

We make postsecondary education accessible and affordable.



Dear Friends,

Once again, I am humbled by how we've all pulled together. Over the course of the past few months our donors, community partners and colleagues have gone to great lengths to ensure that access to an affordable, high quality education has not diminished during these difficult and unprecedented times.

This newsletter highlights some of the outstanding efforts that have taken place on behalf of our Maricopa students during this era of COVID-19, but also takes an exciting look towards the future by sharing some of the programs being launched across our District. These innovative efforts are a direct result of grants provided through our longstanding partnerships with local businesses and industry leaders and will benefit the entire community for years to come. **The work being done is rich and powerful - please read each story to share in the success we create together!**

As we begin the 2020/21 school year and students start returning to class in a variety of ways, I thank you for continuously providing them with the opportunity to succeed and to move forward, no matter what our environment looks like. We are all in this together and I thank you for your trust.

Sincerely,

Brian F. Spicker
Interim President & CEO
Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation

Donor Generosity

THANK YOU FOR HELPING OUR STUDENTS IN NEED.



They asked for our help and together, we came to their rescue.

You exceeded expectations. We asked for \$100,000 and through individuals and our community partners we have been able to raise **\$168,680**! Along with our students, we could not be more grateful.

Your generosity has helped us provide basic needs such as food, rent, utilities, transportation and technology to students who are struggling across the entire Maricopa Community College District, as a result of the hardships they face due to COVID-19. Now, because of you, they can stay enrolled in school and are able to finish their educational journey.

What we've achieved together is truly helping our students, staff and all ten of the Maricopa Community Colleges during these difficult times. Unfortunately, students are still requesting support. If you would like to contribute more or if you haven't had the chance to do so yet, please [donate today](#) to Emergency Funds, Food Pantry Funds and the Greatest Needs Fund.

Your donations have made a tremendous impact for hundreds of our students and we thank you again for your continued support.



Community Partnerships



Maricopa Community Colleges Hosts Mobile Food Pantry in Partnership with St. Mary's Food Bank. *A special ceremony followed the event where Fry's Food Stores presented a \$50,000 donation to the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation.*

Fry's Food Stores, a division of the Kroger Family of Companies, donated \$50,000 to the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation (MCCCDF) to address the urgent food needs of students struggling during the current COVID-19 pandemic as part of Kroger's Zero Hunger | Zero Waste social impact plan to end hunger in communities and eliminate waste across the company by 2025.

The donation was awarded through the Kroger Zero Hunger | Zero Waste Foundation, a 501(c)(3) public charity founded in 2018 to address a fundamental absurdity in our food system: 40% of the food produced is thrown away while 1 in 8 Americans struggle with hunger.

The Fry's Food Stores donation will help fund an additional 20,000 meals through the Maricopa Community College pantry sites as well as support the distribution of e-grocery store gift cards to students struggling with food insecurity during this challenging time. On Thursday, June 18, 2020, Glendale Community Colleges hosted a special ceremony where the Maricopa Community Colleges received the \$50,000 commitment from Fry's Food Stores to support the District's College food pantries. This donation is part of our overall goal to connect students to basic needs, resources, information, and services.

[Read the full story.](#)

Grants In Action

verizon✓

Verizon Awards Foundation Tech Workforce Development Grant

The Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation recently received a \$100,000 grant from Verizon.

[Watch this video to learn more](#)

Funding from Verizon will play a life-changing role in removing the financial barrier unpaid tech internships can present for financially struggling community college students. Disbursed over three years, grant funds will provide MCCCCD students with a \$1,000 stipend to complete an unpaid technology internship. Internships serve two purposes: to allow the student to gain real-world experience and develop the industry relationships that lead to employment, and to allow industry partners to “test the talent.”

This partnership is a part of Verizon’s commitment to increase digital inclusion nationwide by removing the barriers to economic prosperity and ensuring the benefits of technology are accessible to all.

The Foundation works closely with many organizations to change lives through education. To learn more or to establish a community partnership, [click here](#).



Scholarship Spotlight



Scholarship Honoring Beverly Beesemyer Provides Opportunity For Women Pursuing Careers In Aviation

Brothers Fritz and Derek Beesemyer have worked with the Foundation to establish [The Beverly L. Beesemyer Endowed Scholarship for Women in Aviation](#) to honor their Aunt Beverly and the 1,100 members of the Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASPS) who served during World War II. The WASPs were

the first women to fly U.S. military aircraft and were tasked with noncombat flight duties and flew over 60 million miles transporting military aircraft; towed targets for live anti-aircraft gun practice, simulated strafing missions and transported cargo and even trained their male counterparts.

Beverly and her fellow WASPs performed unprecedented service during World War II. Their determination to serve their country and the contributions they made went largely unnoticed until the 300 survivors of the WASP community received the Congressional Gold Medal on March 10, 2010, for their service.

When asked why the brothers started the scholarship Fritz replied, "The Maricopa Community Colleges have a strong program in aviation. Our family's desire is to honor Aunt Bev and her fellow WASPs for their service and to give those women coming up behind them financial assistance to pursue their dreams of a career in aviation."



To learn more about this scholarship and to contribute, [click here](#).

Be sure to check out Beverly flying again at age 99! [Watch now!](#)

Photo courtesy the WASP Archive, Texas Woman's University, Denton

Program News



South Mountain Community College Launches Construction Trades Institute With Industry Partners

As Arizona continues to be a high-demand state for craft labor, South Mountain Community College (SMCC) is launching this month phase one of a Construction Trades Institute, offering three programs in the construction trades: Carpentry/Framing, Plumbing and Electric.

The program was developed with key input from Brewer Companies, Haskins Electric, LLC, 3-G Construction and McCarthy Building Companies, to help SMCC

provide a program that serves the communities in Arizona and responds to the market demand from businesses nationwide.

The partners have also committed to guarantee all SMCC Construction Trade Institute graduates interviews, in their companies, giving SMCC students a unique opportunity in job placement after graduating from the program.

"From our perspective, if someone is willing to commit, sit in a classroom for a semester, and knock on our door, they've already outperformed" commented Michael Brewer, President of Brewer Companies, and strong advocate for skill-labor education. "It's the first step to the American dream, when students learn a trade, no one can take it away."

Highlights of the program include: earning a certificate in only one semester, guaranteed job interviews with industry partners, designated academic advisors, hybrid classes and an emphasis on hands-on experiences with unique access to community partners. Additionally, a partnership with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe will help fund the first cohort of students starting the program.

"This is an exciting project for all of us at McCarthy Building Companies because it provides us and others in the construction industry with another way to engage more people in learning the skills they need to develop a career in construction," said Michael Gonzalez, vice president with McCarthy's Southwest region's higher education team and member of the Maricopa County Community Colleges Foundation Board. "We are proud to be partnering with others in the industry to support this workforce development program through the Community Colleges. I've enjoyed my career in the construction industry and look forward to helping others discover for themselves how rewarding it is to be involved with building their communities."

As the institute begins to take shape, SMCC selected a team of instructors to lead the program with more than 50 years of collective experience in the construction trades.

"Providing critical training to fill high paying jobs in our community is the best application of an affordable, accessible, and applicable education," said Kathleen Winn, Governing Board Member, Maricopa Community Colleges. "Employment success and a trained workforce is mutually beneficial to employers and our students. I am proud to be affiliated with this effort!"

For more information about the Construction Trades Institute, [click here](#).

District Information

MCCCD and Intel Launch Artificial Intelligence Associate Degree



Artificial Intelligence Technology Driving Demand For Workforce Training

The Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) today announced a collaboration with Intel and the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) to create Arizona's first Artificial Intelligence certificate and degree program enabling tens of thousands of students to land careers in healthcare, automotive, industrial and aerospace fields. The Maricopa Community Colleges will be the first in the U.S. to train workers for the region's driving demands in Artificial Intelligence technology, allowing access for more students to master skills valuable across many occupations and industry sectors and ultimately improving the nation's workforce, economy, and community.

"I am pleased to announce our partnership with Intel," said Dr. Steven R. Gonzales, MCCCD Interim Chancellor. "This program will train our students for a competitive workforce, strengthen Arizona's economy as well as help close the opportunity gap we see across the state and be a model for Educational Institutions across the nation."

Looking at the broader occupational forecast, Arizona and Phoenix are projected to see 21,535 AI employment opportunities in 2020, which is six percent above the national average. The local demand for AI talent is increasing in Maricopa County, and careers are projected to grow faster than the average rate for all employment over the next decade. Research done by MCCCD Workforce and Economic Development Office estimates an increase of 22.4 percent for these roles by 2029 according to Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc.*

"We strongly believe AI technology should be shaped by many voices representing different experiences and backgrounds," said Gregory Bryant, Intel's executive vice president and general manager of the Client Computing Group. "Community Colleges offer the opportunity to expand and diversify AI since they attract a diverse array of students with a variety of backgrounds and expertise. Intel is committed to partnering with educational institutions to expand access to technology skills needed for current and future jobs. "

[Read more](#)



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