

Making: Your Dreams Come True?

By David Weaver, Physics Faculty Emeritus, Maricopa 1981-2022 (so far) Educator/Physicist/Engineer/Maker

Maricopa Community Colleges celebrated the grand opening of the Phoenix Forge last September. This Maricopa Makerspace has been operating for over a year and is looking to expand its reach to Maricopans and the community. You need to check this place out.

Want to play there for **free**? Keep reading...

For the historians in the group, this idea bubbled up in the early 20-teens among an informal group called the Maricopa Innovative Thinkers (not a very innovative name, if you ask me; you can't even make a good acronym out of it!). In 2014, three of these "thinkers" conducted a summer institute at Tech Shop (a Makerspace located in Chandler, now defunct) for high school and community college faculty to create classroom board games on cool tools like 3D printers and vinyl and LASER etcher/cutters. The year 2018 saw another summer institute, this time at The STEAM Engine makerspace at EMCC, for Maricopa faculty to learn cool tools to do extraordinary things for and in classrooms.

During this time, some of the "thinkers" and folks from GWCC started discussing creating a district-wide Makerspace. Six years later, the Phoenix Forge was born and held the first faculty Summer Institute last May. Maybe we should consider having a retired Maricopan Institute soon, huh?

What is a Makerspace? Well, it is a place you go to make stuff. They usually have lots of excellent tools, classes to learn how to use them, people to help you bring your ideas to fruition, and informal networks of folks that share ideas and experiences. Here's some of what the Phoenix Forge has to offer (look on their page to see the complete list phxforge.com/about):

- Large prototyping area (can also be used for meetings)
- Five 3D printers of different sizes and capabilities
- Large format (poster) printer
- Vinyl cutter and heat transfer equipment (make signs, t-shirts, etc.)
- Three LASER cutter/etchers of different sizes and capabilities



- A long-arm quilting machine (plans to get computerized)
- Six industrial sewing machines
- Jewelry fabrication area
- Metal shop (welding, plasma cutting, CNC milling, grinding, bending, etc.)
- Woodshop (saws, drills, sanders—hand-held and installed, lathes, CNC router, etc.)

I think a Makerspace is THE place for retirees to hang out and let their creative juices flow. I remember when my grandpa and dad had garages and basements full of tools, but I didn't have the space at home to set up lots of tools nor the disposable income to buy and maintain them. But, I've had access to Makerspaces for nearly a decade now, so I haven't had the desire to try to set up my own shop (which my wife, Kimb, really appreciates.) I make many of the birthday gifts I give, created all the signage and toast glasses for our daughter's wedding, created swag for non-profits and events, etc. I've made bowls and am working on furniture. I make a LOT of stuff because I can. And you can too...

Did I say **free**? Members of the Maricopa Retirees' community can get the first three months of membership free. This is not offered to anyone else. I don't want this to start to sound like a cheesy infomercial, but this is a great deal for you. Active MCCCCD students, faculty, and staff get free memberships, but the community pays \$75/per month. There will likely be a seniors' rate available after your free trial (probably \$65/month), and the Maricopa Retirees' Association may be able to help fund some of the equipment training classes.

If you are interested in learning more, send me a message at david.weaver@domail.maricopa.edu, or david.weaver.atomic@pm.me. You may call (602) 286-8599 or email them at makerspace@gatewaycc.edu.

Maricopa News

Office of the Chancellor Steven R. Gonzales

New Leadership at the Colleges

GateWay Community College – The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program announced that Dr. Amy Diaz, Interim President of GWCC, is one of 31 leaders selected for the 2022-23 class of Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship, in collaboration with the Stanford Educational Leadership Initiative.

Glendale Community College – After serving the college and district for 27 years, GCC President Dr. Teresa Leyba Ruiz announced her retirement as of the end of September. Dr. Ernie Lara will serve as GCC's Interim President. He previously served as the President of EMCC for nearly 12 years until his retirement in 2019.

Mesa Community College – After a nationwide search, Dr. Tammy Robinson was selected as the new President of MCC. Dr. Robinson's professional experience spans 25 years as a community college administrator and faculty member. Since 2018, Dr. Robinson served as the Vice President of Instruction at Cañada College in Redwood City, California.

Paradise Valley Community College – A special event in May celebrated former PVCC President Dr. Paul Dale's retirement and contributions to the college and district, where he supported student participation in the ACE (Achieving a College Education) Program. After an extensive, nationwide search, Dr. Tiffany Hunter was selected as the new President of PVCC. Dr. Hunter has worked in higher education for 21 years and in administrative roles in both two- and four-year institutions for over 15 years.

Phoenix College – Dr. Kimberly Britt is the new president of PC, bringing 25 years of experience in higher education with a focus on building collaboration to create and reinforce support structures across institutional boundaries to ensure student success and equity. Her former leadership positions include PC's Vice President of Academic Affairs and the Accreditation Liaison Officer and special assistant to the Chancellor of the Virginia Community College system.

South Mountain Community College – After 11 years at SMCC, President Dr. Shari Olson retired with a farewell celebration in July. Following a national search, Dr. Richard C. Daniel has been selected as the next President of SMCC bringing professional experience spanning 30 years in the Arizona higher education community.

MCCCD Named America's Top Community College for Women to Work

The Maricopa County Community College District, with ten individually accredited colleges throughout the Greater Phoenix area, has been ranked the number one community college in the nation for women to work in this year's [America's Best Employers For Women](#) list published by Forbes magazine.

Additionally, out of 400 American companies included in the list, MCCC ranked fifth out of Higher Education Institutions following Loyola University Chicago (No. 1), Southern New Hampshire University (No. 2), University of South Florida (No. 3) and University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) (No. 4).

Currently, women make up 58.28% percent of the MCCC workforce, 58.23% are women in positions of leadership, and six of the seven MCCC elected Governing Board members are women. MCCC also offers the Linda B. Rosenthal Women's Mentor Program which provides continuous development of an active and supportive work environment for the diverse women of the college district.

This year's ranking by Forbes was compiled through a survey of 50,000 Americans — 30,000 women and 20,000 men — working for businesses with at least 1,000 employees.



RIO SALADO COLLEGE

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Rio Salado Celebrates HLC Reaccreditation

The Higher Learning Commission reaffirmed Rio Salado College's reaccreditation by formal notice in May following two years of preparation that culminated in the spring with a formal peer review site visit.

"This was incredible work by the steering team, criterion chairs, subject matter experts and the community college at large," said Dr. Kate Smith, Rio Salado president. "It is with immense pride that I am able to share the news of our reaffirmation of accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission."

Rio Salado College has been accredited by the HLC since 1981. Since the first accreditation, RSC has successfully undergone four comprehensive visits, including one this spring with the Peer Review Team.

The HLC was founded in 1895 as one of six regional institutional accreditors in the United States. It is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

Your Retirement Matters

ASRS • Financial Planning • Medicare • Social Security

MCCRA will offer its Pre-Retirement Event Series starting with the **"Your Retirement Matters" kick-off event on Wednesday, October 12 from 8 am – 12 pm at the Rio Salado Conference Center**. This event is open to all employees. Whether you are close to retirement, new to the workforce, or somewhere in-between, it is never too late to plan for your future. Retirees are also invited to attend.

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn from retirement experts on the following topics: Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS), Medicare, Social Security Administration and Financial Planning.

Register to join us in person!

Wednesday October 12, 2022

9 am – 12 pm (doors open at 8 am for light breakfast)
Rio Salado Conference Center in Tempe, Arizona

Can't attend in-person? No worries! The event will be broadcast live, the link will be available on the Maricopa Gold web page on October 12, 2022.

If you have any questions, please contact AskHR@domail.maricopa.edu or Ann Oehmke aohmke@cox.net or visit mccrassoc.org/.

Save the Dates

- **December 5, 2022, 11 am - 12:30 pm**
ASRS Route 3: Destination in Sight
- **December 6, 2022, 11 am – 1 pm**
Pre-Retirement Planning with Financial Planning, Medicare, and Social Security
- **January 26, 2023, 9 am - 10:30 am**
ASRS Route 3: Destination in Sight
- **January 27, 2023, 9 am – 11 am**
Pre-Retirement Planning with Financial Planning, Medicare, and Social Security
- **February 23, 2023, 5 pm - 6:30 pm**
ASRS Route 3: Destination in Sight
- **February 24, 2023, 5 pm – 7 pm**
Pre-Retirement Planning with Financial Planning, Medicare, and Social Security
- **April 5, 2023, 11 am - 12:30 pm**
ASRS Route 3: Destination in Sight
- **April 6, 2023, 11 am – 1 pm**
Pre-Retirement Planning with Financial Planning, Medicare, and Social Security

You can also peruse ASRS Route 3 and Route 4 video recordings on the ASRS web azasrs.gov or sign up for their webinars.

Emeritus Status Awarded

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



NOVEMBER 2021

Frank Attanucci, Math, SCC
Dr. Shereen Lerner, Anthropology, MCC
Patrice Nango, Philosophy/Religious Studies, MCC

FEBRUARY 2022

Rene Cornell, English, PVCC
Duane Oakes, Center for Community & Civic Engagement, MCC
John Liffiton, English/ESL, SCC

MARCH 2022

Bonnie Loss, Arts & Humanities, GCC
Dr. Charles Vawter Jr, Accounting, GCC (Posthumous)

APRIL 2022

Bahman Maneshni, Business, PVCC
David Schultz, Math, MCC
Enrico Serpone, Math, MCC
Richard Wilson, Criminal Justice & Forensics, PC
Dr. Maureen Zimmerman, Nutrition, MCC

MAY 2022

Dr. Robert Reavis, Biology, GCC

JUNE 2022

Dr. Antonio Cardenas, Spanish & Latin American Film, MCC
Timothy Florschuetz, Writing Center, MCC
David Schmidt, Music, GCC

AUGUST 2022

Kristen Berdahl, Physical Therapy, GWCC
Dr. Librado (Lee) Garza, Business, CGCC
Monica Melzer Wadsworth-Seibel, Allied Health, GWCC
Dr. Yvonne Reineke, English & Humanities, CGCC

Phoenix College Hosts 100th Graduation

PC celebrated its 100th graduating class in May with two milestone ceremonies awarding 3,811 degrees and certificates. The Class of 2022 was quite a bit larger than PC's first graduating class of five students in 1922.

Phoenix Junior College, as it was known in 1920, began with a class of 18 students. Two years later, on May 26, 1922, four men and one woman graduated. The next year, 12 men and seven women crossed the stage, while enrollment surpassed 80 students.

Graduates at the 2022 event received a commemorative tassel and the History of Phoenix College coffee table book, which is a vivid accounting of the College's 100-year history. www.phoenixcollege.edu/100/pc-history

VOLUNTEERING:

"Giving is the most selfish thing

In Service to America

By Sally Sugden Jesse

Volunteer service to the community helps bridge community needs that might otherwise go unmet due to lack of funding or lack of staff support. Volunteers benefit from the experiences through relationships made within the community, increase their understanding of issues affecting their community, build self-esteem knowing they have helped others, and continue to hone skills used for a lifetime.

Imagine if you could receive financial reward as well! AmeriCorps is a federal agency that provides opportunities for Americans of all backgrounds to serve their country by serving their national, state and/or local communities, and provides a monthly stipend.

According to the Mesa United Way AmeriCorps website (mesaunitedway.org/ameri-corps), after completing the service, volunteers are given an education award which can be shared with children and/or grandchildren.

Last year in Arizona, 6,866 members and volunteers served at 551 locations with an investment of over \$23 million to the Arizona economy, resulting in a stronger community while increasing the return on taxpayer dollars. You could make the volunteer count 6,867 this year!

Mesa United Way works with AmeriCorps in year-round organizations that benefit children and teens in foster and kinship care. Foster and kinship care are similar except that with kinship care, children and teens are placed with relatives out of the family home rather than with unrelated foster parents. Volunteers are needed at these sites.

Helen's Hope Chest (HHC) is the primary AmeriCorps organization providing support for children and teens in foster and kinship care in Mesa. Each year, HHC distributes roughly 3,000 gifts for children and teens during the holiday season, and hosts a "boutique-like facility" where children and teens in care can "shop" up to four times a year for free. HHC noticed that youth that are aging-out, teens that have passed their 18th birthday, often have trouble transitioning to caring for themselves. Foster360 was developed under HHC to aid these older teens. By coordinating existing services for those aging-out, teens are eased into adulthood while guided toward health and financial stability. Culver Campus in Mesa opened recently to provide stable and affordable housing options for those no longer allowed foster care and who might otherwise be homeless.



AMERICORPS WANTED

MESA UNITED WAY & HELEN'S HOPE CHEST

Mesa United Way and Helen's Hope Chest is looking for AmeriCorps members to serve Arizona's Foster and Kinship community while earning a living stipend and education award. Positions require a 1-year, 10-month, or 8-month commitment.

Contract ends August 31, 2023.

Reasonable accommodations can be provided for the application and interview process. For more information, contact Catherine Berger at catherine.berger@mesaunitedway.org.

Apply @ mesaunitedway.org/ameri-corps

<i>Positions</i>		
HALF TIME	REDUCED HALF TIME	QUARTER TIME
900 Total Hours	675 Total Hours	450 Total Hours
\$7025 Living Stipend (before taxes)	\$5170 Living Stipend (before taxes)	\$3545 Living Stipend (before taxes)
\$3,097 Education Award	\$2,360 Education Award	\$1,638 Education Award



AmeriCorps has an application process called the pre-qualifications survey which can be accessed online. Candidates must be at least 15 years of age, be U.S. citizens, have received the Covid 19 vaccinations; and pass Federal, State, and National Sex Offender Registry background checks. The pre-qualification survey will give you an opportunity to select the program you would like to support and to state why you feel the position is right for you and what you might offer the program. After passing the pre-qualification survey, you will be contacted for an interview where your volunteer service project will be finalized.

Arizona has several AmeriCorps programs throughout the state including two programs providing opportunities for low-income seniors to serve, one program providing opportunities for anyone over 55 to serve, and several additional programs providing opportunities for people of all ages.

If you want further information about AmeriCorps on the national, state, or local level, please visit AmeriCorps.gov. If you wish further information about the opportunities to serve Mesa foster and kinship programs, please contact Catherine Berger at catherine.berger@mesaunitedway.org or apply directly at Apply@mesaunitedway.org/ameri-corps.

you will ever do.”

Chadwick Boseman, Actor

Volunteering is Good for You and Others

By Caryl Terrell

Once we retire, we have so many decisions to make. Do we downsize our home? Move closer to the grandkids. Become our grandkids' daily caregivers. What supplemental insurance do we choose? What's our first travel destination from our "Someday Travel" list? Another of those decisions is how to spend our time now that we have so much free time. And like all these decisions, it too is important. One of the best choices we can make is volunteering. There are significant benefits — physical, mental, and social — that come with volunteering.

With volunteering, people have the opportunity to participate in charitable causes, meet new people, and make a difference in the lives of others. Without question, volunteering impacts lives for the better, including that of the volunteer. This has proven to be true through both studies and anecdotal evidence shared by countless volunteers whose lives have been positively enhanced. Volunteering helps participants to not only meet new friends but also provides them a sense of community, with both bringing fun into one's life. The good feelings volunteering can bring can help lessen the effects of stress and anxiety in one's life, leading to greater happiness and a better quality of life.

In "Helping people, changing lives: 3 health benefits of volunteering" (Mayo Clinic Health System), according to research, the benefits of volunteering are especially true for older adults. Those benefits include improvements to both mental and physical health. "Volunteer activities keep people moving and thinking at the same time."

Mayo Clinic Health System states that research has shown that volunteering leads to lower rates of depression and anxiety, especially for people 65 and older. It states that when people volunteer, stress levels are reduced. "Reduced stress further decreases risk of many physical and mental health problems, such as heart disease, stroke, depression, anxiety, and general illness. In addition, a longitudinal study of aging found that individuals who volunteer have lower mortality rates than those who do not, even when controlling for age, gender, and physical health."

People with disabilities or chronic health conditions may wonder if volunteering is something they can participate in, and the answer is most definitely yes as health improvements after volunteering have also been shown. Many organizations need help with projects that can be done remotely, such as writing, graphic design, email, other web-based tasks, or phone contacts.

When volunteering, the key to how much time one devotes is what works best for the individual, and what is most comfortable. It's also important to ask questions to make sure that the situation is a good fit for the individual and for one's skills and goals. Make sure to know what's expected before starting. And if what is first chosen doesn't work out, it's perfectly fine to make a change. What's important to remember, is that it's supposed to be fun and rewarding and benefit both the volunteer and the chosen cause. There are myriad volunteer opportunities in every community - find one you like.

Where to find **volunteer opportunities**

- Community theaters, museums, and monuments
- Libraries or senior centers
- Service organizations such as Lions Clubs or Rotary Clubs
- Food pantries
- Local animal shelters, rescue organizations, or wildlife centers
- Youth organizations, sports teams, and after-school programs
- Political campaigns at local, state, or national levels
- Historical restorations, national parks, and conservation organizations
- Places of worship such as churches or synagogues
- Online directories and other resources

Online Resources

[Volunteer Match](#)

[Idealist](#)

[National and Community Service](#)

[Volunteer](#)

[U.S. Peace Corps](#)

[American Red Cross](#)



Healing Humans and Horses

By Gordon Jesse

Yoga is described as a journey rather than a destination; a comprehensive lifelong endeavor in which followers continually seek to improve their minds and bodies. Carlyn Sikes retired from Scottsdale Community College in spring, 2021, after 20 years as residential faculty and faculty program director for yoga. It should come as no surprise, then, that she continues yoga into her retirement, both for personal fulfillment and to share it with others. For herself, she practices with a daily routine of poses, meditation, and breathing exercises, and she also studies with master teachers. For others, Carlyn teaches yoga three times a week at a private studio in Queen Creek, teaches former students on Zoom, and is developing her own yoga therapy practice. Yoga is clearly her passion, but it isn't her only passion.

Carlyn had always wanted a horse, and in 2010, in what she describes as "sort of a mid-life crisis," she got one. When Murphy came into her life, he was 150 pounds underweight and had about 50 pounds of sand in his belly. With lots of love (and proper amounts of food and other supplements), his health issues resolved and he gained the right kind of weight. The bond that grew between them started Carlyn on her second passion: caring for the physical and mental health of damaged horses.

In 2015, Carlyn found horse property in Queen Creek where she could have Murphy in her backyard, and two more rescues soon followed. Then in 2020, she was reading a Facebook page for wild horses from northeastern California, and Diamond Joe O'Shaunnessy came to her attention. He was a young colt with cranial nerve damage that caused paralysis on the left side of his face. This left his face twisted and made eating, drinking, and breathing difficult.

"I would like to think that someone else would have stepped in if I hadn't but, realistically, he most likely would have been euthanized. I brought him here and resolved to myself that I would take whatever issues came with him. This horse could not just be rehabilitated and moved along to a new home like many rescues, he needed to stay with me, and I wanted to do that for him."

The paralysis was eventually resolved through Equine Acupressure, but it left partial blindness and mental trauma, which is more difficult to resolve.

Out of this experience, Diamond Joe's Animal Sanctuary was born. Focusing on horses, but including other animals, the

Sanctuary currently has nine horses of varying ages, five ducks, three turkeys, two goats, and one donkey.

"It is a step-by-step process. The first step is to ensure the horses learn to trust again. They need to live as a herd to learn to trust each other and, ultimately, they need to learn to be friendly with people; to trust us – that's the harder part," said Carlyn. "Our commitment to the horses is that

they have a permanent place to live, with each other and with me, for the rest of their lives."

Carlyn sees the second step as making the facility available to those who might benefit from interaction with the horses, whether it be at a distance, or up close, hands on. Her vision is a place that is calm, so those in need of healing or a change of perspective can interact with the horses, for mutual benefit.

"I hope those with their own trauma can relate in some way to Joe's struggles."

Carlyn is also taking special yoga training focusing on PTSD and mental trauma, which she hopes to use to help humans and animals.

The third step is fundraising. Obviously, an operation like Carlyn's is expensive to maintain. Veterinary fees, special-diet food, medicines, and other costs, far exceed those for healthy horses. Another significant expense is transportation of the horses to the facility, which is paid by the Sanctuary, and can be more than \$1,000 per horse. If you would like to lend a hand with the costs, or just would like more information, go to the Facebook page, "Diamond Joe's Animal Sanctuary."

Carlyn Sikes is doing a huge amount of work in her retirement, more than most retirees would want to do but she feels lucky to be able to combine her two passions of helping people and helping horses.



MCCRA Membership Dues for 2022-23

Dues for MCCRA are \$25 per academic year due July 1. A bargain for newly retired Maricopans who receive their first-year membership FREE. Use the enclosed form on page 7 to submit your membership dues now.

While you have your checkbook or credit card out, consider making a contribution to the MCCRA Endowed Scholarship Fund, which includes the Dr. Mildred Bulpitt Endowed Scholarship. Your giving provides needed academic support to MCCC students.

A Small Time Commitment Makes A Huge Difference

Do you have a few hours to spare?

Volunteer scholarship reviewers give 1-2 hours every few months and work right from the comfort of their own homes! Not only is it easy, it's extremely rewarding. You'll read amazing stories about the obstacles our students have overcome and the difference that scholarships make in helping them to achieve their educational goals.

If interested, contact the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation, Judy Sanchez, Director of Development and College Relations at judy.sanchez@domail.maricopa.edu or call 480.731.8739.

National Make a Difference Day
October 22, 2022

How are you spending your time?

Maricopa Gold invites submissions from retirees about what you are doing. Share anything you think would be of interest to retirees from the college district.

Travel	Written a book	Hiking or walking trail
Volunteer activities	Book recommendation	Gardening
Class or workshop	Movie suggestion	Feel good moments
Hobby	Favorite music	Good joke
Games	Senior discounts	Anything !!!
Organizations or clubs	Favorite restaurant	
Genealogy	Excellent wine	
Poetry	Health tips	

If you don't want to commit to write an article, send in basic information and we will follow up with you. The newsletter welcomes you to send in a photograph with a caption describing the activity and the participants. Email info or photos to the Maricopa Gold editor at patti.n.johnson@cgc.edu

2022-2023 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 2022 through June 2023.

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 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: mcccdf.org/

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

CALLING ALL THINKERS AND TINKERERS

Do you want to explore, learn, and create?
You can have access to prototyping, technical
and computer-operated tools, plus conventional
power tools. (See the article on page 1)

Join a new group forming to develop the
MARICOPA RETIREES' INSTITUTE

State of the Maricopa Community Colleges 2022

MCCCD Chancellor Dr. Steven R. Gonzales was honored in the spring by Phoenix Business Journal as one of its Most Admired Leaders of 2022. On Tuesday, June 7, Dr. Gonzales delivered his second annual State of the District address. As the community continues to recover from the economic shock of the COVID-19 pandemic, our workforce and industry partnerships are more critical than ever. Dr. Gonzales addresses the Maricopa Community Colleges' crucial role as the largest provider of workforce training and development in the state, how we curate a robust talent pipeline for key industries across the region, and the sharpened focus of our academic lens on connecting students with career pathways. View the update at youtu.be/xmDoFqZ3erE

BREAKING NEWS FROM MCCCD

As of the Maricopa Community Colleges Governing Board meeting on Sept. 27, 2022, Dr. Steven Gonzales will serve as our official Chancellor for the Maricopa County Community College District.

"Congratulations to Dr. Steven Gonzales on this important role as Chancellor of the Maricopa County Community College District."

Arizona Governor Doug Ducey

Ducey added "Arizona will continue to benefit from Maricopa's workforce development training, two-year degree programs, and now four-year degree programs, helping to propel college students from classrooms into fulfilling careers."

Since January of 2020, Dr. Gonzales has served as the Interim Chancellor for MCCCD. The Board, faculty, staff, and students have benefitted from Dr. Gonzales's leadership through the last two years of unprecedented difficulties dealing with a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic.

Route to Relief has Officially Launched!

MCCCD's Route to Relief is offered in partnership with the City of Phoenix, and provides free tuition, monthly stipends, and employment assistance for eligible programs across the 10 Maricopa Community Colleges. This program is designed to assist individuals whose employment or household income was impacted by the pandemic. Total funding available is \$7M and will be available to participants through December 2024.

To view a list of eligible programs, please visit maricopa.edu/route-to-relief.

If you would like to share this opportunity with others, please direct them to complete an inquiry form online. Upon receipt of the inquiry form, each student will be guided through a career navigation and enrollment process by the Maricopa Corporate College (MCCR) and District Office Student Affairs - Enrollment Concierge Services (ECS).

KJZZ Receives Four News Awards

KJZZ won four regional Edward R. Murrow Awards from the Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA) for news coverage in 2022. Murrow award-winning stories put public interest above all else, providing a catalyst for public discussion. Regional Murrow Award winners advance to the National Murrow Award competition.

This year KJZZ's regional Edward R. Murrow awards are in the following areas:

- Continuing Coverage: 2020 Arizona Election Audit by Ben Giles
- Investigative Reporting: Aguas Negras: In 2 Mexican Beach Towns, Raw Sewage is Running through the Streets by Kendal Blust (in partnership with Arizona Daily Star)
- News Series: Discharged: Becoming a Veteran by Scott Bourque (adapted from Becoming a Veteran, a Hear Arizona podcast)
- Sports Reporting: Legal Sports Betting Officially Begins in Arizona by Matthew Casey