



ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



0910

ANNUAL REPORT

VISION | MISSION | VALUES

VISION

We provide exceptional and creative learning experiences that prepare all learners to achieve their dreams and transform their lives.

MISSION

Estrella Mountain is an innovative higher learning organization responding to the diverse needs of West Valley communities. Learners have an opportunity to successfully accomplish their educational and personal goals through the following college purposes:

- Developmental Education
- General Education
- Transfer Education
- Learner Support Services
- Workforce Development
- Community Education
- Civic Responsibility
- Global Engagement

CORE VALUES

We value learning and engagement through:

Integrity

- Being accountable to fulfill goals, objectives and responsibilities
- Being truthful, respectful, sincere, and responsible in interactions with others

Diversity

- Considering the contributions and worldviews of others
- Promoting an inclusive campus culture that supports social awareness
- Committing to comprehensive inter-cultural learning and awareness

Collaboration

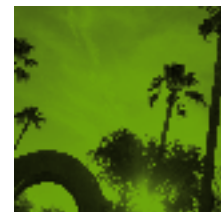
- Growing partnerships and building relationships that enhance the learning environment
- Practicing communication methods that engage all learners

Innovation

- Committing to the continued exploration and development of successful learning practices
- Encouraging creativity and professional exploration within our community of learners

Sustainability

- Understanding how our actions impact the local and global community
- Reducing negative effects on the environment through proactive and sustainable practices
- Applying practices that encourage environmental, economic and social responsibility



A NOTE TO OUR COMMUNITY

Students come to Estrella Mountain to achieve their dreams and transform their lives. With a wealth of support services available to help students succeed in university transfer, workforce development and community education programs, Estrella Mountain is a vibrant learning college, alive with growth, opportunity and achievement.

For Estrella Mountain Community College, the 2009-2010 academic year was a year of substantial growth. Estrella Mountain experienced a 10% increase in the number of students attending college classes. The SouthWest Skill Center experienced a 12% increase. That is more than 1,000 new students filling our classrooms, courtyards and parking lots. Even with more students, fewer

resources and major ongoing college initiatives, the campus community continued to work together to accomplish the goals we have set as an institution.

The year was also filled with opportunity as the college began an intensive self-study process in preparation of our third accreditation visit with the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (HLC) in fall 2011. The self-study process gives us the opportunity to prove to our community that we are meeting our institutional mission. We will also demonstrate that the college not only provides West Valley communities with access to a variety of degrees, programs and services, but that we are doing it as a learning-centered organization that deeply values teaching, learning and caring.

Estrella Mountain continues on the journey to remain the West Valley's premier site for learning-focused instruction and service. This annual report provides just a glimpse at our many accomplishments and achievements. It will also give insight to the experiences of our students, and provide updates on our institutional directions and priorities.

Thank you for your support as we continue to move toward our shared vision of becoming a comprehensive learning college.

Regards,



Ernest A. Lara, Ph.D. | PRESIDENT



President's Message
About the College
About Our Students
Student Experience

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ABOUT THE COLLEGE

STUDENTS WORK FOR COMMUNITY



As a community of learners, the faculty and staff of Estrella Mountain Community College and the SouthWest Skill Center are committed to the continual assessment of programs, policies and practices, and making changes wherever necessary to place learning at the core.

ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Estrella Mountain Community College, a Maricopa Community College, provides learning opportunities, educational experiences and workforce training for the western metropolitan Phoenix population. Estrella Mountain enrolls more than 13,000 students per year and is master planned to be a large comprehensive learning college of over 40,000 students at full build out.

SOUTHWEST SKILL CENTER

Opening in 1999 as the Maricopa Skill Center, the SouthWest Skill Center officially became part of Estrella Mountain Community College in 2000. Since its opening, the Center has provided nearly 3,000 West Valley students with quality training for immediate job entry into the allied health and distribution industries.

Estrella Mountain Community College, one of the Maricopa Community Colleges, is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association. Address: 230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604. Phone: 800 621 7440. Website: ncahlc.org

STAFF
COMMUNITY

Estrella Mountain Community College was founded in 1999 as a Maricopa Community College. The college will celebrate 20 years of serving the community during the 2011-2012 academic year.

ABOUT OUR STUDENTS

GENDER ENROLLMENT BREAKDOWN¹



Annual Enrollment | UNDUPLICATED HEADCOUNT

EMCC Credit Students **11,636**
 EMCC Non-Credit Students **1,678**
 SouthWest Skill Center Students **959**

Degree and Certificate Completers | 2009-2010

Degrees **502**
 Certificates **411**
 SouthWest Skill Center Certificates **633**

Outstanding Student Achievements | CLASS OF 2010

Graduated with Distinction (3.5-3.69 GPA) **19%**
 Graduated with High Distinction (3.7-3.89 GPA) **12%**
 Graduated with Highest Distinction (3.9-4.0 GPA) **8%**

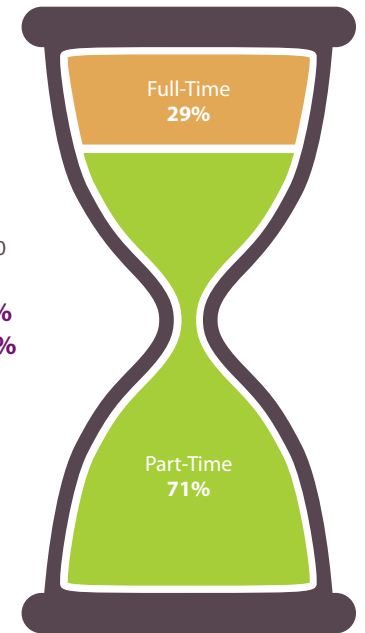
Instructional Staff | FALL 2009

Full-time Instructors **81**
 Part-time Instructors **223**

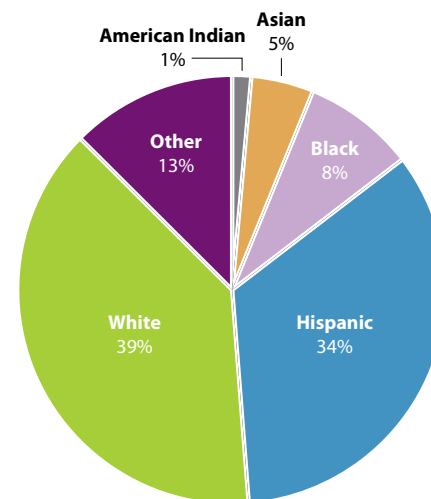
Tuition²

County Resident: **\$71 per credit hour**
 Out of County: 1-6 credits **\$96 per credit hour**
 7+ credits **\$312 per credit hour**

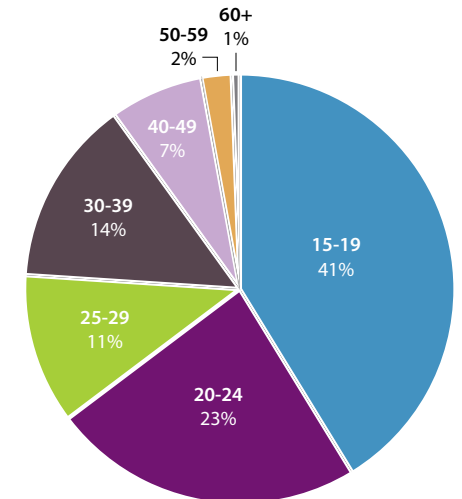
STUDENT ENROLLMENT BREAKDOWN¹



ETHNICITY BREAKDOWN¹



AGE BREAKDOWN¹



¹ Percentages are based on Fall 2009 unduplicated credit headcount. ² All tuition and fees are subject to change pending MCCC Governing Board approval.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

For West Valley students, Estrella Mountain Community College means options. Whether the goal is an associate degree, university transfer, career training, or a special interest course, Estrella Mountain students experience a supportive and caring environment centered on teaching and learning. Research demonstrates that the more engaged a student is in the educational process, the more likely they are to be successful. To prepare students for success during their first year of college, Estrella Mountain provides an opportunity to participate in a new student orientation. This program helps new college students feel comfortable in their new academic surroundings by introducing study skills, time management, acquainting them with peers and faculty, and providing encouragement to become engaged in campus activities.

For new and continuing students, the Estrella Mountain experience offers comprehensive programs and services, instruction from award-winning faculty, innovative classroom spaces, and access to technology and learning support services. In order to meet the various needs of students, Estrella Mountain also provides flexible learning options such as online and 'hybrid' courses—a blend of in-person and online coursework—as well as weekend and evening courses, and even expanded course offerings in Buckeye. The student experience is further enriched by on and off-campus activities such as an Honors Program for student scholars, learning communities, student ambassador opportunities, student clubs, campus-wide awareness events, internships, and research activities.

Whatever the academic, personal or professional goal, Estrella Mountain provides West Valley students with the instruction and support needed to achieve their dreams and transform their lives.

Learning is
what we do.
It is our journey.



MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The college experienced a fall 2009 increase of 10% in new student enrollments.
- Estrella Mountain began an intensive self-study process in preparation for the college's third accreditation visit in fall 2011.
- During the summer months, the college hosted hundreds of future college students in a variety of activities including: Culinary Camp, Teen Law Enforcement Academy, Summer Reading Camp, Gallery 37, Jr. Achieving a College Education (ACE) Mars Academy, Jr. ACE Physics, ACE Scholars Program and Hoop of Learning.
- The Nursing Program completed an accreditation visit from the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC), and was recommended for the maximum accreditation of eight years.
- Three full-time residential faculty members were hired in the areas of mathematics and biology.
- Estrella Mountain implemented a new program review process that aligns with college strategic directions, develops consistency among program areas, and focuses on student learning outcomes.
- Estrella Mountain expanded course offerings in Buckeye and increased online and hybrid course offerings.
- Mariposa Hall opened as the college's first capital project eligible for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certification.
- To provide students with hands-on experience in the critical fields of bioscience and nursing, the college opened one of the most unique high-tech nursing simulation labs in the state of Arizona.
- Student Services implemented a "cohort advisement model" to better connect advisors with students, launched a peer mentoring program to promote student success and established a Veteran's Office.
- The college continued its commitment to diversity and social awareness through a variety of events and celebrations such as: Black History Month; Disability Awareness Month; Domestic Violence Awareness Month; Hispanic Heritage Month; Native American Heritage Month; World Aids Day; Women's History Month; various displays, panel discussions, film series and performances; visiting art exhibitions; and more.
- The college became a member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).
- To move forward in the areas of student success and retention, the college formed a task force focused on developmental education.
- Through various community partnerships, the college hosted several successful scholarship fundraisers including the Annual Car Raffle, Golf Tournament and the Awards for Excellence Dinner and Gala.
- In collaboration with several community partners, the college created a Business Retention Internship program that maximizes resources, offers a voice to Southwest valley businesses and provides training to the students in valuable real-world skills.
- The Online Adjunct Faculty Orientation program was recognized as the Estrella Mountain Innovation of the Year. The program provides college adjunct faculty a resource to be successful in the classroom.
- In partnership with the cities of Avondale and Goodyear Police Departments, the college conducted a joint training exercise on the college campus to test inter-operability during a crisis situation, specifically, an active shooter scenario.
- To evaluate and improve student success, the college participated in the College Basic Academic Subjects Examination (CBASE) Essay Assessment along with the Noel Levitz Student Satisfaction Inventory and the EDUCAUSE Center for Applied Research (ECAR) Technology Evaluation.
- The college finalized plans to start an intercollegiate athletics program. The inaugural season will include cross country and golf.
- Estrella Mountain piloted a guaranteed schedule, reassuring students those specific courses would not be canceled.
- For the fifth consecutive year, the college successfully hosted the Maricopa Community Colleges Student Conference. The conference was themed "The Dark Side of Human Nature," and included a variety of student presentations, displays and guest speakers.
- Two Estrella Mountain students, Monika Groomes and Lauren Hansen, were winners of the All-Arizona Academic Team Scholarship.
- In partnership with the West Valley Think Tank, the college hosted more than 70 educators for a Mathematics Summit with the intent to explore ideas for increased collaboration among mathematics educators and those who support the curriculum along the pre K-20 pipeline.
- As a campus community, Estrella Mountain raised more than \$49,000 for the Valley of the Sun United Way.
- The college sent a team consisting of 32 college faculty and staff to the Learning College Summit.



STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITIES – 2010 TO 2013

1

MAXIMIZING STUDENT SUCCESS

Estrella Mountain will create and expand learning-centered programs and strategies that support the success of students.

- Expand programs and services to support the success of underprepared and developmental education students
- Foster student engagement campus wide
- Enhance career and educational planning
- Create a systemic approach to recruiting and retaining students for optimal college enrollments

2

CREATING A CULTURE OF ASSESSMENT

Estrella Mountain will commit to assessing and documenting learning outcomes across divisions that result in strategies to improve learning.

- Strengthen assessment of learning outcomes at the college, program and course level to ensure accountability and continuous improvement
- Integrate learning college principles in program evaluation processes
- Incorporate community and student input as part of the assessment process

3

CREATING AN ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE THAT SUPPORTS LEARNING

Estrella Mountain will cultivate an organizational culture where policies, programs, practices, and employees support learning as the major priority. This includes professional development programs and diversity initiatives that prepare all employees to become more effective facilitators of learning.

- Expand employee learning and development opportunities in support of the learning college principles
- Commit to continuous pedagogy improvement
- Develop innovative employee recognition programs

4

CREATING DYNAMIC ENVIRONMENTS THAT SUPPORT STUDENT LEARNING

Estrella Mountain will promote and support the expansion of dynamic learning environments that improves student learning through the effective use of information technology and teaching pedagogies.

- Increase student engagement, learning and success through research, design and use of appropriate technology
- Enable, support and expand faculty and staff innovation that supports improvements in student learning, retention and success
- Use appropriate innovative technology to increase access to learning for students, faculty, staff, and community
- Research, position and utilize technology to create effective solutions to higher education challenges (e.g., access, learning, security, customer service)
- Research, plan and respond to increasing demand for specialized learning environments

5

MAXIMIZING PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCES TO SUPPORT LEARNING

Estrella Mountain will maximize existing partnerships and resources (capital and human), while continuing to pursue new opportunities to support learning.

- Enhance planning and cultivate resource development in support of learning
- Seek and nurture partnerships that further the vision, mission and values of the college
- Participate in sustainable practices that provide long-term resource savings and positively impact the community

MASTER PLANNING OUR COMMUNITY

As a college campus differentiated by design, Estrella Mountain has always focused master planning efforts on building and creating innovative teaching and learning spaces, while integrating environmental elements and public art to reflect the culture and history of the surrounding West Valley Community.

During the 2009-2010 academic year, Estrella Mountain successfully opened Mariposa Hall and started the design process for the last capital project of its Phase III expansion. Phase III was part of a district-wide, voter-approved general obligation bond program. The college received a \$71M allocation (a ten-year building program) for construction, capital and land.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Estrella Hall Expansion | 2012

Planning is underway for a 40,000-square-foot addition and a 15,000-square-foot remodel of Estrella Hall. Plans include approximately 22 new classrooms, additional new and redesigned spaces for the information commons, learning enhancement center, and library.

Mariposa Hall | JANUARY 2010

Mariposa Hall is the college's first capital project resulting from the 2004 Maricopa Community Colleges bond election eligible for LEED Certification. Demonstrating key areas of innovation in teaching and learning, Mariposa Hall serves the college's growing population with nine classrooms, one multi-purpose lab, two state-of-the-art nursing simulation labs, faculty and staff offices, instructional support areas, and informal learning spaces.



BUILDING THE FUTURE

Ocotillo Hall
Buckeye Land Purchase
Science Labs

Transit Center, Additional Parking,
New Thomas Road Entry

Mariposa Hall

Joint Fire/Public Safety Facility

Estrella Hall Expansion

2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012



MASTER PLANNING

Science Labs | AUGUST 2006

Estrella Mountain conducted an extensive expansion of the existing science labs on campus; 9,000 square feet to 20,100 square feet. The expansion included five new biology labs, one new science lab, two new physics labs, and an expanded preparation area.

Ocotillo Hall | JANUARY 2006

The first capital project in Phase III, Ocotillo Hall is a 32,000-square-foot classroom complex that features 22 learning studio classrooms, faculty offices, informal learning spaces, and the integration of the newest technology and advancements in learning space design.

Buckeye Land Purchase | APRIL 2006

Located within 22 miles of the college, the 80 acres purchased in Buckeye will serve as a future campus site and allow the college to meet the needs of a growing West Valley community. Land boundaries include: El Mirage Road, Northern Avenue alignments, the county line, and the Sun Valley Parkway alignment.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

Complimentary to the capital development program, the college has formed creative partnerships that have increased the capability of services to our community. These partnerships, along with the implementation of Phase III, further Estrella Mountain's progress towards becoming a comprehensive learning college.

Joint Fire/Public Safety Facility | SPRING 2011

This 19,000-square-foot facility is being built in partnership with the city of Avondale and will house a fire station, police substation, college classrooms, and public safety offices.

Transit Center, Additional Parking and New Thomas Road Entry | SPRING 2008

Estrella Mountain, in partnership with the city of Avondale, completed a bus transit center bringing approximately five more bus lines to the campus, a safe walkway from the transit center to nearby classroom buildings, more than 330 parking spaces, and a second entry/exit to Thomas Road.





“Through education, you can achieve anything you put your mind to. I dreamed big and never gave up hope. I treasure every moment spent at Estrella Mountain, and hope that as a future teacher, I will spark the educational fires to help others make their dreams come true.”

Monika Grooms | Class of 2010



BUILDING THE FUTURE

SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

The 2009-2010 academic year was a difficult year for many West Valley families, and the economic challenges facing our communities could have placed higher education out of reach for many deserving students. Thanks to the generosity of caring community and business organizations, individual donors, and foundations, Estrella Mountain was able to provide 1,874 West Valley students with financial support to pursue their higher education goals through scholarship awards.

Estrella Mountain Community College is also working to ensure that scholarship dollars remain available for West Valley students for many years to come. The Estrella Mountain endowed fund provides donors with a permanent way to ensure the annual distribution of funds for scholarship programs. Through community partnerships and special projects last year, the college was able to secure additional funds bringing the endowment close to \$950,000.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS: 2009-2010 SCHOLARSHIPS AT A GLANCE

- 109 scholarship donors
- 1,874 scholars received awards
- \$1,274,683 in scholarships were awarded



To learn more about the Estrella Mountain Community College Scholarship or Endowment Campaign, please contact:

Adolfo Gamez | 623 935 8185
Director Corporate and Foundation Relations



ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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CHANDLER-GILBERT COMMUNITY COLLEGE | ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE | GATEWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE | GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MARICOPA SKILL CENTER | MESA COMMUNITY COLLEGE | PARADISE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE | PHOENIX COLLEGE | RIO SALADO COLLEGE
SCOTTSDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE | SOUTH MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE | SOUTHWEST SKILL CENTER

