

SEP 06 '05



the

Bulletin

Liberal education: Is it relevant for the 21st century?

“Liberal education is a philosophy of education that empowers individuals, liberates the mind from ignorance, and cultivates social responsibility.”*

Definition of liberal education used by AAC&U in focus group study with students

Students return to MCC this semester with expectations about their educational experiences and what they hope to gain from them. According to the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), student expectations and identification of key learning outcomes gained from a college education do not align with those of college educators, accreditors, and business and civic leaders.

Debra Humphreys, vice president for communications and public affairs at AAC&U and guest speaker for Fall Convocation, reported the results of several focus groups conducted by AAC&U aimed at exploring students’ hopes, concerns, expectations, and goals regarding college as well as understanding their attitudes about and perceptions of liberal education. Among the eight focus groups, students ranked maturity and ability to succeed on one’s own, time-management skills, strong work habits, self-discipline, and teamwork skills and ability to get along with different types of people as the most important outcomes of college. Business leaders, on the other hand, “are calling for graduates who are skilled communicators, adept at quantitative reasoning, oriented to innovation, sophisticated about diversity, and grounded in cross-cultural and global learning.”

Insights gained from these focus groups will prove valuable as AAC&U launches a decade-long campaign promoting liberal education: Liberal Education and America’s Promise: Excellence for Everyone as a Nation Goes to College (LEAP). AAC&U promotes liberal education as the most relevant model for “today’s knowledge driven world.” Business executives agree. “We are reminded that the real challenge of today’s economy is not in making things but in producing creative ideas. Today, the race goes not just to the swift, but to the inventive, the resourceful, the curious. And that is what a liberal education is all about,” (David Kearns, former CEO of Xerox, Liberal Education).

Information on the focus group results, LEAP, and AAC&U is available at:

“What Really Matters in College: How Students View and Value Liberal Education,”
Humphreys and Davenport

“Today’s Students, Today’s Challenges,” Humphreys

“Liberal Education for the 21st Century: Business Expectations” Liberal Education,
Spring 2005,

Association of American Colleges and Universities,

http://www.aacu-edu.org/liberal_education/le-sp05/le-sp05leap.cfm

www.aacu.org

*Except where noted, all quotes for this article were drawn from What Really Matters in College: How Students View and Value Liberal Education, Humphreys and Davenport



Jo Wilson appointed Director of Red Mountain campus/Dean of Instruction

Jo Wilson has been appointed the Director of Red Mountain campus/Dean of Instruction. Jo has 36 years of service with the Maricopa County Community College District. She started working for Mesa Community College in 1970 as a full time instructor in what is now known as Design, Family, and Consumer Sciences. Jo also served as department chair for 20 years, associate dean of occupational programs for 10 years, and director of extended campus for two years. When Jo retired she joined the active retiree program as a special assistant to the dean of instruction; she was responsible for assisting with the Red Mountain Campus. Jo returned to full time status after just three years in the retirement program.

“The reason I returned is because of the opportunity and excitement of building a new campus.” When she started at MCC there were only 4,200 students at Southern and Dobson,



Jo Wilson returns from retirement to serve as Director of MCC's Red Mountain campus.

and she was energized being there during the growth period. “I’m really excited to help build the campus (Red Mountain) and nurture the program. I feel like I’ve come full circle.”

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Meet your 2005-06 employee group representatives



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Favorite type of music:
Hip-Hop, Rap



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Three words someone would use to describe her:energetic, personable,and dependable



Jonathan Baney
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Favorite restaurant: Carrabba’s



Lyn Dutson
Faculty Senate President
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Favorite book:
Tea with a Black Dragon



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Favorite television show:
The West Wing

Girls ‘n’ IT

On the heels of last September’s successful “Girls ‘n’ IT” program, Mesa Community College’s Business and Industry Institute is gearing up for this year’s event. The program, designed to allow 8th and 9th grade girls to explore the many career choices in the Information Technology (IT) field, will offer even more hands-on activities for the girls this time around.

This year’s highlights include interactive sessions where students will use technology to help endangered species, become “warriors of the Net,” and meet with women from the community who work as IT professionals.

Pinny Sheoran, director of the Business and Industry Institute, asks MCC employees to spread the word about the program to 8th and 9th grade girls so they can encourage their schools to participate. The event is open to classes from school districts valley-wide and takes place Sept. 23. Contact Mary Baum at (480) 461-6108 for more information.

MCC athletic program recognized as nation's best

Mesa Community College's (MCC) Athletic Department is the recipient of the 2004-05 Pepsi/NATYCAA Award for Program Excellence in Two-Year College Athletics. MCC received

national recognition in the Scholarship Division, competing with over 200 other community colleges in the nation in this division. Along with national recognition the Athletic Department will receive a check for \$2,500 for student scholarships.

The award presented by Pepsi-Cola North America in conjunction with the National Alliance of Two-Year College Athletic Administrators (NATYCAA) is determined by a point system based on rankings in post-conference competition of

the college's top five men's and women's teams. Among those teams rated were men's baseball, men's and women's bowling, men's and women's golf, men's and women's indoor track and field, men's outdoor track and field, and women's soccer.

"To have our athletic program designated the best in the country among two-year colleges in our classification is indeed a tremendous honor and appropriate recognition of our coaches and student-athletes," stated MCC President Larry K. Christiansen.



This is the second year that Mesa has been one of the top colleges in the Pepsi Award standings, having finished third in 2003-2004. Athletic Director Dan Dunn noted "this award demonstrates our ability to compete not only in our Arizona Community College Athletic Conference, but on the regional and national levels as well."

Notable Accomplishments

- Teams won 64% of their games/matches in dual competition
- 12 of 16 teams qualified for national tournaments
- 9 All-Americans, 4 Academic All-Americans, 4 athletes set new national records in their respective sports
- Three women's teams were designated NJCAA All-Academic Teams: Cross Country, Basketball, Golf
- 37 athletes received All-Conference or All-Region recognition
- Five coaches received Coach of the Year honors: Tony Cirelli, John Guerrero, Steve Jacobs, Selmer Olson, and Robin Schamber
- This past Season Tony Cirelli broke Roger Schmuck's records of 380 wins for the most victories for an MCC baseball coach (400-244) as he led the Thunderbirds to consecutive appearances in the Junior College World Series. With a record of 43-23, it was the fourth season under Cirelli that the Mesa baseball team won 40 or more games.
- Sara Falkenberg was named ACCAC Women's Golfer-of-the-Year, and nine others were selected Player-of-the-Week by the NJCAA, ACCAC, or the WSFL

Hertzler to serve on "powerful" committee

The human drive for power crosses all cultural boundaries and influences society in a number of different ways. Why do we want it? What will we do to get it?

Betsy Hertzler will help students explore those questions as a newly-appointed member of Phi Theta Kappa's Honors Committee. Betsy is one of two Honors Study Topic Experts chosen to investigate the topic, Gold, God and Glory: The Global Struggle for Power. Betsy will work with other committee members to publish a study guide that will become the core of the Honors Program for 2006-2008. New topics are chosen biennially.

"It's exciting to brainstorm with other committee members to come up with projects that will engage the students," Betsy said. "Power has so many dimensions to it and is seen differently according to the time period and culture."

Betsy's appointment was based on her teaching experience in the fields of Western Civilization and World Religions. Betsy has been a Phi Theta Kappa advisor at MCC since 1997 and holds a doctorate in educational leadership from Northern Arizona University.

The study guide will look at four aspects of power: material wealth, spirituality, fame, and global sense. Betsy hopes to open up the topic to the community as well, with "powerful" speakers for the Fall 2006 Honors Forum Lecture Series.



Betsy Hertzler is one of two experts chosen to investigate the 2006-2008 Honors Program topic, Gold, God and Glory: The Global Struggle for Power.

Publicize Your Next Event!

If you're looking to increase attendance at your next lecture, workshop, or special event the Office of Institutional Advancement (IA) is the place to contact. IA can publicize your next event via the online event calendar, campus marquees, or VoIP phones.

Event Calendar

The online event calendar features multiple calendars: arts, athletics, community, employee, holiday, and student. Anyone on campus can add an event to the calendar by clicking on the "Add Event" button located in the upper right hand corner. Just complete the form then click submit. Your calendar item will be forward to IA to be added to the calendar. Events for both campuses are posted on the online calendar; events at Red Mountain are posted in red and events at Southern and Dobson are posted in blue. To see what's happening at MCC, please visit www.mc.maricopa.edu/events.

Marquees

The Southern and Dobson campus has two marquees available to post information for students, employees, and community members. You may request the marquee by filling out the marquee request form at www.mc.maricopa.edu/ia or send your request to Jennifer LaForge at jenner@mail.mc.maricopa.edu.

The Red Mountain campus currently does not have a marquee.

VoIP Phones

The Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phones have the ability to display messages on the screen when the phone is idle for at least 15 seconds. The screen virtually becomes a message center that can advertise campus events, messages, or reminders. The screen displays text as well as images. To post a message at the Southern and Dobson campus, please email Jennifer LaForge at jenner@mail.mc.maricopa.edu or call 461-7794. To post a message at the Red Mountain campus, please contact Yvonne Schmidt at Schmidt@mail.mc.maricopa.edu or call 654-7703.



ROC sponsors information literacy workshops

Instant access to nearly unlimited amounts of information can leave today's students feeling overwhelmed and confused. To prevent students from "drowning in an information bog," MCC's Results Outreach Committee (ROC) is sponsoring a series of five workshops devoted to information literacy.

The workshops are one of the ways in which ROC, a subcommittee of the Student Outcomes Committee (SOC), will help MCC faculty apply student assessment results to classroom instruction.

Over 40 faculty members attended the first workshop, led by Joan Kaplowitz from UCLA. MCC's Ly Tran-Nguyen, Psychology faculty member and SOC Chair, said the presentation was extremely informative.

"It made the definition of information literacy clearer to me," Ly said. "I was able to interact with other faculty and brainstorm ideas."

MCC Information Literacy Librarian Cinthya Ippoliti said the next workshop in the series, titled "Throwing a Rope: Collaborative Solutions Using ACRL Standards and Interdisciplinary Teams", will focus on ways to teach students to find, retrieve, analyze, and effectively use information. Participants will split up into teams to create classroom activities based on five standards from the Association of

College and Research Libraries, which are aligned with MCC's information literacy student learning outcomes.

To register for this September 9 workshop, visit the Center for Teaching and Learning at <http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/other/ctl/> and click on the Register link.

