

MCC sets new goal for United Way Campaign



October 1 marks the kickoff date for the Mesa Community College United Way Campaign, which will run through November 12, 2004. This year's campaign focuses on Foster Care.

To meet our goal of a 10 percent increase in participation at MCC, we are appealing to employees who care about the programs and services in our community and who want to improve the quality of life for its residents. We need MCC employees' continued support for children, the elderly, health care, and the homeless.

Improving the lives of people within our community begins with us. Through our personal contributions we invest in our community and address the most critical human care issues facing the East Valley. This investment brings about changes that make a difference in the way we live, work, and play.

Incentives will be offered throughout the campaign; employees must contribute to be eligible.

For additional information, please contact janet.felton@mccmail.maricopa.edu or call Janet at 461-7500.

Newsbytes

- Once again MCC is the site for the Mesa Latino Town Hall. "Building the Future... Construyendo el Futuro" is the theme for the Saturday, October 9, event in the Kirk Center at MCC's Southern and Dobson campus. Registration begins at 7:30 AM. Sessions for this year's event include Economic Development, Education, Health, Leadership, and Youth. The deadline for pre-registration has already passed, but attendees may pay \$15 at the door on the day of the event. Seating is limited. For more information, call 472-0550.
- In an effort to reduce costs, the Office of Institutional Advancement is modifying the process of sending out printed invitations to employees for MCC events. Wherever appropriate, college employees will receive an email invitation or announcement instead of paper notification. We feel this is a fiscally responsible and environmentally friendly approach to communicating with our internal audiences. Please call the IA Office at 461-7445 if you have comments or questions regarding this change.
- Vote by Mail ballots are still available in the Office of Institutional Advancement on the Southern and Dobson campus. To pick up a Vote by Mail ballot at the Red Mountain Campus, call Yvonne Schmidt at 654-7703. At either campus, ballots must be picked up before October 11 and must be mailed by October 22, 2004.

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OCT 07 '04 the Bulletin



Homecoming 2004 - A Renaissance Event

Come one, come all to MCC's 2004 Homecoming celebration! The theme this year is the Renaissance, so feel free to dress up and participate in all the fun. Saturday, October 16, the Thunderbirds will tackle the Glendale Gauchos at John Riggs Stadium. All MCC employees are invited to attend a barbeque prior to the football game (kickoff is at 7:00 PM). The barbeque is hosted by Dr. Christiansen and the Alumni Relations Office.

This year's Homecoming guests will enjoy delectable dishes from the El Paso Bar-B-Que Company, along with games and entertainment for the whole family. Food service will begin at 5:00 PM in the center of campus near the clock tower. The barbeque is free, but seating is limited, so don't forget to RSVP.

RSVP

A reservation is required if you plan to attend the barbeque. Please RSVP by calling 461-7501. Leave your first and last name with the correct spelling, the name of your guest, and a contact phone number. You may also reserve your space online at www.mc.maricopa.edu/homecoming04.

Silent Auction

The MCC Alumni Association is sponsoring a silent auction to raise funds for the alumni scholarship program. Since the program's inception in 1997, the alumni association has awarded scholarships to seven students. The silent auction is from 5:00 to 6:15 PM. Winners will be announced at 6:30.

In case of inclement weather, the barbeque will relocate to the Kirk Student Center.



MCC receives Piper Trust award

On September 30, The Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust announced that grants totaling \$1.6 million have been awarded to support four projects in Maricopa County to implement Life Options centers. The grantees are Mesa Community College, the City of Tempe, Chandler Public Library, and Scottsdale Community College. MCC's grant award totals more than a half million dollars.

Life Options centers are designed to link older adults with community volunteer or paid opportunities, wellness information, and educational opportunities. The centers offer a new model of service delivery to the rapidly increasing segment of older adults who are seeking an active and engaged retirement.

Each of the four projects in Maricopa County has multiple partners engaged in the proposed implementation of the Life Options centers. Leading the project for MCC are Barbara Thelander, Director of Community Education, and Bernie Ronan, Director of the Center for Public Policy. MCC's partners in this project are Joe Holmwood, Community Services Manager for the City of Mesa, and Dan Taylor, Executive Director of Mesa Senior Services, Inc.

As this project evolves, additional information will be printed in future issues of the *Bulletin*.

Technology in the Real World

Groups of eager 8th and 9th grade girls recently spent a morning at Mesa Community College's Business and Industry Institute learning how professionals use technology to save African elephants, rescue hurricane victims, and transmit medical information to remote areas of the world.

Information Technology (IT) professionals presented these real-world scenarios during the Institute's new program called "Girls 'N' IT." More than 450 girls from school districts throughout Arizona participated in six interactive sessions designed to stimulate a deeper interest in technology.

"Technology is not just a man's world anymore," said Bethann Partin, a faculty member of the Institute. "Women can be just as successful as men in this field."

According to statistics from the American Association of University Women Educational Foundation, women have made great strides in obtaining college degrees but continue to choose traditional female careers such as teaching and nursing. Women make up only 20 percent of the IT workforce in the United States, and fewer than 28 percent earn computer science degrees.

To help girls break through stereotypes, Girls 'N' IT brought women professionals from the community to talk to students about job opportunities. Presenters included Honeywell engineer Tanya Gulchak, who demonstrated her design of a palm print identification device; City of Mesa IT programmer Nobuko Franklin, who stressed the importance of mentors; and Cable One solution specialist Stacy Leedom, who encouraged education and ambition.

After the program, Jasmine Brien, a 9th grader at Fremont Jr. High in Mesa, said she was impressed by many of the presentations. "They made engineering look more interesting than I thought it was," Jasmine said.



Presenters at the Girls 'N' IT event performed a skit on the dangers of downloading files from an unknown source; it's a good way to get a computer virus.

Meet me in the garden

For two decades as faculty member and Director of Journalism at Mesa Community College, Lynn Milner spent her time pruning and shaping young journalists for a demanding career. Now as MCC's Coordinator of Media Relations, Lynn continues to shape new growth – but the focus of her pruning has changed from students to roses.

A passionate advocate for the Rose Garden at MCC, Lynn encourages staff and faculty to participate in the volunteer effort to ensure the beauty and well being of Arizona's largest rose garden. Volunteers who tend the garden are called "deadheaders." Throughout the year, deadheaders remove the spent blooms to

make way for new growth. In January and February deep pruning occurs, which requires dozens of volunteers.

"MCC employees would enjoy so much satisfaction, rest, and peace if they become a part of this," Lynn said. "I would be willing to spend time in the garden with anyone who wants to learn; meet me in the garden, and I'll teach you a little bit about roses."

The Rose Garden at MCC is a collaborative effort of the Mesa-East Valley Rose Society and Mesa Community College. Phases I and II of the Garden contain more than 4,000 rose bushes, and Phase III, the Veterans beds, will

display nearly 1,000 rose bushes upon completion (see sidebar). A fourth phase is planned for miniature roses.

Call Carol Poe at 895-7793 or Phyllis Humphry at 529-8172 to volunteer as a deadheader...or just give Lynn a call and meet her in the garden. For more information, visit www.mc.maricopa.edu/organizations/community/rosegarden/index.html.

Veterans Rose Garden Dedication

A ceremony to dedicate the new Veterans Rose Garden will take place on Wednesday, November 10. MCC president Larry Christiansen will join friends, supporters, and members of the Mesa-East Valley Rose Society in the Rose Garden at the Southern and Dobson campus for this special occasion to honor veterans. The morning ceremony begins at 7:30, and the ribbon cutting is scheduled for 8:45. Rosarians will conduct guided tours of the Rose Garden until 10:30 AM.

The Veterans Garden consists of five new rose beds representing five branches of the U.S. military. Each bed has a flagpole. A wall, cement terrace, and four benches create a place where veterans can enjoy patriotic services and events or simply relax in a peaceful setting.



English and ESL instructor Barbara Jordan (left) gets a lesson in pruning roses from MCC Media Relations Coordinator Lynn Milner.