

## Community Colleges Get the Green Light to Offer 4-year Degrees

With the passage of Arizona Senate Bill 1453 (SB1453) on May 4, 2021, Arizona joins 23 other states that allow community colleges to offer bachelor's degrees. A historic moment for the Maricopa Community Colleges system and state, 25 years in the making.

The Chancellor's Executive Council (CEC) has identified, and the Governing Board supports, MCCC's first bachelor's degrees for development. The intent is to seek approval from the Governing Board and Higher Learning Commission (HLC) to offer these awards to our community in Fall 2023.



A Bachelor's Degree Advisory Committee developed a list of initial high-growth, high-demand areas in the sectors that were discussed throughout the legislative process (Health Care, Information Technology, Education, and Public Safety) for college teams to determine a regional programmatic offering structure.

The next step in this historic journey is the development of the curriculum for each proposed award.

MCCC looks forward to offering additional baccalaureate degrees in high-demand industry sectors, such as Nursing and Respiratory Care, as we build a 3–5-year plan to guide these efforts into the future.

- **BAS, Programming and Data Analytics:** Mesa
- **BAS, Information Technology:** Estrella Mountain & Phoenix
- **BAS, Public Safety Administration:** Phoenix & Rio Salado
- **BS, Behavioral Health Science:** South Mountain
- **BAS, Nuclear Medicine Technology and Computed Tomography:** GateWay
- **BA, Early Childhood Education - Dual Language:** Mesa
- **BA, Education, Dual Certification in Elementary/ Special Education:** Glendale, Paradise Valley, and Rio Salado

## MCCRA Constitution Flexes to Meet Changing Times

*By Gordon Jesse*

Problems, changes, "return to normal," "new normals." We see these terms in the news, and it seems they are going to be with us for the foreseeable future. Even before the pandemic, MCCRA was facing issues of declining numbers of dues-paying members and few members being actively involved. Many newly-retired faculty weren't joining the association and of those who did, most weren't willing to give their time and energy to the operation of it. Of course, the pandemic made all of this worse.

MCCRA President Ann Oehmke said the Constitution was due for an update, and during the pandemic seemed like a good time to do it, so a small group started it and then shared their efforts with the larger group.

All Maricopa Community College employees become MCCRA members upon retirement. The increasing number of people retiring has opened the association to a much larger pool of active members and MCCRA is already seeing an influx of new people and higher energy into the organization.

The previous version required a board member from each college, and while this is a very desirable goal, it is probably not realistic. Wording was changed to allow more flexible representation, still not precluding one-rep-per-college.

The pandemic has changed forever the way we work, meet, and interact; so too with MCCRA. Language was changed to allow both board meetings and general meetings to be held via online video conferencing, as well as online voting. The timing of meetings and elections was loosened a bit and placed at the discretion of the Board.

While it is the MCCRA Constitution, we realize it includes several operational issues which would typically be specified in bylaws. Simply put, MCCRA has no official bylaws. Consensus was that to include a few operational parameters for future guidance would not harm the integrity of the document as a Constitution.

*See the updated MCCRA Constitution on page 2.*

# Constitution of the Maricopa Community Colleges Retirees' Association

## **Article 1. Name**

The name of the organization shall be the Maricopa Community Colleges Retirees' Association (MCCRA).

## **Article 2. Purpose**

- 1) Inform members of changes in ASRS and Social Security benefits.
- 2) Raise funds for endowed scholarships.
- 3) Provide information to current Maricopa Community Colleges District employees preparing for retirement.
- 4) Relate to governmental units relative to retirement programs.
- 5) Facilitate communication for the benefit of employees and/or students, when appropriate.
- 6) Inform members of links to relevant community resources and activities.

## **Article 3. Affiliation**

The Maricopa Community Colleges Retirees' Association will have a legal relationship to the operation of the Maricopa Community Colleges District and can affiliate with federal, state, and local associations that will help achieve the purpose of the organization and/or enhance the general welfare of the membership.

## **Article 4. Membership**

- 1) All persons retired from the Maricopa Community Colleges District will become members of the Maricopa Community Colleges Retirees' Association upon retirement.
- 2) Annual dues of \$25 and a valid email address are requested.
- 3) The primary means of communicating with the general membership will be the MCCRA website [www.mccrassoc.org](http://www.mccrassoc.org), email distribution list, and/or newsletter.

## **Article 5. Board of Directors**

- 1) The MCCRA Board of Directors shall be composed of association members representing the ten Maricopa Community Colleges and the District Office.
- 2) Board members shall be elected for three-year terms, with one third of Board positions up for election each year.
- 3) Members may volunteer for election or accept the nomination of a current or past Board member.
- 4) Elections shall be conducted annually and the Board will notify members of open Board positions via the website, the email distribution list, and the Fall newsletter.
- 5) Election of Board members may be done via U.S. Postal Service mail or an online voting system, as determined by the Board.
- 6) New Board members take office in January following the election.
- 7) Removal of a person or persons from the Board or from the Executive Committee for cause shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Board.
- 8) The Board may fill a midterm vacancy on the Board by naming a replacement to serve the remainder of term with a simple majority vote.
- 9) A quorum shall be a simple majority of Board members.

## **Article 6. Officers of Board of Directors**

- 1) Officers constitute the Executive Committee.
- 2) Officers are President, President-elect, Treasurer, and Secretary.
- 3) The Board will elect officers from members of the Board.
- 4) Officers shall sit on the Board with full voting rights, except the President, who votes only to break a tie.
- 5) In January following an election year, the new Board will meet to elect officers and the previous President shall preside at Board meetings until a successor is named.
- 6) The Board may fill a vacancy on the Executive Committee to serve an unexpired term with a simple majority.
- 7) A Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, Legislative Liaison and/or Parliamentarian may be appointed by the President with the Board's approval to meet with the Board in an advisory capacity.

## **Article 7. Amendments to Constitution**

- 1) This Constitution can only be changed by the vote of the Board.
- 2) Amendments shall be considered at a general meeting, as set forth by Article 8 below and the Board shall make a good faith effort to notify all board members of a prospective vote to alter this document.
- 3) A two-thirds percentage of Board members who vote for the proposed change shall be required to adopt an amendment or amendments to this Constitution.
- 4) Voting on amendments may be done via U.S. Postal Service mail or an online voting system, as determined by the Board.

## **Article 8. General Meeting**

- 1) The Board may call a meeting of the entire membership as necessary at a meeting place and time determined by the Board.
- 2) Notification of a general membership meeting shall be placed on the MCCRA website for at least 30 days prior to the meeting date, and shall be sent to the membership email list at least 15 days in advance prior to meeting.
- 3) Notification of a general meeting shall include the agenda.
- 4) The format of a general meeting may be in person or via online teleconferencing, as determined by the Board.

## **Article 9. Dissolution and Disbursement of Assets**

- 1) In the event of the dissolution of the Maricopa Community Colleges District Retirees' Association, all of the remaining assets of the organization shall go to the general scholarship fund of the Maricopa Foundation.
- 2) Upon dissolution of the association, no part of the earnings or assets of the Maricopa Community Colleges Retirees' Association shall benefit any member, Board member, or officer of the organization.

Approved 10/1/2021

## PC Receives a Record Donation from Alumnus

Jay Faulkner, Phoenix College alumnus class of 1947, became the largest individual donor to PC, the MCCC Foundation and the Maricopa Community College District, with a bequest of \$4.7 million to the Faulkner ACE Endowment. The bequest brings Faulkner's lifetime giving to the PC ACE Program to \$5.7 million. Born in 1926 in Phoenix, Arizona, Faulkner passed away in February 2021.



*Jay Faulkner*

Faulkner was passionate about supporting disadvantaged students, and in 2004, he established the Jay Faulkner Achieving a College Education Endowment to provide financial support to first-generation and minority students. The PC ACE Program enrolls 320 students annually, with a completion rate of 90%. In 2014, in recognition of his contributions to PC, the Jay Faulkner Memorial Atrium was dedicated in his honor, and Faulkner was celebrated and named to the PC Alumni Hall of Fame. In 2020, the college created the Jay Faulkner Memorial Mesquite Court, an outdoor seating area for students, employees, and the community to gather.

## Emeritus Status Awarded

The Governing Board grants Emeritus status its monthly meetings based on nominations of recently retired faculty and executive staff.

### NOVEMBER 2020

Martha Bienert, Communication/Sociology, GWCC  
Sarah Capawana, Fine Arts, MCC  
Yvette Garcia, English/Literature, GWCC  
Donald Hall, Humanities, GWCC  
Darby Heath, Anthropology, CGCC  
Dr. Ernie Lara, President, EMCC

### APRIL 2021

Jeanne Canham, Math, CGCC  
Dr. Regina Munro, Wellness, CGCC  
Sandy Zetlan, Biology, EMCC

### MAY 2021

Dr. Karisa Ashley, English as Second Language, SCC  
Delia Escalante, Languages, PC

### JUNE 2021

Darrell Copp, Communication, SCC  
Jerome K. Garrison Sr., Music, SMCC

### AUGUST 2021

Steven Bass, Geography, MCC  
Tom Klare, Digital Photography, MCC  
Kathy Lynch, Library, GWCC  
Christopher Zagar, Library, EMCC

### SEPTEMBER 2021

Dr. David R. Miller, English, GCC



## Governing Board Announcement | May 11, 2021

The MCCC Governing Board has extended the contract of Dr. Steven R. Gonzales to serve as the Interim Chancellor of the Maricopa County Community College District through June 2023. This appointment represents continuity at this time of transition from the impact of the pandemic and a move toward greater stability for the District and the communities we serve.

Dr. Gonzales has been serving as Interim Chancellor since January 2020. During Dr. Gonzales' time as Interim Chancellor he has dealt with the unexpected impact of a pandemic, which generated enrollment and financial concerns, and a cybersecurity challenge. He has demonstrated a renewed commitment to shared governance and collaboration with the faculty, staff, and Governing Board members to advance the District's mission. Further he was actively involved in the passage of AZ SB 1453 that allows community colleges to offer baccalaureate programs, thus growing access, equity, and affordability for our students.



*Dr. Stephen Gonzales*

## State of the District 2021

Tune in to the video of the annual State of the District report. Featuring Dr. Gonzales it is less than 20-minutes. Go to Youtube and enter State of the District into the search box or use this link <https://youtu.be/QOc2rjewZ3Q>



# Scholarships Contribute to Students' Success

One of the most important purposes of MCCRA is the awarding of scholarships to MCCCC students. Part of the dues you pay goes into a Maricopa Endowment fund from which the scholarships are awarded. Did you know that dues make up only a small part of MCCRA's Foundation account? Over the years, contributions of all dollar amounts have resulted in a balance of \$200,836.



Each year, scholarships are awarded based on the interest the account accrues. If you aren't a member of MCCRA, consider joining and if you haven't paid your dues for this year, please do. You will be a part of this mission! Even better, send a donation or make a bequest as well.

## **Courtney Bulkley**

### **Massage Therapy**

I cannot express my gratitude enough. I am a persistent individual and have been struggling to continue my educational goals at PC while working and being a single parent. This money will give me the leverage I need to finish out my own dreams. I wish to extend my sincerest thanks in being given the opportunity to accomplish my goals. Not only do I thank you, my family thanks you as well. God bless!



*Courtney Bulkley*

## **Elizabeth Danson**

### **Nursing**

Thank you so much for this award! I am attending MCC Community College because they have one of the best nursing programs in the state of Arizona. As a nursing major, I am excited to help heal my community through medicine, prevention, and education. I plan to work in the medical ICU in hopes of obtaining my critical care certification (CCRN) and eventually leading a team of nurses to provide the best care possible. This scholarship will allow me to focus more on my studies as I will not need to stress about paying for tuition, books, and the NCLEX examination. It will also allow me the freedom to do a preceptorship at the end of this coming semester. During nursing school, I have worked hard to have a good GPA, which has allowed me to participate in the Honors Program. Additionally, I have



*Elizabeth Danson*

been focusing on my leadership skills and have officially been named the President of the Student Nurses' Association (SNA). I look forward to continuing to excel in nursing and building my leadership abilities. Thank you again for this award.

## **Billie Davis-Friend**

### **Nursing**

Thank you so much for this opportunity to continue my studies at SCC. This will help me be able to pay for resources to be successful in achieving my goal of becoming a Registered Nurse. This will allow me to prepare for the NCLEX as well as my exams. This truly means the world to me and I cannot wait to pay it forward by taking great care of my patients and saving lives.

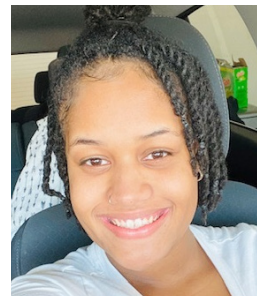


*Billie Davis-Friend*

## **Precious Joyner**

### **Accounting**

Hi there! I am so very grateful to receive this award. I am completely surprised by this but extremely appreciative! I want to say thank you a million times, and that I feel as though this award will help me in more ways than anyone can imagine. I struggle enough trying to maintain my home and school life, but I just know what it is all for, and that is what is motivating me to keep on pushing through to get my degree. I attended PVCC because it is near my house, and it has my program, which is obtaining my Associates degree in accounting. Numbers have always been a huge part of my life, and I loooove math which is why I chose my career path. I truly knew that I wanted to be an Accountant when I started helping family and friends make budgets to help save and take care of their households. I feel so accomplished just being able to say that I have made it this far through college, but I know that this is only the beginning! I just want to say thank you again!



*Precious Joyner*



**MARICOPA**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGES

MCCRA Endowed Scholarship  
Fund Donate online at  
<http://mcccdf.org>

## Meet Dr. Sian Proctor

*By Ken Roberts, MCCRA Board Member*

Approximately 21 years ago, I was involved in the interview and selection process to hire Sian Proctor as geoscientist faculty member at South Mountain Community College. During my role as Academic Vice President, I had the opportunity to participate in many hiring committees. Every now and then I would discover someone who stood out, was truly focused and unique in multiple ways. Sian Proctor was one of those special people. She has a B.S. in Environmental Science, an M.S. in Geology, and a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction: Science Education. She was a person with dreams, big dreams.

Dr. Proctor quickly proved herself to be a unique faculty member with energy and drive to continually improve and gain skills. Sian had great interest in using multiple technologies in her teaching activities. She has completed several sabbaticals, the most recent was at ASU's Center for Education Through Exploration creating virtual field trips. She completed a 2012-2013 sabbatical at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) focusing on developing curriculum dealing with the science of natural disasters. Other projects focused upon the integration of technology in her teaching activities.

Sian is a pilot who wanted to be an astronaut. She is a Major in the Civil Air Patrol and serves as an aerospace educator. She was a finalist for the 2009 NASA Astronaut Program and was only a few positions away from being selected. She was involved in the first Hawaii Space Analog and Simulation Mission. In that simulation she assisted in the investigation of food preparation for long duration missions to the moon and mars. She was involved in a YouTube series and filmed Meals for Mars. In addition, Sian is often on television including the Discovery Channel, and was on the 2016 PBS program Genius with Stephen Hawking.



*Dr. Sian Proctor*

On September 15, 2021, Dr. Proctor was launched into orbit as the pilot of the Inspiration4 space capsule; the capsule was named the Dragon. Sian is proud to say she "flew with the dragon." She became the first Black woman to pilot a spacecraft. Sian has dreams and has found a way to live every one of them. The Maricopa Community Colleges are fortunate to have her as a member of the family. I made a really good hiring decision!

## Inspiration4 – All-Civilian Crew Launched into Space



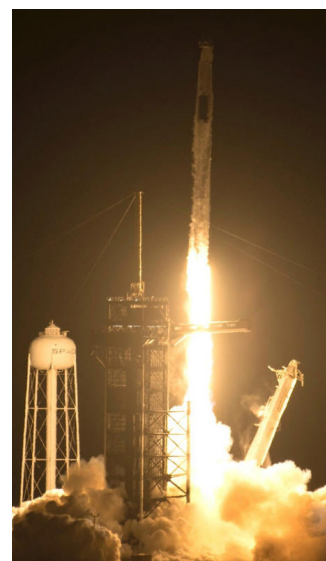
History was made on September 15, 2021, when the world's first all-civilian human spaceflight was launched into orbit from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida on a three-day journey around Earth. This unique event was experienced by one member of the Maricopa family, Dr. Sian Proctor.

The 51-year-old entrepreneur, educator, trained pilot, and voice in the space exploration community, was announced as a final crew member of the Inspiration4 space mission in March 2021.

Dr. Proctor is a geoscientist, explorer, space artist, and astronaut, and has been a geology professor at SMCC for over 20 years. On the Inspiration4 mission, she served as mission pilot and assisted commander and benefactor Jared Isaacman and other crew members Hayley Arceneaux and Chris Sembroski.

Inspiration4, funded by SpaceX, raised \$220 million for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital to help end childhood cancer. The journey saw the quartet free flying through Earth's orbit, spinning around the planet once every 90 minutes. The passengers, uninhibited by the restrictions of gravity, floated in the spacecraft and captured panoramic views of planet Earth. Traveling weightless at over 17,000 miles per hour, the crew conducted experiments designed to expand our knowledge of the universe.

Dr. Proctor is also a poet and space artist. Her goal in life is to inspire others to produce art and strive for equality, be inclusive, think about diversity. She wants to create a Just, Equitable, Diverse, and Inclusive world (J.E.D.I. space) as the founder of Space2inspire — or a unique space to inspire those within your reach and beyond.



View the launch at: <https://youtu.be/3pv01sSq44w> or access Inspiration4 Launch on YouTube.



## MCCRA Events Assist Future Retirees

Below are the dates and times for all Pre-Retirement events for the remainder of the Fiscal Year. Check the MCCRA web for how to log in to virtual events or attend in person.

### Event #1 (virtual)

- ASRS: Monday, December 6, 11am-12pm
- Financial Planning, Medicare, and Social Security: Tuesday, December 7, 11am-1pm

### Event #2 (hybrid @ PVCC)

- ASRS: Wednesday, January 26, 9-10:30am
- Financial Planning, Medicare, and Social Security: Thursday, January 27, 9-11am

### Event #3 (hybrid @ MCC)

- ASRS: Wednesday, February 23, 5-6:30pm
- Financial Planning, Medicare, and Social Security: Thursday, February 24, 5-7pm

### Event #4 (hybrid @ PC)

- ASRS: Tuesday, April 5, 11am-12:30pm
- Financial Planning, Medicare, and Social Security: Wednesday April 6, 11am-1pm



## Grow Your Own Food

By Caryl Terrell

SCC librarian Danielle Carlock lends new meaning to lending library. What started as a sabbatical project on food insecurity for students grew into so much more for not only students, faculty and staff at SCC but the Maricopa County community.

The free Maricopa Native Seed Library offers seeds collected from Tonto National Forest (under permit), the SCC garden, a few donations and even her own backyard. Seed libraries are located at SCC, PC, GWCC and MCC's Red Mountain campus.

Some of the popular food seeds include Sonoran Winter Wheat, Salt River Pima Pea and Desert Chia. The plant packets contain basic information about the level of difficulty and a link to the plants profile page on the seed library website. <https://libguides.maricopa.edu/seed>

Native seeds are free to anyone and come in packets of 20 to 25. Anyone can take home up to three packets from the Fannin Library at PC and the MCC Red Mountain Library which also offers curbside pickup.

Also at Red Mountain is an ethnobotanical garden recently established thanks to an Arizona Lottery Gives Back grant awarded via the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation.



## What Are You Doing in Your Retirement?

Send in your stories about travel, hobby or volunteer activities you are enjoying. Just a paragraph will do. If you don't want to commit to an article, send us your photos with explanations. Email info or photographs to editor: [patti.n.johnson@cgc.edu](mailto:patti.n.johnson@cgc.edu)

## 2021-2022 Dues Renewal • Maricopa Community Colleges Retirees' Association

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Check if any info is new \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street

City

State

Zip

Phone: Home ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Other ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues are \$25/year valid from July 2021 through June 2022.

Dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: MCC Retirees' Association

SURVEY: How would you prefer to receive your Maricopa GOLD newsletter?

Mail to: Betsy Hertzler, Treasurer • MCC Retirees' Association (MCCRA)  
2411 W. 14th Street • Tempe, AZ 85281-6942

Printed/Mailed \_\_\_\_\_  
Online \_\_\_\_\_

## Maricopa Community Colleges Retirees' Association 2021-2022 Board Nomination or Self-Nomination Form

In nominating someone other than yourself, please confirm the nomination with the nominee. Be sure to indicate the appropriate contact information.

I nominate: \_\_\_\_\_ to be a candidate for the 2021-2022 MCCRA Board.

Contact info/email:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Nomination form can be mailed with dues form to:

Ann Oehmke  
500 W. Clarendon, E13  
Phoenix, AZ 85013

Or email information to: [a Boehmke@cox.net](mailto:a Boehmke@cox.net)

## Maricopa Community Colleges Retirees' Association Endowed Scholarship Fund

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Check if any info is new \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street

City

State

Zip

Phone: Home ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Other ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Retired from which college \_\_\_\_\_

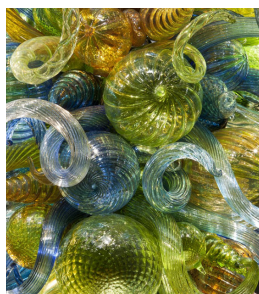
You can contribute in several ways to MCCRA Endowed Scholarship Fund. You may write a check.

Mail to: Maricopa Community College Foundation  
2419 West 14th Street • Tempe, AZ 85281

Or you can donate online at: <http://mcccdf.org/>

Either way, please indicate you are supporting the MCCRA Endowed Scholarship. A receipt will be sent to you.

MCCRA needs your input -  
Volunteer to serve on the Board  
See the Nomination form on page 7



## "Chihuly in the Desert" Premieres in December

Dale Chihuly returns to the Sonoran Desert with new exhibitions at two of Arizona's most iconic venues, Desert Botanical Garden and Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West. "Chihuly in the Desert" opens December 3, 2021, and is scheduled through at least June 19, 2022. Tickets are on sale now. According to the Desert Botanical Garden's website, the Chihuly exhibition is included with Garden membership or admission. Reservations are required. Visit <https://dbg.org/exhibits> for more information. Visit <https://franklloydwright.org/chihulyinthedesert> for additional details about the exhibition at Taliesin West.

## New and Improved MCCRA Website

Log in to [www.mccrassoc.org](http://www.mccrassoc.org) to view the updated website. Thanks to Sherry Peabody serving as our volunteer webmaster, the web contains more relevant information and is easy to navigate. Resource pages show links to health and medicine information, Arizona State Retirement System, financial planning, Arizona Library resources and the Dept of Economic Security services for older adults. You may read the online version of the Maricopa Gold newsletter and find previous editions. Travel and vacation events are listed for your enjoyment. Check out your MCCRA web.



## Your Amazon Purchases Can Support MCCCDF Foundation

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop with AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. AmazonSmile has donated over \$286 million to U.S. charities.

AmazonSmile is available at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. In the search box, you must type in Maricopa County Community College District Foundation.

To learn about more ways to support the MCCCDF Foundation, go to <https://mcccdf.org/give/>