Chancellor’s Update

For some time, the Maricopa Community Colleges have understood the changing nature of the state’s role in higher education funding as well as the responsibility to maximize scarce resources. So it was with great interest I read Governor Doug Ducey’s first state budget proposal amid discussion of a budget shortfall. The budget called for roughly $84 million in cuts to public higher education institutions in Arizona. Specifically for Maricopa Community Colleges, the proposed budget recommends a 50% reduction —down to $4.0 million—in state support to our operating budget and STEM education programs.

Our preparations to rely less on state funding predate this budget as years ago we observed state investments in higher education steadily falling across the nation. In Arizona, state funding of the Maricopa Community Colleges dropped from $68.9 million in 2007 to the recommended $4.0 million for FY16. Today we are committed to and stand ready to continue expanding our operational model to include funding sources beyond state aid, tuition and taxes. As we’ve successfully done since 2007 and before, we will continue to apply entrepreneurial solutions to generate increased access and opportunities for all students.

In this mix of budget reductions and the need for immediate economic solutions we see beyond the challenges and look to increased opportunities to partner with private industry and to support the governor’s goals for our economy. Today Maricopa Community Colleges is the largest provider of workforce training in Arizona. Our value to the state can be measured by an estimated $3 billion annual impact in direct and indirect economic benefits to Maricopa.

New Board Members Take the Helm

November’s Governing Board election marked the first time that candidates were chosen for two at-large Board seats, elected by voters across the entire county. And as one of the Board’s first pieces of business, two new members, both with teaching backgrounds, were elected to leadership positions.

Ms. Tracy Livingston, a newly-elected at-large member, was elected Board President for 2015. Mrs. Johanna Haver was elected Secretary and she represents District 3, which includes Phoenix and north Phoenix.

Ms. Livingston won her seat for a four-year term. Another new Board member, John Heep, was elected to a two-year term. A fourth new member, Mrs. Jean McGrath, was elected from District 4, which encompasses northwest Maricopa County. Alfredo Gutierrez, who was chosen to fill the remaining term of a Board member who passed away, won election in District 5, southwest Maricopa County. The new members join Doyle Burke and Dana Saar, both of whom were elected two years ago.
No Proposed Tuition or Tax Increase for 2015-16

Chancellor Rufus Glasper recommended to the Governing Board that the District not raise tuition or taxes for the coming fiscal year. The recommendation came during the Board’s regular January meeting. The District also proposed changes in the fees charged in certain classes. In all, 134 new fees, and increases in another 83 were proposed, while 87 would be decreased or eliminated. In all the net increase in revenue raised from fees would be $496,000.

Greg Louganis at PVCC’s 2015 Desperado LGBT Film Festival

The 6th annual Desperado LGBT Film Festival is hosted by PVCC’s Office of Student Life, Center for the Performing Arts, Center for International Studies, and the Desperado Film Club. The festival showcases quality films that are related to the experiences of the LGBT community, and includes feature films, documentaries and shorts that explore the LGBT experience, as well as a student film competition, DJ, and an art exhibit featuring work by LGBT artists. The Olympic gold medal diver and LGBT icon was the festival’s special guest. He screened “Back on Board,” a new documentary about his life.

Maricopa County alone. Our Maricopa Corporate College plays a critical role in economic development by providing customized training for employers ranging from Amazon to Walgreens. Ongoing district-wide strategic initiatives will continue to expand the benefits Maricopa provides by increasing public-private partnerships and securing alternative sources of private funding and competitive grants.

We, like the governor, seek ways to manage the public’s resources responsibly by looking critically within for opportunities to leverage efficiencies, scale and innovation. As part of this effort, dozens of strategic initiatives flowing from Maricopa Priorities will be implemented beginning this year to continue building upon our tradition of providing affordable and quality education outcomes for all students.

We look forward to future discussions with the governor and the legislature regarding how we can continue to best contribute to the goals of the state in this new economic paradigm while maintaining the most cost-efficient educational model for degree and certification completion for our students and quality workforce training for employers and their employees.

Groundbreaking for New Automotive Technology Building at GCC

Glendale Community College announced the groundbreaking and construction of the new home of its Automotive Technology program, a main campus building that will be named in honor of Dr. Phillip D. Randolph, GCC President Emeritus. The Technology 3 (T3) building at GCC was originally built as a new facility in 1969, and the Automotive Technology program housed there has long since outgrown its 11,000 square feet. The new complex will be built from the ground up, featuring 40,000 square feet of classroom and instructional space, vehicle and tool storage bays, library and open learning spaces, and faculty offices. Interior instructional areas will be dedicated to specific automotive systems of electrical, heating/air conditioning, drivetrains, engine performance and alternative fuels, suspension and steering, engine repairs and overhaul, brakes, and drive trains. The new T3 complex is slated to open in time for the Spring 2016 semester.

Dr. Phillip Randolph and GCC President Dr. Irene Kovala

Update Continued—Front Page
Chancellor Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Chancellor Rufus Glasper was given the Dwight Patterson Lifetime Achievement Award by the East Valley Partnership in December 2014. This award is given to a person who lives or works in the East Valley, is well respected, has made significant lifelong contributions to their community, and is a true leader.

“In his 28 years of service, he has helped shape education policy throughout Arizona,” said U.S. Congressman Matt Salmon. “I thank you, the East Valley thanks you, and countless students thank you for your tireless dedication to education,” said Congressman Salmon in a video message prepared for the event.

Mesa and Glendale Community Colleges Celebrate 50th Anniversaries

Both Mesa and Glendale Community Colleges are celebrating 50 years of educating and giving back to their communities. From its beginnings in 1963, as an extension campus of Phoenix College in what is now known as the Landmark Restaurant, MCC has grown from an initial 330 students to more than 40,000 learners annually. GCC kicked off its year-long celebration in Fall 2014.

Get more information on MCC’s (http://www.mesacc.edu/50) and GCC’s (http://www2.gccaz.edu/gcc-present) 50th Anniversaries including events, photos and more.

Chandler-Gilbert and Mesa Community Colleges Get Top Community Service Honors

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has recognized Mesa (MCC) and Chandler-Gilbert Community Colleges (CGCC) by awarding each a 2015 Community Engagement classification, a significant and competitive recognition that highlights dedication to community service. This is the first classification for MCC and a renewal of CGCC’s initial 2006 designation. The colleges represent two of only three Arizona schools and just 361 colleges and universities nationwide that currently hold the designation. Between MCC and CGCC, more than 5,000 students performed upwards of 115,000 hours of community service last year.

Two Maricopa Programs Chosen as Bellwether Award Finalists

Two Maricopa Community Colleges programs were chosen as finalists from more than 1,000 entries for the 2015 Bellwether Award community college programs. South Mountain Community College was selected for “From Rhetoric to Reality: Innovating for Success at a Hispanic and Minority Serving Institution.” This program was designed and successfully implemented to support teaching and learning in the community college. The District was also selected for its “Maricopa Millions” project for use of Open Educational Resources (OERs). The program supports faculty to adopt and develop OERs, which saved Maricopa Community Colleges students more than $1.4 million during the 2013-14 academic year.

In 2014, Maricopa’s concurrent enrollment nursing program was chosen as a finalist. The program allows students to get an associate’s and bachelor’s degree in nursing at the same time. The Bellwether Awards annually recognize outstanding and innovative programs and practices that are successfully leading community colleges into the future.
In the News

Community college program leads to high-paying jobs (azfamily.com, Jan. 19, 2015)
Enrollment is growing at the Arizona Advanced Manufacturing Institute (AzAMI) at Mesa Community College. Aerospace companies in the Valley started it because they needed more skilled employees.

Obama proposes free tuition for community college students (Fox10, Jan. 9, 2015)
With more than 250,000 students, the Maricopa Community College System is one of the largest in the country, President Obama’s plan would have a big impact on the district.

No football team, but Rio Salado seeks a mascot (Arizona Republic, Jan. 8, 2015)
Rio Salado College has 24,000 students, but it’s lacking one staple of the higher education experience — a mascot. They are holding a contest to choose one. The Tempe-based school doesn’t have sports teams but will use the character in marketing and promotion.

At-risk students get taste of college through ACE Plus (Arizona Republic, Dec. 20, 2014)
Going to school is a six-day-a-week affair for Maria Madrid, but you won’t hear her complaining about it. Monday through Friday, the 16-year-old junior attends Apollo High School in Glendale. On Saturday morning, she goes to Glendale Community College, where she’s part of the Achieving a College Education (ACE) Plus program.

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.

Governning Board Highlights

The Governing Board accepted several grant awards in its January meeting. Included among them are:

- $198,000 from the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust for the Foster Youth Student Success Project.
- $112,000 from the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community to benefit American Indian students.
- $576,831 and $221,986, respectively, from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to support KJZZ and KBAQ.
- $500,000 from the Helios Foundation for a reverse transfer project, which allows Maricopa students with enough credits who transferred to a state 4-year university to transfer those credits back to Maricopa Colleges and be awarded their associate’s degree/s.
- $1,500,000 from the Helios Education Foundation for the Excel Student Success Project, a program designed to propel first generation and low-income students toward degree completion.

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, and more.

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