



# CAMPUS CIVIC ACTION PLAN

## FOR MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

2016-2017

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*STRATEGIES TO INCREASE STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRACY*

### **PREPARING STUDENTS TO BECOME ENGAGED CIVIC LEADERS**

This plan outlines Mesa Community College's action plan to accomplish the *Campus Compact Action Statement of Presidents and Chancellors*.





# OUR HISTORY

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Mesa Community College (MCC), was established in 1963 as the Mesa Extension of Phoenix College. As part of what was then known as the Maricopa Junior College District (now the Maricopa County Community College District or MCCCCD), classes were initially held in a former church building located on Main Street. Its student population quickly grew from 330 students to its current population of over 26,000. Today, MCC is currently the largest of the ten colleges in the MCCCCD system. Since its establishment the college has continuously focused attention and energies on innovation, teaching and learning, community/civic engagement, and student success. Since 2001 over 21,095 MCC students have dedicated a total of 573,088 hours of service to Mesa and the global community. We also had 3,187 AmeriCorps members serve over 1,163,807 Hours for a total of 1,736,895 hours of service to our community.

Today we are dedicated to continuing this legacy. The MCC Civic Action Plan has allowed us to revisit our purpose and to continue to help to teach students to think, speak, and act responsibly in the service of the public good and to become engaged, global citizens as outlined in the five points of the Campus Compact.

## **Our Vision**

We seek to help lead the way to success in our local and global community by working together to prepare individuals to be engaged citizens.

## **Our Mission**

To promote excellence in teaching and learning through active service by

- Collaborating with the community
- Encouraging civic leadership
- Promoting personal growth
- Fostering social responsibility



## Our Values

- Learning - We champion individual student success that reflects the highest academic standards.
- Individuals and Community – We encourage active citizenship and embraces the diversity of people and ideas.
- Innovation – We deliver cutting-edge instruction and service.
- Integrity – We strive to uphold the highest standards of ethics and public stewardship.
- Service Excellence – We strive to make a positive difference in the lives of our students, community members, and each other through meaningful relationships.

## Student Learning Outcomes

### Mesa Community College: Institutional Student Learning Outcomes

“MCCs 4Cs.” The 4 Cs were introduced by the Student Outcomes Committee in Fall 2013. The 4Cs include:

1. Communication
2. Civic Engagement
3. Critical Thinking
4. Cultural & Global Engagement

The following institutional Student Learning Outcomes are consistent with the Vision, Mission, and Values of both Maricopa Community Colleges District and Mesa Community College, and reflect our commitment to Individual and Community, Innovation, Integrity, Learning, and Service Excellence. To learn more about the 4Cs, please visit the Student Outcomes Committee website: [Student Outcomes Committee website](#)

### **The Campus Civic Action Plan falls under the umbrella of Civic Engagement (CE)**

Institutional learning Outcome: Encompasses actions to promote the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes.

1. Inclusiveness
2. Application of knowledge
3. Demonstration of Civic Identity and Commitment
4. Civic Communication
5. Engagement in Civic Action and Reflection



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# CAMPUS CIVIC ACTION PLAN

## FOR MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Mesa Community College (MCC) and the Center for Community & Civic Engagement (CC & CE) aspires to connect the surrounding community to the College. In 2016 MCC began a new strategic planning process. We have established the following goals to help attain these goals as we strive to develop a new model of transformative education. Our efforts are supported by the College president, Administration, Faculty and Community and generated through the Center for Community & Civic Engagement.

Our plan is comprised of the following plans:

- A) **Ongoing-** The following projects were held during the Fall 2016 semester. It is planned that these will continue to expand throughout the following years.
- a. **Constitution Day Celebration:** In keeping with H.R. 4818, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005, the CC&CE aspires to encourage Americans to learn about the Constitution and to commemorate this document during Constitution Week. In 2016, a Constitution Day celebration was held September 16<sup>th</sup> in the courtyard to encourage students to learn more about the Constitution. This celebration included a ringing of a life-sized Liberty Bell, performances, video, voter registration and informational booths, popcorn and sno-cones. A re-enactor also appeared as Thomas Jefferson. Next year it is hoped to expand with patriotic displays and contests, and speeches from government representatives during a rally.
  - b. **Voter Registration:** In 2017, MCC was named a Voter Friendly Campus, one of 83 in 23 states to receive this designation through the national nonpartisan organization Campus Vote Project (CVP) and NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. It received this distinction due, in part, to the following activities: During the recent presidential election cycle, a number of tabling events were held as part of MCC's *Get Out the Vote* campaign. Student



volunteers from campus organizations helped as volunteers such as St. Scholastica and the OCA Asian Pacific American Advocates, Greater Phoenix Chapter, and Arizona Public Interest Research Group, (PIRG) came together to register voters on several occasions independently in the courtyard with registration tables also available during Voter Education events. It was estimated that collectively, approximately 400 MCC community members were registered as a result of these events.

- c. **Voter Education:** MCC partnered with MCCCDC on several occasions to host voter education events including a Propositions and District Candidate forums.
- d. **Get out the Vote:** Tabling events helped to instruct students on how to fill out voting ballots properly, polling place maps and election pamphlet distributed.

**B) Developing projects** – These projects are currently in the implementation or planning stage.

- a. **Carillon Bells** - The MCC Chapter of the Arizona State University Carillon Society. MCC community members hope to serve their campus by providing inspirational music from our bell tower.
- b. **MCC Voter Polling Place** – We hope to better prepare students to live lives as engaged citizens in acting and leading in the pursuit of the public good by example. We are moving toward become a polling place to increase democratic participation and open new conversations relative to Civic Engagement.
- c. **Veterans' History Project**  
"Since You Asked," is a publication that includes the oral histories of veterans and their experiences. These are placed in both the Library of Congress and the libraries of the sponsoring institutions.

**C) One time projects**

**a. Our History Matters**

This project involved the collection of several exhibits that centered on xenophobia and the holocaust. Students scanned and archived never-before-seen photographs of the Holocaust from the East Valley Jewish Community Center's private collection and then designed a two-day art show around these that also included museum pieces from three additional community institution collections.



## **D) New Projects**

- a. Andrew Goodman Foundation's *Vote Everywhere*** – We are currently working towards establishing a partnership with the Andrew Goodman Foundation's *Vote Everywhere* program. As a partner of this nonpartisan experiential endeavor, we will recruit student leaders with the goal of training them to engage in strategies that will help to strengthen democracy, encourage long-term voter engagement and develop public policy as organizers and advocates.

## **Institutional Baseline**

Since these endeavors are new in their existence and implementation, we are currently in the process of establishing baselines from which to gage future successes. In the future we will document and track raw quantitative data e.g. attendance/registration numbers as well as gather qualitative data from plus/delta follow-up meetings and surveys. As we gather data for these efforts we will be better able to gage cause and effect as a result of MCC's Civic Action Plan.

We feel that those engagements that have already taken place or that are currently ongoing have fostered new relationships within our stated communities, empowered individuals to expand their horizons, promote an academic culture on their campus, and cultivate as sense of ethics and duty towards responsible public stewardship.

As outlined in the Campus Compact Civic Action Plan, MCC promotes the advancement of the public purposes of higher education through: 1) The empowerment of students, faculty, staff, and community partners 2) the preparation of students to engage as informed citizens 3) the embracing of our institutional responsibility to encourage a healthy community 4) to partner with community institutions in order to address prevailing inequities in society 5) to encourage an environment that affirms the public obligations of duties of higher education in contributing to the achievement and success of the members of the MCC campus community.



## STRATEGIC APPROACH

### Campus Team

- a. Duane Oakes, Director of the CC&CE
- b. Danette Turner, Civic Action Team Coordinator
- c. Maria Dawes, Student Leader
- d. Veterans' Services
- e. Faculty, Staff, and Student Committee members as appointed per semester and project to the Civic Action Team

### Community Team Members

- Dwayne Farnsworth, Gilbert Constitution Day Committee
- ASU Carillon Society
- East Valley Jewish Community Center
- Cutler-Plotkin Jewish Historical Society

### Timeline and Accountability

- April—Veterans' History Project partner book signing
- May – Carillon Bell recording
- June-August—plan for Fall semester activities and the collection of veterans' oral histories
- September—Constitution Day Celebration
- November—Veterans' History Project

As each event occurs the planning committee for that event will hold a plus/delta review to monitor and/or document successes and to evaluate those areas that may need improvement. These projects will be administered by Mr. Oakes but conducted by Danette Turner

### **Outcomes: MCC will put the Center for Community & Civic Engagement Action Statement Commitments into Practice in the following ways:**

- I) Outcomes will be attained by focusing on the five Campus Compact commitments during the planning stages of each event.



- II) Performances will be measured and tied to outcomes during Plus/Delta review meetings following the completion of each project or event. Progress will be measured at that time through a variety of means including cost benefit analysis, surveys, and attendance numbers.
- III) Appropriate measures will be taken to alter or revise future plans according to outcomes and desired goals.
- IV) As a result of these efforts it is hoped that lasting changes in the form of community connections, student confidence and ability will increase.

### **Institutional Identity and Culture:**

"In 2015 Mesa Community college celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> year providing academic excellence to Mesa, Arizona and the surrounding communities of Tempe, Chandler, and Gilbert. 'Community' is in the name of our college and at the heart of our Vision, Mission, and Values."<sup>1</sup> As part of this, we will continue to create a culture which unites the community and advances the public good. Our programs will prepare students to live lives as engaged citizens who pursue the public good by focusing on people—or the individual, and not programs *per se*. We feel that this is best accomplished via activities that teach students to project their energies outwards for the benefit of those around them as opposed to those that focus on the students themselves.

**Policy and systems** - We will advance progress in policy areas by soliciting input and feedback from participants and partners.

**Signature model:** Civic Engagement was established as one of our student learning or 4Cs outcomes. MCC's goal or desire is to help faculty embed Student Learning Outcomes into their courses. The overarching engagement commitment is designed to create varied opportunities for engagement that are structured. We plan on communicating our work and lessons with interested institutions via workshops, conference presentations, and publications. We also hope to inspire other and encourage greater participation by working with campus and

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<sup>1</sup> *Mesa Community College, 2015 Carnegie Elective Community Engagement Classification, p. 2.*





community news, media and social media outlets. It is hoped that these efforts will encourage a heightened awareness of the inequalities and challenges that threaten our democratic future

The campus president will participate and encourage leadership via a campaign to advance the public purposes of higher education in partnership with other institutions leaders and by providing support and leadership through an Advisory Board that gives feedback.

As we foster an environment that consistently affirms the centrality of the public purposes of higher education we will continue to set high expectations for members of the campus community and will strive to contribute to and to support their achievements and goals.

Finally, it is hoped that these extracurricular community engagements will help ensure levels of access for new experiences designed to broaden horizons and experience success in community leadership. As part of this we will also work to help faculty, employees, and students understand the importance of our role. Being a member of an institution of higher education community, in our eyes, is a calling. Together we have a tremendous responsibility.

## **Appendix**

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### **Committee Members**

Duane Oakes, Faculty Director: Center for Community & Civic Engagement

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Danette Turner, Civic Action Team Coordinator

(602) 510-0605

[danette.turner@cgc.edu](mailto:danette.turner@cgc.edu)

### **Student Committee Members**

Andrew Benally

Maria Dawes

Landon Kea

Tatiana Rusev

Jonathan Speakman



### **Community Partners (included but are not limited to)**

Arizona Public Interest Research Group (PIRG)

Maricopa County Community College District Center for Civic Participation

Student Life & Leadership, Mesa Community College

Dwayne Farnsworth, President, Constitution Week, Gilbert, Arizona

Veterans Services, Mesa Community College

The College of St. Scholastica

OCA Asian Pacific American Advocates, Greater Phoenix Chapter

### **Goals for the 2016-2017 academic year:**

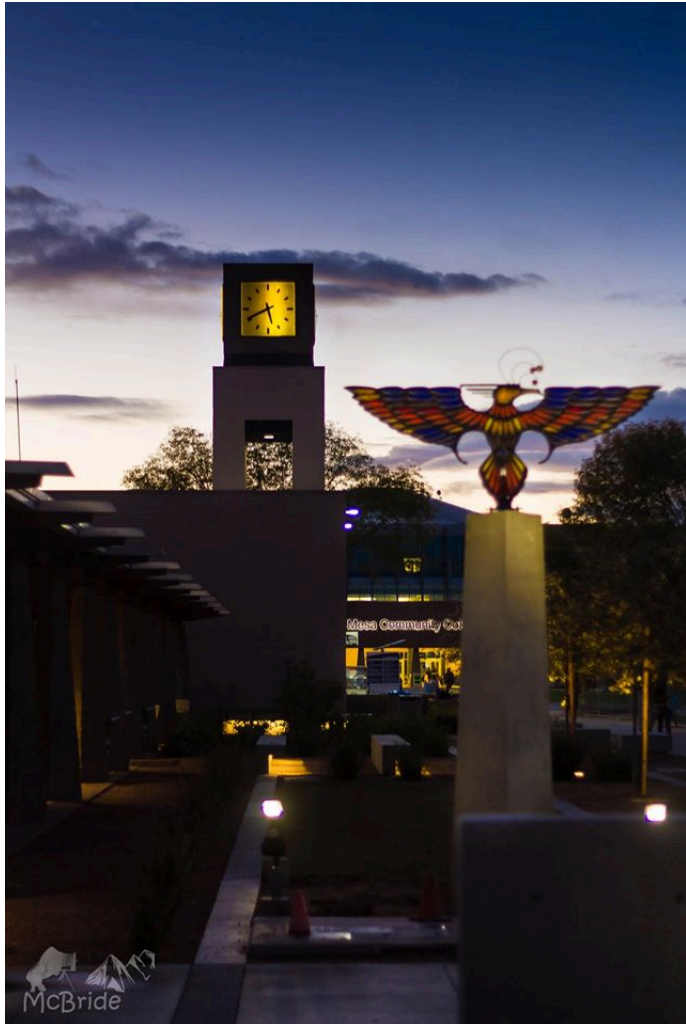
1. Voter registration.

2. Voter education.

3. Get Out the Vote



Constitution Day 2016 Arizona Liberty Bell



The Maricopa Community Colleges are EEO/AA institutions