Nova.

The next speaker is Dr. Claudia Alexander – a NASA project scientist working on the European Space Agency’s Rosetta mission. In that role, she oversees NASAs contribution to the mission. That includes three instruments on the orbiter, as well as tracking and navigation support from the agency’s Deep Space Network on Earth. She will speak at Mesa Community College on February 18, 2015. For more information, visit http://mcli.maricopa.edu/honors.
The Chancellor’s Community Advisory Committees

purpose:

• Provide community-inspired counsel and advice to the Chancellor
• Work with the Colleges to strengthen their relationships with the community
• Serve as a conduit of information between the Colleges and the community
• Help the Colleges identify community issues and proactively address concerns, and
• Work on projects that advance the Chancellor’s objectives.

Populations represented by the CACs: African-American, Asian Pacific Islander, GLBT, Latino, Native-American, and people with disabilities.

News Briefs

GCC Wins NJCAA Volleyball National Championship  
(AZ Republic, Nov. 22)  
The 10th-seeded Glendale Community College volleyball team picked up its first national title Saturday the same way it handled pretty much everything else throughout the season—in spectacular fashion.

Kalkbrenner Named Phoenix Fire Chief  
(AZ Republic, Nov. 12)

Kara Kalkbrenner was named as the Phoenix Fire Department’s permanent chief. Kalkbrenner, a Phoenix College graduate, has been serving as acting chief since Chief Bob Khan retired in February to take care of his ailing father. Kalkbrenner is the city’s first female fire chief.

Extreme Storm Chaser Reed Timmer Visits Arizona  
(AZ Family, Sept. 22)

Reed Timmer is called the world’s most extreme storm chaser for good reason. He drives into the eye of storms as the star of the Discovery Channel’s Storm Chasers. Timmer talked to MCC students about the science of storm chasing and the data he’s collected from some 250 tornadoes and a dozen hurricanes.

Community College District Tries Full Slate of Innovations, All at Once  
(Hechinger Report, Sept. 2)

If higher education is moving slowly toward the future, the Maricopa Community College District…is racing at high speed.

Governing Board Highlights

District Honored for Energy Savings

SRP honored Maricopa Community Colleges and six other winners for their energy saving efforts. SRP created its Champions of Energy Efficiency Awards to encourage businesses to reduce energy use and save money. Maricopa was honored for an annual savings of 1.1 million kWh (enough to power more than 60 homes for one year).

“The organizations we recognized today are to be commended for their efforts to implement new technologies, institute behavioral change and forge paths for energy efficiency” said Dan Dreiling, SRP Director of Market Research and Customer Programs.

WLG Mentees Attend Board Meeting

The District’s Women’s Leadership group (WLG) has 34 mentees, representing all ten colleges and the District office, participating in activities this year. The Governing Board recognized the mentees in attendance for their work in the leadership-development program. Dr. Harper-Marinick said that this is the 15th year of WLG activities and that 369 women have successfully completed the program to date.

SPPF Program Introduces New Participants

Sixteen students will be participating in the activities of the Student Public Policy Forum (SPPF) this year, Deanna Villanueva-Saucedo, Director of Community Partnership programs, told the Governing Board. The students are, Matthew DePaul, Chandler-Gilbert; Victoria Moreno, Aika Nelson, and Luis Velasquez-Reyes, Glendale; Jonathan Talos, Mesa; Jerry Raburn and Jason Russon, Paradise Valley; Jordan Cortez, Kira Olsen-Medina and Gilberto Sosa, Phoenix College; Kathleen Friedlander, Rio Salado College; Amylya Brice, Kiana Flores, Marli Mayon, and Keeran Panesar, Scottsdale; and Belinda Escalante, South Mountain.

Connect With Us

Did you know that more than 50,000 people are following the Maricopa Community Colleges across our five major social media platforms? Followers include students, alumni, employees, faculty, governing board members, city mayors, state legislators, the governor of Arizona, and more.

Connect with us to join the conversation:
Facebook, YouTube, Blogspot, Twitter, LinkedIn & Google+