



MARICOPA  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGES  
FOUNDATION

# *Investing in* **Tomorrow's Leaders**

2016 – 17 ANNUAL REPORT

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Cover photo:

Nina Mason Pulliam Legacy Scholars (*from left to right*) Row 1: Crystal Cherry, Tia Baize; Row 2: Brittney Gearhart, Addison Anderson, Arianna Georgatos; Row 3: Maria Saabedra, Linda Boquilla, Justin Bennett

## VISION

Everyone has the opportunity to improve their lives through education.

## MISSION

We boldly impact our communities through innovative and strategic partnerships for the growth and benefit of Maricopa Community Colleges, its students, faculty, and staff.

The Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization designated by the Maricopa County Community College District to receive and manage gifts on behalf of its ten colleges and the Maricopa corporate college. The Foundation actively seeks contributions from a variety of public and private sources including individuals, corporations and other foundations. It acts as a trustee for donations to assure that gifts are distributed in the manner specified by the donor.

# *Taking success to the next level*

Dear Friends,

It has been an eventful year in so many ways!

As soon as I joined the Foundation last year, I was immediately excited to oversee the Heroes of Education event and witness first-hand the generosity of our community to students at Maricopa Community Colleges. A year later, it gives me great pleasure to announce that this is the year that the Campaign for Student Success has surpassed its \$50 million goal.

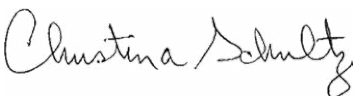
The completion of the Campaign for Student Success—and the more than \$50 million in funds raised on behalf of our 10 colleges—is a tremendous source of pride for all of us at the Foundation. The dedication and efforts of our staff, our Board of Directors and the Maricopa Community Colleges administration, staff, faculty, and volunteers, along with our wonderful generous donors, surpassed expectations and helped ensure that our students have the resources they need to succeed.

This year, the Foundation awarded \$2 million in scholarships from over 490 funds, to more than 2,800 hard-working, deserving and appreciative students. This record achievement could not have been possible without your kindness and generous gifts. Your contributions have ensured that a college education did not remain a wishful dream but became a reality for so many students.

The Foundation's investment portfolio has also born abundant fruit. This year, we saw a total return on investment reflect a gain of 9.42 percent from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. There is every reason to predict that our long-term investment strategy will continue to provide us with a sound source of support for our colleges during the years to come.

Over the next years, we shall take our success to the next level, transforming and aligning strategically with the colleges and our community partners, and supporting innovation through multiple new ideas and initiatives. We are changing lives, hearing about and addressing the needs of our students and local industries, and transforming Maricopa Community Colleges to become an even more relevant resource for our community.

I am thrilled to share today's successes with you within the pages of this annual report. It has been a remarkable year, and I predict that there are even more amazing achievements to come as our journey continues.



Christina Schultz  
President and CEO



"THE COMPLETION OF  
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# Meeting Community Needs



"OUR TRANSFORMATION  
IS FOCUSED ON  
STUDENT SUCCESS,  
FULFILLING  
WORKFORCE AND  
INDUSTRY DEMANDS,  
AND FISCAL STABILITY."

Dear Community Members,

At the Maricopa County Community College District, we strive to meet the economic, workforce, and educational needs of Maricopa County residents and employers. This is one of the many reasons we embarked on a unique transformation of our system to improve outcomes and service, and enhance partnerships. Our transformation work is focused on student success, fulfilling workforce and industry demands, and fiscal stability.

During this transformative year, we will establish a system that meets community needs by effectively deploying resources, increasing responsiveness and collaboration, and promoting innovation. The District's successful completion of the Campaign for Student Success embodies this transformation in action. This annual report highlights the achievements of the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation and celebrates the accomplishments of our students – all thanks to our benevolent donors, Foundation Board members, and community partners.

But our work is far from over. Our goal of transformation is ambitious. Success will mean that we have excelled in our key areas of focus by providing programs that are fully aligned with education and career advancement, that we continue to collaborate with businesses and employers across a wide variety of industries that matter to Arizona's economic development, and that we enhance the student experience by providing pathways and advisement that place students in the right college, in the right program, at the right time.

I applaud the commitment of all our generous supporters who make it possible for many individuals in our community to have access to a quality college education. Your contributions help us provide the students with the most innovative programs, exciting new technologies, and the best possible experiences across all 10 of our colleges. I thank you for your dedication to our students and our community. I am excited about what the future holds for Maricopa community members and generations to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maria Harper-Marinick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'M'.

Maria Harper-Marinick, Ph.D.  
Chancellor

# Celebrating Our Success

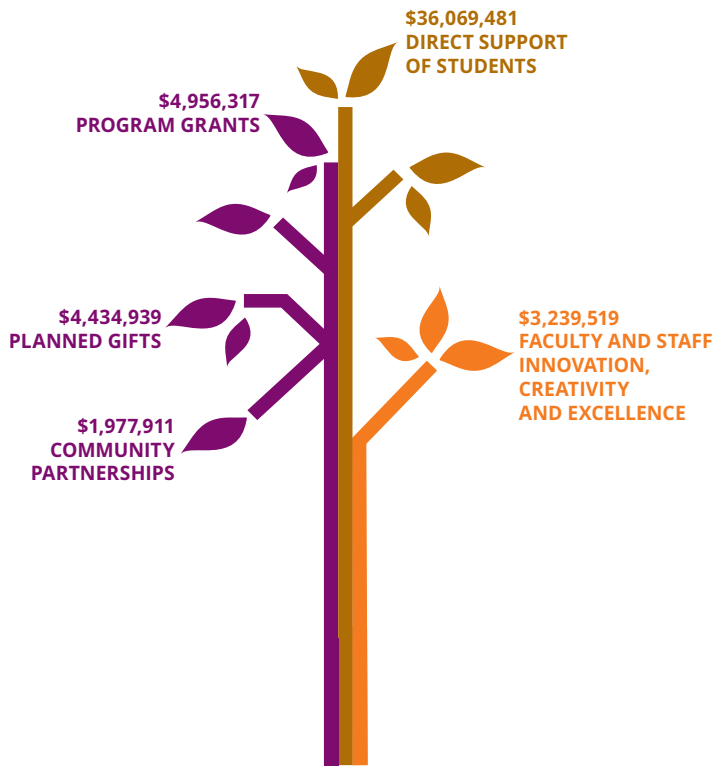
## CAMPAIGN FOR STUDENT SUCCESS REACHES \$50 MILLION GOAL

A very important milestone has been reached. The Campaign for Student Success for Maricopa Community Colleges has surpassed its goal of raising \$50 million. This could not have been done without the unprecedented generosity of our donors—individuals, corporations, and foundations—who have supported the Campaign every step of the way to ensure Maricopa Community College faculty and students have the resources and opportunities they need to succeed.

### Highlights of the Campaign's achievements include:

- Contributions of \$1 million gifts or more from generous supporters such as: Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, Helios Education Foundation, The Kemper & Ethel Marley Foundation, and Doug and Becky Pruitt
- Philanthropic donations from local businesses including: Salt River Project, Arizona Public Service, Merchants Information Solutions, Inc., Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, The Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community, The Arizona Republic, Ryley Carlock & Applewhite, State Farm, Wells Fargo and many more
- The completion of outlined investment opportunities at all 10 Maricopa Community Colleges (*outlined below*)

This collaborative effort could not have been accomplished without the continued support of our donors. The Campaign has resulted in a secure endowment base and allows Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation to have the resources to help many more students on their way to success for years to come.



**CAMPAIGN GOAL | \$50 MILLION**

**TOTAL AS OF JUNE 30, 2017 | \$50,678,167**

## RETURN ON INVESTMENTS

Investment opportunities for all 10 Maricopa Community Colleges were outlined at the onset of the Campaign. Generous donations were provided for the following:



**Chandler-Gilbert:** Four new A160 helicopter engines from The Boeing Company for the CGCC Aviation Program



**Estrella Mountain:** EXCEL program to advance student success as part of a Helios Education Foundation grant



**GateWay:** \$100,000 Ken Kendrick Grand Slam Award from the Arizona Diamondbacks to expand service of the Healthcare United at Gateway (HUG) Clinic via a Mobile HUG Clinic



**Glendale:** \$100,000 from Sands Chevrolet and \$50,000 from the AZ Ford Dealers to the Dr. Phillip D. Randolph Automotive Center



**Mesa:** \$1 million Performing Arts Center endowment funded by Dr. Ruth Tan Lim, M.D., M.D.



**Paradise Valley:** Multiple scholarship endowments



**Phoenix:** Shaping the Future of Art, including the Eric Fischl Scholars Program funded by multiple donors



**Rio Salado:** Awarded a \$575,000 grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support a Student Success and Scaling Initiative Planning Grant



**Scottsdale:** Multiple gifts to the Indigenous Scholars Institute



**South Mountain:** Multiple scholarship endowments



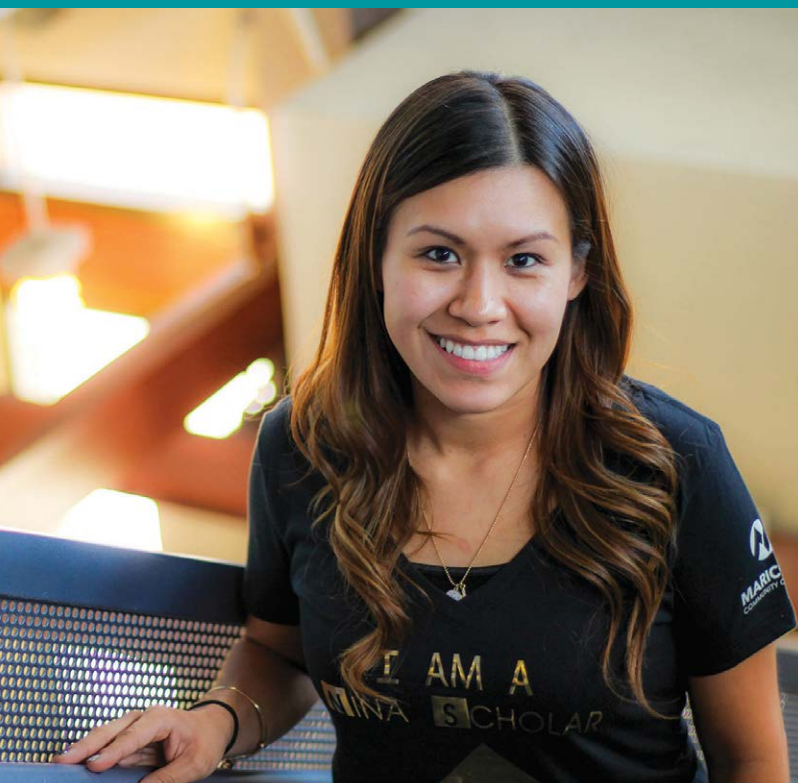
## THE CAMPAIGN FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

FOR THE MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

*A celebration  
bringing together our  
students, donors, and  
Maricopa staff*



## MEET NINA MASON PULLIAM LEGACY SCHOLAR: *Maria Saabedra*



Phoenix College student and Nina Mason Pulliam Legacy Scholarship recipient, Maria Saabedra is studying Early Childhood Education in hopes of someday earning her bachelor's degree to advance her career at Southwest Human Development (SHD) and to become a kindergarten teacher.

Maria is a Teacher's Assistant and volunteers frequently to speak on behalf of SHD about how women can manage the balance between work and life. Her speaking engagements have ranged from group presentations to radio spots.

A single mother of two, Maria returned to school as an adult, starting off with just two classes to try things out. Today, she's taken on more and is well on her way to achieving her dreams. In fact, she is currently a member of the Phoenix College National Honor Society.

The Nina Scholars program is dedicated to providing educational opportunities for individuals who would not normally receive traditional academic scholarships, and whose personal commitments and financial circumstances would preclude their attendance without substantial, long-term scholarship support. In 2001, the Nina Mason Pulliam Legacy Scholars program was established to open doors of opportunity for men and women seeking college degrees.





## 2016 – 17 SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

The Scholarship Program awards scholarships to students who meet academic and financial need, as well as other criteria established by the donor. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, this program awarded 2,882 scholarships for a total of \$1,999,530.

### Distribution of scholarships by college

Colleges	# of Awards	Scholarships
Chandler Gilbert Community College	305	174,972
Estrella Mountain Community College	217	161,471
GateWay Community College	109	98,454
Glendale Community College	408	263,543
Mesa Community College	501	366,109
Paradise Valley Community College	176	101,780
Phoenix College	438	308,585
Rio Salado Community College	232	146,328
Scottsdale Community College	254	194,162
South Mountain Community College	207	109,625
Other University Institutions	35	74,502
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,882</b>	<b>\$1,999,530</b>



# Student Speakers Share Personal Experiences

## HOW SCHOLARSHIPS TURN DREAMS INTO REALITY

*"Heroes come in many different molds. They can be family members or masked figures with capes. They can wear camouflage or teach psychology, but most recently, I've learned that there's another kind of hero; the faceless hero who by their financial support to the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation help people like Lauren, myself and countless others achieve our goals and make our own dreams become a reality."*

— Christopher Figueroa, Paradise Valley Community College Scholarship Recipient

The words to the left are still so poignant a year after the speech that Paradise Valley Community College student, Christopher Figueroa, gave at the 2017 Heroes of Education Dinner. He and Glendale Community College student, Lauren Knickerbocker, were featured as guest speakers at the annual event. Both students come from entirely different backgrounds, but they are joined together as Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation scholarship recipients.

## Meet LAUREN KNICKERBOCKER

ARMY VETERAN – SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT – NURSING STUDENT

Lauren Knickerbocker joined the Armed Services right after high school and spent over eight years in the Army. She served her country proudly while learning multiple skills—most importantly—discipline. After witnessing the tragic deaths of her fellow soldiers while stationed in Afghanistan, and being amazed by the kindness and professionalism of the medics who helped, Lauren knew that she wanted to become a nurse after she was discharged.

The Army taught Lauren to work hard and she put this mindset into her education. Lauren is now a straight A student ("most of the time," she jokes) at Glendale Community College (GCC). "The country I served is continuing to help me by assisting with the costs of my education," Lauren said. "The scholarships have helped so much. The teachers I have are amazing and the support I've received from the Veterans Center has eased the transition in so many ways."



*"I have so much to be thankful for. A big part of the encouragement I receive is from people like you. I can't thank GCC and the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation enough!"*

—Lauren Knickerbocker

Lauren Knickerbocker,  
Dr. Ioanna Morfessis and  
Christopher Figueroa



## Meet CHRISTOPHER FIGUEROA

AT-RISK YOUTH VOLUNTEER – SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT – COUNSELING STUDENT

Christopher saw a different kind of warfare from Lauren. Growing up, his childhood heroes were his father and his uncles. They dressed well, were extremely charismatic, and had the respect of everyone around them. But things were not as they seemed.

When Christopher was seven, his uncle was killed. It was then that he found out that his uncles and other members of his family were part of a street gang. In subsequent years, two more family members were killed. Christopher knew he had to find something different for his life not only for him, but for the lives of his younger siblings and cousins.

After high school, Christopher went to work, but when the company he was working for closed, he decided to pursue his passion. He volunteered for a nonprofit that worked with at-risk youth. There, he witnessed how local gangs scouted out recruits. He decided that he wanted to reach out to at-risk youth to protect them from what happened to his family.

Christopher ended up at Paradise Valley Community College. He knew that he needed to further his education if he wanted to make a significant change in the lives of those around him. Christopher was introduced to the Foundation and its scholarships after reaching out to a professor for guidance on how to fund his education. She encouraged him to get involved on campus and helped him apply for scholarships.

Today, Christopher is studying to be a counselor. He's been a student ambassador, an academic advisor, has facilitated a Diversity and Inclusion class, and has become a peer mentor for the ACE (Achieving a College Education) Program. Christopher is well on his way to achieving his goal of working with at-risk youth.

*"Helping a student in any way makes you a hero,"*

Christopher said. It's obvious to us that both Christopher and Lauren are heroes themselves.

## *Heroes of Education Honors Dr. Ioanna Morfessis and Brings Students Together with Donors*

Each year, the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation selects a Hero of Education. In 2017, that hero was Ioanna Morfessis, Ph.D., who was honored at an event on April 26. That evening celebrated Dr. Morfessis' being an economic visionary, her commitment to forging alliances between business, government and education, and her support of mentoring and scholarships.

"This is an incredibly humbling honor for me, and I am deeply thankful to be included among the Heroes who have gone before me," Dr. Morfessis remarked. *"In our region and state, there is no educational resource more precious and more impactful than Maricopa Community Colleges for helping individuals obtain the*

*education and training they need to participate in the workforce and realize a better quality of life for themselves and their families,"* she said.

Something new this year, was that the Foundation invited various scholarship recipients to attend the event and sit at tables with donors and guests. This offered scholarship supporters the opportunity to know how their donations impact lives by hearing a recipient's personal story.

Since 2006, the Heroes of Education Event has raised over \$1.5 million in scholarship funds.



*“That night, an angel  
walked into my life.”*

– Cynthia Herda



## COLLEGE HEROES RECOGNIZED

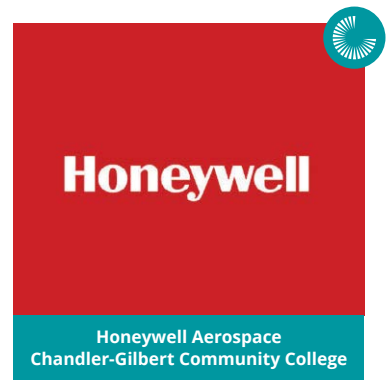
The College Heroes of Education Award, established in 2013, is given to distinguished friends of each of the 10 Maricopa Community Colleges, whose commitment to education and our communities exemplify the true characteristics of a “Hero of Education.” Each of the colleges carefully selected their College Hero based on philanthropic support, partnerships, or exceptional service to their institution. It was an honor to recognize these Heroes at the 12th Annual Heroes of Education event to thank them for their commitment to our continued success.



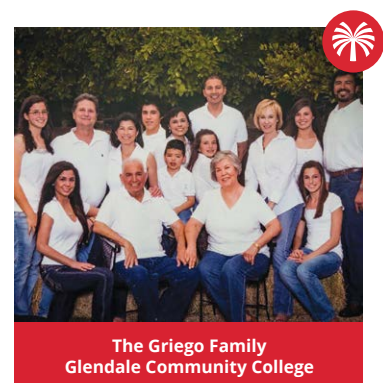
The Estrella Rotary Foundation  
Estrella Community College



Terry Lowe  
City of Surprise  
GateWay Community College



Honeywell Aerospace  
Chandler-Gilbert Community College



The Griego Family  
Glendale Community College



# Donor's Unexpected Gift Gives Glendale Student Study Abroad Opportunity

Cynthia Herda remembers the 2016 Hero of Education celebration well. "That night, an angel walked into my life," she recalls. Here's what happened.

Cynthia was one of our student speakers at the event that night back in April. She told her story of how she overcame many challenges in her life, including dropping out of high school, teen pregnancy, homelessness, domestic violence, and drug addiction. Cynthia spoke of how she was in a new phase of her life where she got her GED, purchased her own home, raised two children, and at the age of 43, decided to attend Glendale Community College (GCC) to study nursing. She is active in GCC's many campus activities and even became president of Phi Theta Kappa. Cynthia has received numerous scholarships and was excited to raise funds to participate in the Envision International Scholar Laureate Program to study nursing practices in Australia.

That evening, an audience member, who prefers to remain anonymous, was touched by what he heard. He approached Cynthia and offered to underwrite the costs of her trip to Australia. Cynthia was overwhelmed.

Fast forward to summer 2017. Cynthia has just returned from what she says, was "the trip of a lifetime." Cynthia travelled with 80 students from across the United States (one was from Arizona – an NAU student) to Sydney for a two-week nursing program. Cynthia was introduced to many of Australia's nursing practices at the University of Queensland,

including the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia, midwifery, tropical diseases ("Yes, Australia does have tropical diseases," Cynthia says.), and universal healthcare focusing on wellness and prevention, psychology, and social work.

This trip was Cynthia's first journey abroad and she took full advantage of the opportunity. When she wasn't studying, she was able to take in the sites, thanks to the generosity of her "angel." She truly enjoyed engaging with the locals and has many stories to tell about her discussions with an aboriginal woman, as well as a street performer with whom she found something in common. It turns out that this performer's act was writing on-the-spot poetry using a typewriter. Being a poet herself—Cynthia recently placed first in the Maricopa Traveler poetry writing competition—she marveled at a poem he wrote about her grandchildren. She also visited the Sydney Opera House, the Great Barrier Reef, the Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary in Brisbane, and took numerous ferry trips wherever she could go.

What's next for Cynthia? She's been accepted to the NAU – Concurrent Enrollment Program at GCC and plans to receive her BSN in just over two years. Cynthia's experiences in Australia makes her want to go into public health. She is contemplating gynecological fields or possibly midwifery. She also hopes to travel more. "Next time, I'd love to go for eight weeks abroad," she said.

Bon voyage, Cynthia!



Ruth Yandell  
Mesa Community College



Southwest Human Development  
Paradise Valley Community College



Jay Faulkner  
Phoenix College



Julie Johnson and Jerry Barnier  
Rio Salado College



Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community  
Scottsdale Community College



Dr. Grace Wright  
South Mountain Community College

## ACE PROGRAM LAUNCHES STUDENTS ON PATH TO SUCCESS

### About the ACE Program

Student success starts early. That is why in 1987, the Achieving a College Education (ACE) Program was established at South Mountain Community College to motivate underrepresented students to graduate high school and continue on to complete a college degree. ACE was designed to smooth the transition between high school, community college, and university. Today, the program has grown to include all 10 Maricopa Community Colleges and includes an Adult ACE Program at Rio Salado Community College, which is a scholarship based college-to-career preparation program for students enrolled in the GED or high level English Language Acquisition for Adults Program.

### Foundation Supports ACE

In 2004, The Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation began a multi-year campaign dedicated to ACE. It concluded in 2008 and raised more than \$8 million. Today, that number continues to grow. Funds raised by the Foundation stretch even beyond scholarships. Many operational items, including staff positions, student field trips,

equipment, textbooks, banquets, and workshops have all come from generous donations and the efforts of the Foundation.

### The Numbers Speak for Themselves

One of the keys to the ACE Program's success is the ability to retain students through frequent contact and program structure. Looking back 20 years on average, 81.3 percent of students have been retained in the Program. And in the past five years, approximately 83.8 percent of students have been retained.

ACE continues to meet its three goals: students are graduating from high school, they are continuing on to college, and they are earning their degrees/certificates. Since its inception, more than 15,500 students have completed the ACE Program and over 3,400 ACE students have earned one or more postsecondary certificate or degree (more than 6,000 degrees total). Additionally, more than 80.7 percent of ACE Alumni have gone on to college, while 56.4 percent have either completed a degree or certificate, or are still enrolled in a secondary institution (not including private or out-of-state institutions).

## ACE Brings Family Full Circle



Almetra Walker's familiarity with the ACE Program is second to none. Not only is Almetra an alumni, but her daughters, Samera and Malea, are ACE students as well. It has been quite the journey for them all.

Almetra was introduced to ACE when she was at North High School in the early 1990s. No one in her family had ever attended college. She wanted to go, but didn't know

where to start. At school, she met Stella Torres, currently Director of the Maricopa Achieving a College Education Program. Torres talked to her about the benefits of ACE and how Maricopa Community Colleges could help her further her education.

Almetra quickly enrolled in ACE and spent her remaining time in high school attending classes at South Mountain Community College (SMCC) each Saturday during the school year and weekdays during the summer. By the time she graduated high school, Almetra had almost enough credits to earn an associate degree.

At SMCC, Almetra worked closely with Buddy Cheeks, who managed the ACE Program at SMCC and who is currently

Director, Student Life & Leadership. He helped her navigate through ACE and pursue scholarship opportunities. She received a scholarship to Northern Arizona University and was set to start in the fall semester. But there was a surprise. Almetra found out she was pregnant. Questioning if she should still pursue her degree, Buddy encouraged her and off she went, thanks to the help and support of Samera's father (and Almetra's husband for the past 17 years) and their entire family. Almetra graduated with a bachelor's degree in Computer Information Systems and for the past 13 years, she has worked where it all began, at Maricopa Community Colleges.

As for her daughters? Samera started with ACE while she was in high school and was recruited by someone with a very familiar name. Brenton Cheeks, Student Support Specialist at Phoenix College and

Buddy's son! Samera graduated from Alabama State University and is now a teacher. Malea is still in high school enrolled in ACE, but since Almetra receives educational benefits through her job, she declined the scholarship so that another student could benefit. Malea will attend the University of Arizona

in the Fall on scholarship. Son Marvin is graduating high school as well and is headed to Louisiana State University.

But that's not all. Almetra is also graduating! She will receive her master's degree in Human Resources Management in January 2018.

***"The ACE Program sparked the education bug in me and kept it going."***

*—Almetra Walker*





Ribbon cutting ceremony at the new Military and Veteran Success Center – West Valley

Photos by: U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Caleb Worpel

Maricopa Community Colleges has a long history of providing education and training to veterans and those on active duty who seek to gain new skills, enhance existing skills, and translate skills learned in the military in the civilian world. The Veterans Success Project is a way for Maricopa Community Colleges to respond to the challenges Arizona's veterans face as they transition from the military to civilian life. The project, initiated in July 2015, includes several projects that will increase the services offered to veterans and spouses.

The Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation undertook a \$14 million fundraising campaign to support this effort. To date, more than \$1 million in pledges and gifts have been raised. The first project initiated was the opening of the Military and Veteran Success Center – West Valley, on November 9, 2017 at Luke Air Force Base. The Center is the nation's first community supported, case-managed, holistic support center for transitioning military, veterans, and dependents. The Foundation's efforts included obtaining contributions from every municipality in the West Valley, including corporate and individual support.

At our 2017 Heroes of Education event last year, our student speaker, Lauren Knickerbocker, an Army veteran who served in Afghanistan, spoke candidly about the things she experienced during her



deployment and how it led her on a path to go back to school at Glendale Community College and become a nurse. "Because of my experiences in the Army, I have a new appreciation for continuing my education and a willingness to buckle down. There is no slacking. I'm more

determined than ever to get my nursing degree." On campus, Lauren finds guidance at the Veterans Center. She says it's tough after witnessing the things she's seen to sit in a classroom all day. **She views the Center as her "safe place" where she can relax and receive support. "Veterans can just go in there, get their questions answered and obtain all the help they need."**



Other proposed items within the Veterans Success Project, all dependent on raising funds to support them, include:

- **A prototype** for a centralized District and State Application for Veterans Aid database that will allow electronic submission, processing, and tracking of veteran aid and pre-enrollment advertisement
- **A centralized location** for student referrals to be entered, tracked, and customer satisfaction
- **A center for curriculum evaluation** and transfer model for military credits, and among other things, military courses to be checked against courses and skills at Arizona's colleges and universities
- **Faculty and staff training** to raise awareness about veteran issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury
- **A District contact and resolution center** to help veterans transition into Maricopa Community Colleges and link veterans to critical community-based support services
- **Veterans success courses** specifically oriented to the needs of veterans
- **Expansion of existing veteran centers** to provide satellite support services to veterans, active duty Guard, Reserve, and their families.



# Why I Give

**GEORGE L. EVANS, P.E., R.L.S.**

*founder of The George Evans Minority Male Initiative Scholarship Fund*

George L. Evans, P.E., R.L.S. is a professional engineer and registered land surveyor having graduated from Arizona State University (ASU) with a degree in Civil Engineering. He was President and Co-Founder of Evans, Kuhn & Associates, Inc., an Arizona based engineering/surveying firm that successfully completed numerous school campuses, municipal, healthcare, corporate, and sports facilities throughout the state, including Talking Stick Resort Arena (Phoenix Suns), University of

Phoenix Stadium (Arizona Cardinals), Phoenix Children's Hospital Expansion, ASU Bio-Design Phases I & II, Intel Chandler Campus, COX Communications Deer Valley Campus and many more. George is also a past and present member of multiple professional, business, and community organizations, and has sat on the Board of Directors of some of Arizona's largest companies and foundations. He served as President of the State Board of Education/Vocational Technical Education



George L. Evans, P.E., R.L.S.  
Founder of The George Evans Minority  
Male Initiative Scholarship

Ashton Brackens  
Scholarship Recipient



and National Assessment of Education Progress, Policy Committee (NAEP). George has a passion for education, particularly for minority students. That is why he created the George Evans Minority Male Initiative Scholarship Fund, sponsored by Helios Education Foundation. George served on the board of Helios' predecessor, Southwest Student Services Corporation. In that role, he was instrumental in creating Helios Education Foundation. Helios sponsors the scholarship in recognition of Evans' contribution to Helios and his commitment to creating opportunities for first-generation minority students to succeed in postsecondary education.

### **Why do you support Maricopa Community Colleges?**

I grew up in a home where both parents possessed only an elementary school education, but they instilled the importance of education in me and all my siblings. In fact, my sister and I both graduated high school two years younger than our classmates. After high school, I was accepted with Honors at ASU. But I lost my father and it was very difficult as the oldest sibling had to work and support my siblings and invalid mother while going to school. I dropped out. I was drafted into the U.S. Army during the Vietnam era. After release from the U.S. Army, I reentered the workforce and returned to ASU. I believe that I could have used a program that groomed me better as a student for success at ASU. I feel that this is what community colleges provide: the building blocks for success at the university level.

### **Why did you start your scholarship?**

Minorities are often overlooked. I wanted to give back to the African American community as I know first-hand the challenges black men face. When I graduated high school, I was at the top of my class, yet I received only a \$100 scholarship. This was nothing compared to what other students received. I want to help young black men put their feet firmly on the ground. I want them to be ready when they enter university if higher education is what they seek.

### **Tell us about your fund and the MMI/MEN.**

The Minority Male Initiative/Male Empowerment Network (MMI/MEN) is a district-wide program designed to improve the retention and degree completion rates of minority male students. It encourages academic achievement, promotes personal and professional development, and provides support for students to stay in college and graduate. My fund provides annual scholarships to students in MMI/MEN who are transferring from one of the Maricopa Community Colleges to Arizona State University.

### **What advice can you impart to Maricopa students and your potential scholarship recipients?**

Each of us as individuals have choices for the direction of our lives and destinies, but no one should compare their success or failure to anyone. Whatever your struggles are, there's always someone who is worse off than you, so don't ever accept anything but the very best from yourself. And, never get discouraged if you cannot achieve your goal immediately. The greatest gift that a scholarship recipient can give is to reach back and give the same help to another person coming behind him.

## **STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: ASHTON BRACKENS**

*Chandler Gilbert Community College graduate and current ASU student, Ashton Brackens, is a recipient of the George Evans Minority Male Initiative Transfer Scholarship, sponsored by Helios Education Foundation.*

It's a pleasure speaking with Ashton Brackens. He has a wonderful way of speaking and a vibrant personality, which will surely go far in his intended career as a sports journalist. But there's more to him besides charm. There's depth, compassion, and a strong desire for success.

Ashton started his college education at Chandler Gilbert Community College (CGCC). He had barely scraped by in high school, being mislabeled with an IEP (Individualized Education Program) until his sophomore year. He struggled to overcome the label that came with his needing special educational services. Not being ready for a four-year university, CGCC provided him with a supportive environment where he was able to grow up, see who he was as a person, and reinvent himself.

At CGCC Ashton thrived. "I joined numerous clubs such as HELP (Hands Enriching Lives Program), the Black Student Union and the Hispanic Student Organization," Ashton said. "The CGCC chapter of MEN (Male Empowerment Network) in particular, taught me that I could beat all odds by the mindset I have. In high school, I suffered some bullying by some ruthless kids. I was overweight and felt negativity being a minority male and so forth. MEN helped me to learn more about myself, focus on things like social issues, and to become more powerful."

Today, Ashton is at Arizona State University and is planning to graduate in 2019. He hasn't slowed down with his participation in clubs on campus. He's a member of many, but the majority of his time is focused on his major in Sports Journalism and Communications and his minor in Social Justice. It's an exciting time. *"I always envisioned I'd be on TV and sports is my passion,"* he commented. When asked about his choice in choosing his minor of Social Justice, Ashton replied, "Being an African American male, I'm always aware of social issues, especially today. One day, I'd like to broadcast the struggles we face. The news is more powerful when it comes from someone who looks like you."

What's next? Stay tuned. We are sure to be seeing a lot more of Ashton in the future!



"BY INVESTING ONE-BY-ONE  
IN OUR STUDENTS, WE ARE  
MAKING A MEANINGFUL  
IMPACT IN THEIR LIVES AND  
OUR COMMUNITY."

## IMPROVING LIVES *through education*

Dear Supporters,

As Chair of the Board of Directors of the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation, I am honored to have been entrusted with this role at such a transformative and exciting time. This year has already been marked by spectacular achievements and even bolder expectations for our future. We have completed the Campaign for Student Success and reached our goal of raising \$50 million to directly support students and programs at Maricopa Community Colleges. We have distributed a record number of scholarships to deserving students and are overwhelmed with gratitude for the kindness and enthusiasm of our donors, without whom none of these accomplishments would have been possible.

Even with great success, it is undeniable that the work of the Board of Directors is far from over. We have an incredibly driven team that continues to seek out opportunities and dynamic partnerships to ensure that our resources are secure. We work to fulfill our vision so everyone has the opportunity to improve their lives through education. More than

ever, we are exploring ways to develop sustainable and durable platforms to support and enhance the student experience district-wide.

Each year, more than 200,000 students entrust one of the 10 colleges with their educational journey. These students have the shared goal of obtaining a high quality education that will serve as the pathway to their future success. The opportunities that we, as supporters, provide these students are immeasurable. The support that we offer students at Maricopa Community Colleges is often the only way they are able to attend, continue, or reenter college. I have seen first-hand how students' lives are forever changed by the direct investment we make in them.

I thank the Board of Directors and Foundation staff for their hard work and support, our donors for their tremendous generosity, and our scholarship recipients for their continued determination and drive.

Sincerely,

Ashley Kasarjian, Chair, Board of Directors



Foundation Board Member  
Peggy Neely

## Why I'm Involved: PEGGY NEELY

Peggy Neely is Managing Partner of Neely Public Strategies, a government relations firm providing services in public policy advocacy, community relations, business development, and association management. She was elected in 2001 to represent District 2 on the Phoenix City Council and was re-elected in 2005 and 2009. Peggy is President and Designated Broker of Neely Real Estate Strategies. She currently Chairs the Commercial Services Committee for the Scottsdale Area Association of Realtors.

### Why do you support Maricopa Community Colleges?

I strongly believe in the vision and mission of all Maricopa Community Colleges, each dedicated to educational excellence and to meeting the needs of businesses and the citizens of our community. Arizona needs to focus on higher education and these community colleges offer a wide variety of programs for so many people. They are a huge economic engine for the state.

### Why did you choose to serve on the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation Board?

I have been involved with Paradise Valley Community College since 2000, and that is where I became

aware of the Foundation. I served on the Phoenix City Council, representing a low-income area of the Valley. There I saw that the Foundation provided opportunities to people who didn't think they could have them. The Foundation hit the mark.

### What do you see as your role as a Foundation Board Member?

My role is to help be a bridge to expand collaboration with business and the community, to broaden the reach of a higher education to those who wouldn't think it possible. Sustainability is key. I'd like to see our Foundation be sustainable for the next 30 years and beyond.

### Is there a fund/scholarship that you support or that you have a passion for?

Having seen all the progress at Maricopa Community Colleges, it is hard to say that there's only one area that I support. Across the board, I embrace programs that ensure everyone has the ability for higher education. Personally, because of my family and their educational interests, I have also supported the various needs of the health care and sports programs. Most importantly, I want to see everyone choose a path that is appropriate for them and for their particular area of focus.



STATEMENT OF  
FINANCIAL POSITION

June 30, 2017

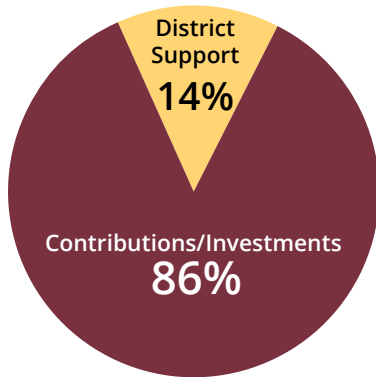
**ASSETS**

INVESTMENTS	\$ 36,842,777
INVESTMENTS HELD FOR OTHERS	\$ 2,371,177
CASH HELD FOR ENDOWMENT PURPOSES	\$ 727,067
CASH SURRENDER VALUE OF LIFE INSURANCE	\$ 380,789
OTHER ASSETS	\$ 5,118,143
<b>TOTAL ASSETS JUNE 30, 2017</b>	<b>\$ 45,439,953</b>

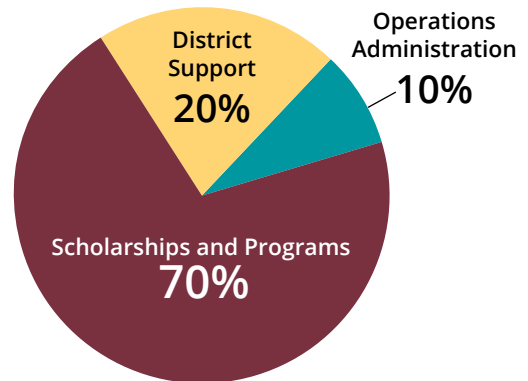
**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

Accounts and scholarships payable	\$ 813,423
Charitable gift annuity liability	\$ 150,003
Investments held for others	\$ 2,371,177
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES JUNE 30, 2017</b>	<b>\$ 3,334,603</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	
Unrestricted	\$ 1,090,795
Restricted	\$ 41,014,555
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS JUNE 30, 2017</b>	<b>\$ 42,105,350</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS JUNE 30, 2017</b>	<b>\$ 45,439,953</b>

The above information has been summarized from financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2017.  
The Maricopa Community College Foundation is audited annually by an independent public accounting firm.

**REVENUE SOURCES**

Contributions/Investments	\$10,011,661	86%
District Support	\$ 1,581,554	14%
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>\$11,593,215</b>	<b>100%</b>

**EXPENSES**

Scholarships and Programs	\$ 4,396,833	70%
District Support	\$ 1,342,719	20%
Operations Administration	\$ 529,978	10%
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$6,269,530</b>	<b>100%</b>

# MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGES FOUNDATION BOARD 2017

## Chair

### **Ashley Kasarjian**

Senior Corporate Counsel  
Republic Services

## Vice Chair

### **Rodolfo Parga, Jr.**

Shareholder  
Ryley Carlock & Applewhite

## Secretary

### **Stephanie Hertzberg**

Principal/Director,  
Business Development  
SmithGroupJJR

## Treasurer

### **David P. Kohne**

Director  
KPMG LLP

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### **Russell Johnson**

President and CEO  
Merchants Information Solutions, Inc.

## President & Chief Executive Officer

### **Christina Schultz**

President and CEO  
Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation

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CEO  
Chicanos Por La Causa

### **Jae Lynn Akin**

HR Services Director  
State Farm

### **Richard L. Boals**

President and CEO, Retired  
BlueCross BlueShield of Arizona

### **Dr. Chris Bustamante\***

President  
Rio Salado College

### **Steven Curley**

Executive Vice President  
Alliance Bank of Arizona

### **David Drennon**

Executive Vice President  
Arizona Lodging and Tourism Association

### **Trevor D. Gelder**

Director of Talent Acquisition  
and Deployment  
Sundt

### **Dr. Steven R. Gonzales\***

President  
GateWay Community College

### **Antonio Hampton**

Vice President, Southwest Operations  
Xerox Corporation

### **Dr. Maria Harper-Marinick\***

Chancellor  
Maricopa Community Colleges District

### **Johanna Haver\***

Governing Board Member  
Maricopa Community Colleges

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Founder and President  
HL Design Build, LLC

### **Melissa McCaffrey**

Senior Vice President  
Loan Team Manager  
Wells Fargo

### **Kirk McClure**

Vice President  
Immedia Integrated Technologies

### **Jean McGrath\***

Governing Board Member  
Maricopa Community Colleges

### **Peggy Neely**

Managing Partner  
Johnson and Neely Public Strategies

### **Julie Rees**

Principal  
Triadvocates

### **Chery Richards**

Director, Business Development  
iHeart Media, Inc.

### **Linda B. Rosenthal**

Former Governing Board Member  
Maricopa Community Colleges

### **Melissa Sanderson**

Vice President, International Affairs  
Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold  
Foundation

### **Heidi R. Schaefer**

Director, Corporate Taxes  
Salt River Project

### **Ray Schey**

Market President and Publisher  
Phoenix Business Journal

### **Michael Surguine**

Vice President and Managing Director  
Sanctuary Camelback Resort and Spa

### **Joellen Tenison**

CFO and Vice President, Administration  
Health Services Advisory Group

### **Misha Terrazas**

### **Wendy Valenzuela**

Government Affairs  
Arizona Public Service

\* Ex Officio



## MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGES FOUNDATION STAFF

### **Executive Team**

Christina Schultz  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

Mary O'Connor  
*Executive Vice President and  
Chief Operating Officer*

Judy Sanchez  
*Chief Development and College  
Relations Officer*

### **Administration**

Serena Lindsay

### **Database**

Chris LeBlanc  
Linnea Sarkis

### **Grants**

Barbara Roberts

### **Accounting**

Chris Brosilo  
Rosalie Johnson  
Mary Mickels

### **Scholarships**

Joy Klein  
Cindy Zimmer

### **For more information:**

480.731.8400 | [mcccdf.org](http://mcccdf.org)





2419 West 14th Street | Tempe, Arizona 85281



## **BECOME A VOLUNTEER SCHOLARSHIP REVIEWER AND IMPACT A STUDENT'S FUTURE**

As a scholarship reviewer, you will be assigned approximately 20 student applications. It only takes one to two hours over the course of two weeks. You will be able to access the applications online from any computer so you can score at your convenience.

Visit: <https://mcccdf.org/give/volunteer-form/>

**IT'S EASY TO GO GREEN** | EMAIL: [christopher.leblanc@domail.maricopa.edu](mailto:christopher.leblanc@domail.maricopa.edu)

WE'LL ADD OR UPDATE YOUR RECORD, AND YOU'LL START RECEIVING NEWSLETTERS AND THE ANNUAL REPORT ELECTRONICALLY.



Chandler-Gilbert | Estrella Mountain | GateWay | Glendale | Mesa  
Paradise Valley | Phoenix | Rio Salado | Scottsdale | South Mountain

The Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) is an EEO/AA institution and an equal opportunity employer of protected veterans, and individuals with disabilities. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin.