

# FOUNDATION UPDATE

Featuring the latest news from the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation  
June 2022



*We make post-secondary education and certifications accessible and affordable.*

## Annual Report Celebrates Accomplishments And Looks Towards Future

The Foundation's 2020/2021 annual report *Adapting, Collaborating and Looking Ahead* is now available. This year we celebrate coming together on behalf of Maricopa Community College students, to ensure that the opportunity for an accessible and affordable education is available to all.



The report features stories focusing on the incredible support we've received and highlights instances in which we successfully readjusted our focus to adapt to the ever changing needs our students faced this past year. Together, we paved the way for our District to become an invaluable resource for our community and acknowledged and addressed the needs of our local business and industry partners.

Read the interactive report, [here](#).

# 2022 State of the District



## Chancellor Delivers Annual State of the District

Dr. Steven R. Gonzales, Interim Chancellor, Maricopa Community Colleges, delivered his second annual State of the District address on Tuesday, June 7, 2022. The event honored this year's Champions of Maricopa, highlighted regional workforce partnerships and celebrated key supporters of the District's mission, values, and student success.

Watch the State of the District, [here](#).



## CEI To Expand Biosciences Training After Flinn Foundation Grant

The Center for Entrepreneurial Innovation will benefit from a \$351,520 three-year grant from the Flinn Foundation, a private, nonprofit, grantmaking organization that aims to improve the quality of life in Arizona to benefit future generations. The grant will be used to expand CEI's LabForce's professional development center with a state-of-the-art bioscience training lab designed to prepare Arizona's workforce for biotech and life science careers.

The grant comes on the heels of rapid expansion for CEI over the last two years,

hallmarked by the opening of LabForce in 2021 in the \$77 million Phoenix Bioscience Core building located at the Phoenix Biomedical Campus in downtown Phoenix. Created by GateWay Community College and the Maricopa County Community College District to provide incubation space for bioscience entrepreneurs in Phoenix, CEI has been an industry-leading entrepreneurial incubator since 2013. Over the past nine years, CEI has helped start-ups raise over \$160M of capital, create over 765 jobs, and provide a significant economic impact to the state.

"We are honored to receive this grant from the Flinn Foundation," said Tom Schumann, CEI's executive director. "This award will help us expand our bioscience training to help meet the workforce needs of the state's fast-growing bioscience industry. LabForce serves an important need by producing talent ready to serve in their STEM-focused laboratory and manufacturing positions."

[Read more.](#)

## PepsiCo Uplift Scholarship Recipient Touts Program Mentorship As Key To Success

PepsiCo Foundation Uplift Scholarship recipient, Maria, is grateful for not only the financial assistance she has received, but also for the valuable life skills she learned along the way. "At the start of the semester, I thought I had good time management skills," she said. "Sure, I had a study schedule, but as my class progressed into more difficult material and I experienced challenges in my personal life, I became stressed out and anxious, leading me to become unorganized. I was constantly exhausted, and I couldn't keep up. I began to feel out of control, and I had so much to do that I didn't know what to do first."



That's when Maria remembered one very important detail about her scholarship - the benefit of mentorship and support. Maria reached out to George Malloy, Maricopa Community Colleges Program Manager, Office of Student Affairs, Special Populations, who not only listened, but offered effective suggestions. Maria remembers, "He gently reminded me it was okay to change my study schedule since we don't always have control of changes in our lives, but the important thing is to adhere to the routine." She continued, "George's advice helped me get back on track. Whereas I'd felt lost and uncertain of what to do next, now I feel better equipped to set deadlines and meet them; I've learned to say no to anything that derails my study schedule; I'm consistently setting priorities; and most importantly, I continue taking steps - even if they're small and I'm unsure of what to do next."

Maria is excited about the progress she's made. She feels better prepared and more resilient and determined to reach her goals. "I know I can do this," she said. "I am doing this and I am so thankful for this support!"

The PepsiCo Foundation's Uplift Scholarship program is part of a \$500,000 2-year grant awarded to the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation that provides opportunities for Black and Hispanic students across the country. The Maricopa District is one of 13 community college systems in the country that was recently added to this growing program. [Read more here.](#)



NINA MASON PULLIAM  
CHARITABLE TRUST

Building a Legacy of Community  
Grantmaking since 1998

## Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation Receives Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust Grant to Continue its Foster Care Student Program

Many pursuing higher education struggle to balance college and personal lives, but for former foster youth, the challenges are daunting. Bridging Success, a Maricopa Community Colleges program for students who experienced foster care in Arizona, plays a key role in helping those students succeed.

Working with Maricopa Community College District faculty and staff, the Bridging Success program coordinator establishes partnerships with groups and organizations focused on assisting Maricopa students. A recent two-year, \$200,000 grant from the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust is allowing that work to continue. The grant provides salary and benefits for the coordinator who connects students to services and resources that help them stay in school and graduate. Since 2015, the Trust provided funding for Bridging Success, which supported over 1,400 students in the past seven years.

"Students all across our District continue to struggle with basic needs, which are preventing them from continuing with their education," said Dr. Ray A. Ostos, District Director for Student Affairs, Maricopa Community Colleges. "Bridging Success continues to make a significant difference in the lives of our foster care students. Through this program, and with the help of this grant, our students can access support systems, resources, allies and champions to assist them on their academic journeys."

National research shows that only one in four young adults aging out of the foster care system complete a certificate or degree program and only 3% complete a four-year degree. Such youth are more likely to face prison, become homeless and have a harder time holding a steady job as adults. In Arizona, more than 700 children age out of the foster care system annually.

"Bridging Success provides just the right support for former foster youth who are navigating the challenges of higher education," said Trustee Chair Carol Schilling, Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. "It is an honor and privilege to invest in a program that helps students who embrace the opportunity to improve their futures."

Ann James, a GateWay Community College student, understands the challenges foster children face. Growing up in foster care, she was shuffled around, never truly feeling at home. Determined to grow from her experience, Ann promised she would work to ensure others would not have to suffer from the same emptiness she experienced. She began work as a Certified Nursing Assistant but later moved into a different role. She never let the dream of becoming a Registered Nurse die and later enrolled in the evening nursing program at GWCC to begin her associate degree. ([Read more of Ann's story.](#))

For more information about the Bridging Success Initiative and foster youth programs at the Maricopa Community Colleges, please visit <https://my.maricopa.edu/support/foster-youth>. Donations can be made at <https://mcccdf.org/foster>.

The Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust was established upon the death of Nina Mason Pulliam in 1997 to support the causes she loved in her home states of Arizona and Indiana. The Trust seeks to help people in need, protect animals and nature, and enrich community life in metropolitan Indianapolis and Phoenix. Since its inception, the Trust has distributed nearly **\$364** million to **1,018** organizations. For more information visit [www.ninapulliamtrust.org](http://www.ninapulliamtrust.org).



### **PNC Establishes Racial Equity Scholarship Fund**

The Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation received a \$75,000 grant from the PNC Foundation to establish the PNC Foundation Racial Equity Scholarship Fund. This effort seeks to increase academic opportunities and college completion for low-and-moderate income (LMI) Black students and to improve their life-long upward economic mobility.

In June 2020, PNC Bank made a commitment to help challenge systemic racism and support the economic empowerment of LMI individuals and communities, dedicating \$50 million to support national and local organizations working to help eliminate systematic racism and promote social justice, expand financial education and workforce development initiatives, and enhance low-income neighborhood revitalization and affordable housing.

"The priority areas for PNC's philanthropic work have been economic development, including arts and culture, and education," said Lourdes Sierra, Vice President, Client & Community Relations at PNC. "Though PNC's funding provides significant support for low-and-moderate income and diverse communities, the specific focus on racial equity and social justice are relatively new areas of focus."

In addition to scholarships, PNC Emergency Funds will provide immediate financial support to increase access to basic needs including: hygiene supplies, housing, transportation, utilities, books, course materials and more.

*"Thanks so much, PNC Foundation, for this scholarship. I am very grateful. Being a single mom in college is so challenging. This scholarship will help me buy extra resources and*

## Planned Giving: Transforming Realty To Gift Realty

Did you know that you can gift part of a home, property or real estate to support Maricopa Community College students? You can allocate a percentage or a dollar amount of a real estate transaction to the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation and use the tax deduction and tax saving to offset the portion of the sale proceeds you keep, while not having to deal with the hassle of a real estate sale.



To learn how we can help you gift all or part of an asset while maximizing your tax benefits, [click here](#) or contact Judy Sanchez, Chief Development Officer, Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation at 480-731-8739 or [judy.sanchez@domail.maricopa.edu](mailto:judy.sanchez@domail.maricopa.edu) to discuss the possibilities.



## Big Pitch Competition Winner Announced

South Mountain Community College student Christa Roberts has been named 2022 Big Pitch Competition winner and has received her prize from Wells Fargo, after delivering her pitch to an audience at one of the first Thursday Gatherings of Venture Cafe at the Center for Entrepreneurial Innovation. We are grateful to Wells Fargo for their Advancing Entrepreneurship at Maricopa Community Colleges support. A component of the grant serves economically disadvantaged and diverse-owned small businesses by providing access to capital and matchmaking services to build client portfolios and improve operational capacity.



Check out Christa's company, Altalune Mystics, featuring full spectrum doula

services and herbal products at <https://www.etsy.com/shop/AltaluneMystics>.

## Volunteer Scholarship Reviewer Sees Support For Education As Investment In Community

Three generations of Rosemary Gannon's family have attended Maricopa Community Colleges. That is why Rosemary, who credits her education as providing her with a successful and satisfying career at SRP believes that the Maricopa Community Colleges are an important community resource. "Students and employees need educational programs that are affordable, closer to their home, or that offer special skills and coursework needed in their career," she said. "Community college degrees, certification programs and bridge programs can make a difference in the earning potential of an individual and scholarships are one way to remove barriers to achieving higher education for motivated students."

Rosemary became a volunteer scholarship reviewer four years ago. "It's my way of giving back," she said. "I find it interesting to gain insight into student situations and learn about their academic and career goals." She feels it's an easy way to assist in an important process as many students in Arizona are struggling to afford college and she has seen a variety of situations where a student is working full-time and attempting to take classes, but struggling to make their budgets cover all the costs. "I've read applications from mothers with young children who are attempting to take a course and they speak about the strain college tuition puts on their family's finances," she recalled.



In addition to reviewing scholarships, a passion project for Rosemary and her family is the Scottsdale Community College [Alli Ortega Empty Bowl Fundraiser](#) which benefits Scottsdale Community Partners, a local nonprofit that provides hunger relief. The event is named in honor of her deceased daughter, Alexandra Ortega, a volunteer and supporter of the event. Rosemary also volunteers with [Treasures 4 Teachers](#) whose mission is to recycle and repurpose materials to support teachers. "It's another way to help our educators who are working so hard," she said.

To become a volunteer scholarship reviewer, visit [mcccdf.org/volunteer](http://mcccdf.org/volunteer) or call 480.731.8406. [Click here](#) to find out how you can support students in need, or call 480.731.8739.



### NextGen Makes Scholarship Application Process Easy

After a successful launch of NextGen, the Foundation's new and improved scholarship platform that combines both College and Foundation scholarships into one, easy-to-use system we saw a 120% increase in scholarship applications over last year. This is attributed to the large increase to the ease of the new system and the combining of two platforms into one.

Erin, a student at Chandler-Gilbert Community College, writes, "I didn't find anything difficult or confusing about the application process. In fact, I appreciated how straightforward and smooth the process was and how with one application I was able to apply for several scholarships. I can tell this process has been refined and perfected."

Our scholarship application review also saw a successful launch. Over 600 volunteers shared their time and talent to review applications and Steve, a longtime scholarship reviewer commented, "For a reviewer, this was much less burdensome, quicker, and easier to use."

To learn more about the Foundation's scholarship process, [click here](#). NextGen can be viewed, [here](#).

# GIRLS GET IT



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NETWORKING  
INTRO TO EDUCATION OPTIONS  
IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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Contact [Melanie.Burm@Scottsdalecc.edu](mailto:Melanie.Burm@Scottsdalecc.edu) to get involved!



The Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) is an EEO/AA institution and an equal opportunity employer of protected persons and individuals with disabilities. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or national origin. A lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in the career and technical education programs of the District.

The Maricopa County Community College District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs or activities. For Title IX/504 concerns, call the following number to reach the appointed coordinator: (480) 733-9450. For additional information, as well as a listing of all coordinators within the Maricopa College system, visit [www.maricopa.edu/non-discrimination](http://www.maricopa.edu/non-discrimination).

## Have you signed up to support the Foundation through a loyalty program?

When you shop using [AmazonSmile](#) and designate the Foundation, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases back to the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation.

[Fry's Community Rewards](#) is another program that can support our students as well with every eligible purchase you make with your Fry's VIP card. Simply log-in to your Fry's account and search for the Maricopa Community College District Foundation either by name or LV566 and click ENROLL.

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