

We make postsecondary education accessible and affordable.



Dear Friends,

This month Foundation Update brings you a lot of firsts! We celebrate the success of our first virtual Heroes of Education, provide a recap of our first-ever Be A Student's Hero Day of Giving and share with you first, hot-off the presses, our 2019-20 annual report *Responding with Resilience*. We also share breaking news that the Maricopa Community Colleges will soon be offering baccalaureate degrees!

Along with these firsts, we have a lot of news that remains the same...our commitment to our students, our excitement about community partnerships and grants and our dedication to ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to improve their lives through education across the entire Maricopa District.

As we enter our summer season, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting our students during this most unusual school year and for your continued trust and generosity.

Sincerely,

Brian F. Spicker
President and CEO
Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation

Heroes of Education 2020/2021



15th
**HEROES of
EDUCATION**

April 7, 2021

This is a virtual event
For more details and sponsorship information
visit mcccd.org/heroes2021

Proceeds from Heroes of Education benefit student scholarship and program support in accordance with our vision that everyone has the opportunity to improve their lives through education.

2020 Individual Hero
Dave Adame



StateFarm



2020 Corporate Hero

2021 Individual Heroes
Philip and Juanita Francis



Delivering water and power™

2021 Corporate Hero

Virtual Heroes of Education Event Is Huge Success

It may have looked a little different this year, but our 15th Anniversary Heroes of Education event did not disappoint!

Nearly 300 friends joined us to recognize ten College Heroes along with the Foundation's 2020 Heroes David Adame, President and Chief Executive Officer of Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc. and State Farm® as well as 2021 Heroes Nita and Phil Francis and Salt River Project (SRP). Together, we raised \$330,000 to invest in scholarships, emergency funds and program support!

Sponsorships are key to the success of Heroes of Education and we want to take this opportunity to thank Platinum Sponsor SRP, Gold Sponsors, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, State Farm and Carstens Family Funds, Silver Sponsors Reginald M. Ballantyne III and Helios Education Foundation as well as all of the other [sponsors](#) for their continued support.

Additionally, we'd like to thank our Heroes of Education Recognition Dinner Committee which included Chair Julie Rees, Secretary, MCCF Board of Directors, Triadvocates Public Affairs and Honorary Chairs, Deborah Carstens, Principal, Carstens Family Funds and Paul Luna, Present and CEO, Helios Education Foundation for their tireless efforts in making Heroes of Education such a success.

To continue the momentum of Heroes of Education, the awards ceremony, which was held on a virtual platform, managed and provided in-kind by SRP, can be viewed and shared by clicking [here](#) or by [visiting our website](#).

Be A Student's Hero Day Of Giving

Be a Student's Hero

Maricopa's Day of Giving

April 29, 2021 | #IAmAHero | #CCMonth



First-Ever District-Wide Giving Day Held In Support of Community College Month

On April 29th, the Foundation, along with all ten Maricopa Community Colleges invited supporters to come together to create opportunities that enrich and transform students' lives as well as the community, to give the gift of education during Community College Month (#CCMonth).

The Foundation focused on supporting Emergency Funds assisting our students with the hardships they face in obtaining their education and/or certifications as this has never been more critical. Especially, in today's rapidly changing environment.

This effort raised more than \$55,110 across the Maricopa District, with \$12,200 specifically raised by the Foundation and donations are still coming in! This will make a huge difference in the lives of our students, faculty and staff at all ten of the Maricopa Community Colleges.

Coming together in support of our students has never been more critical and we thank all of you who participated for your time, compassion and generosity during this day of giving, #CCMonth and into the future.

Annual Report

2019-2020 Foundation Annual Report Now Available

Our 2019-20 annual report *Responding With Resilience* is hot off the presses! This year's report focuses on how the Foundation, along with the Maricopa Community College District, reacted to a year that provided challenges like no other and how success was redefined by our ability to pivot our focus to address the immediate needs of our students, staff and community.

To view our interactive edition of the report and to read more about our efforts, successes, partnerships, donors, students and so much more, [click here](#). If you prefer to receive a printed copy, contact Kelli Gentile, Administrative Coordinator at (480) 784-0630 or at kelli.gentile@domail.maricopa.edu.



Student Success



Construction Trades Graduate Takes McCarthy Building Companies Career Opportunity

South Mountain Community College (SMCC) graduate Kentrell Billups embarked on a new career with McCarthy Building Companies after completing a semester in the SMCC Construction Trades Institute.

Kentrell was part of the first inaugural cohort of those who received a Framing and Carpentry certificate from SMCC and took advantage of the guaranteed interviews offered by the program.

"My transition to McCarthy after attending the institute was pretty smooth," said Billups as he reflected on the career he chose and his new workplace. "A week before receiving our certificates, the companies actually came in to talk to us and to collect our information for recruitment," he added, as he talked about the commitment from partners such as McCarthy Building Companies, 3-G Construction, and Brewer.

Kentrell, a Marine Corps veteran, moved to Arizona in 2017. He initially enrolled at SMCC and other Maricopa Colleges, seeking a career in architecture. After the COVID-19 pandemic hit in early 2020, Kentrell and his wife sought new and faster educational options for him. They landed on the Construction Trades Institute opportunity so he could support their family. "I chose construction, specifically, carpentry because I saw construction as a constant; it was a career you can depend on," Billups said. "It was also a career that could give me opportunities to pursue architecture in the future."

Today, Kentrell is employed by McCarthy Building Companies. Kentrell feels he landed an opportunity to grow at a workplace where he can cross-train in various trades. "The type of work that I'm doing is fun, and I'm learning something new every day," said Billups. "Even my boss has mentioned knowing both sides of construction will help me in the long run if I pursue architecture."

[Click here](#) to watch a one-on-one video interview with Kentrell Billups. Learn more about the SMCC Construction Trades Institute [here](#).

Community Partnerships

New West Valley Hub for Veteran Resources and Support Services Launches in Surprise

Veterans, service members (active duty, Guard and reserve) and their families now have a new place to access resources, support and assistance in the West Valley.



In partnership with the Arizona Coalition for Military Families (ACMF), Arizona Department of Veterans' Services, Northern Arizona University (NAU), Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation, and Rio Salado Community College, the City of Surprise is proud to offer the West Valley Military and Veteran Success Center a new home within the Surprise Resource Center at the AZ TechCelerator Campus, located at 12425 W. Bell Road, Suite 124. The center includes a variety of military and veteran support services and resources, made possible by the generous support of partner organizations and all West Valley cities.

Educational Commitment



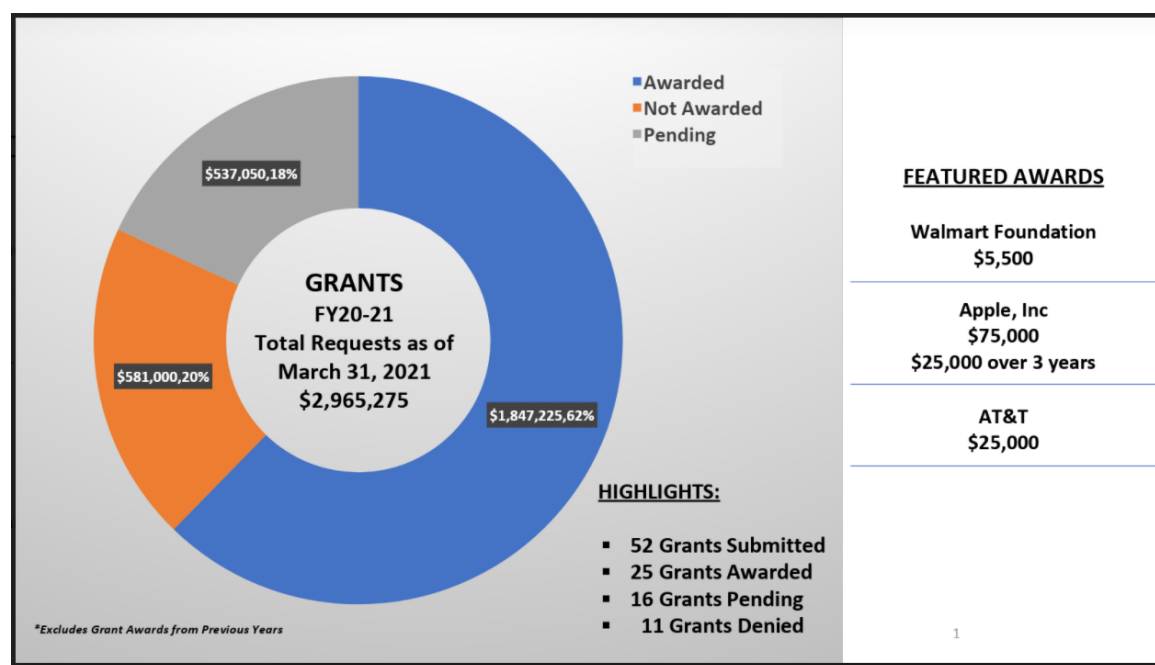
Mesa High School Graduates Apply Now For Mesa College Promise Funds

Mesa Mayor John Giles and Mesa Community College Interim President Lori M. Berquam, Ph.D., announce that the first Mesa College Promise eligible high school graduates will receive funding to attend MCC beginning with the fall 2021 semester. Each student accepted into the program will have their own academic advisor, a Promise orientation plus career and financial aid advising. Also, students receive all the free MCC services such as tutoring, parking, counseling, job skill assistance and the food pantry.

The Mesa College Promise is a commitment from the City of Mesa to residents that eligible graduating high school students, who reside in Mesa, may apply to attend MCC for two years with Arizona resident tuition and fees fully funded.

Read the full story, [here](#).

Grants Update



Providing Opportunities

Bank of America Philanthropy Benefits Indigenous MCC Students

Indigenous Mesa Community College (MCC) students are beneficiaries of a generous \$150,000 grant from Bank of America awarded through the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation as part of the bank's overall efforts to advance economic opportunity and racial equality. The grant makes emergency funding available to MCC students for the spring and fall 2021 semesters, allows for the development of Virtual Programming to inform and interact with students online, and provides educational stipends for university transfers.

"The economic needs in tribal communities continue to be a challenge that we, as a society, need to address," said Benito Almanza, Arizona president for Bank of America. "These challenges have been further exacerbated by the coronavirus, and there is an urgent need to invest in tribal education, as well as native-owned small businesses and health care - to help mitigate some of the enormous economic and health risks these communities currently face and open doors to greater racial equality and economic opportunity."

Many indigenous students are still reeling from job loss in their family, death and illness of loved ones and social unrest. To help, \$60,000 is dedicated to providing emergency funding to support up to 120 students (\$500 each per semester). Funds may be used for necessities such as food, transportation, technology needs and textbooks.

Marina J. Notah, a Navajo tribal member, received support to complete this semester. "Upon receiving the news that I was receiving support, I was ecstatic because it meant that my internet bill would be covered for the rest of the semester. I am one step closer to becoming a marine biologist."

Read more [here](#).

District News

Bachelor's Degrees at Community Colleges

Arizona joins 23 other states
that allow community colleges
to offer baccalaureate degrees.



MCCCD To Develop Baccalaureate Degree Programs In Workforce Areas

Earlier this month, Dr. Steven R. Gonzales, Interim Chancellor of the Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) on behalf of our Governing Board, faculty, and students, celebrates Arizona Governor Doug Ducey's signing of Senate Bill 1453. The bill allows community colleges to offer four-year baccalaureate degrees in an effort to further enhance students' access, opportunity, and affordability to higher education in Arizona, marking a historic moment for Arizona's families.

"Our motivation to offer baccalaureate degrees is to better support the needs of the skilled workforce in the highest demand areas of our state in a way that is equitable, accessible, and affordable for students," said Dr. Gonzales. "This is a historic moment for higher education in Arizona, and in the coming days I will bring together the colleges and faculty to determine which programs we will advance immediately for consideration as a four-year baccalaureate program. I thank Governor Ducey for keeping Arizona's students top of mind and signing Senate Bill 1453."

Before this legislation, the Maricopa Community Colleges have only offered two-year degree programs and professional certifications. With this bill, Arizona will join 23 other states across the nation that allow community colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees under limited prescribed circumstances.

"This has been a priority our Governing Board has been working toward for 25 years, and we are thrilled to work with our faculty and many others in offering quality programs that better serve our students and develop a skilled workforce," said Marie Sullivan, President of the MCCCD Governing Board. "Community colleges serve a large number of first-generation college students, minority students, and students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, and it is these students who will benefit most from baccalaureate degree programs at community colleges and who drove our commitment to this legislation."

Read the full story [here](#).

Planned Giving



Have You Left Us In Your Will Or Trust?

Have you considered including The Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation in your will or estate plans? By doing so, your generosity would provide high-quality, affordable options for higher education and workforce training.

Many of our supporters recognize the importance of making higher education accessible and affordable and have chosen to leave a percentage of their will or trust to the Foundation. Large estates or small estates, it does not matter! We have received gifts of 1% all the way up to 100% of the estate and all of them have made a distinct and lasting impact for both our students and the donors.

To learn more about planned giving please visit mcccdf.planmylegacy.org, call 480.731.8400 or [email us](#) for more information.

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