



MARICOPA
COMMUNITY
COLLEGES®

@ ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN



2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT

1112





MARICOPA
COMMUNITY
COLLEGES®

@ ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN

A COLLEGE FOR THE COMMUNITY

LEARNING OCCURS ANYWAY, ANYPLACE, ANYTIME

EMCC CAMPUS

EMCC BUCKEYE



EMCC SOUTHWEST SKILL CENTER

INSIDE ESTRELLA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	3
VISION, MISSION & CORE VALUES	4
ABOUT OUR STUDENTS	5
MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS	6
LEARNING COLLEGE	7
MASTER PLANNING	8
STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS & INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITIES	9
SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS	10
ENSURING OUR FUTURE	11

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A NOTE TO OUR COMMUNITY



ERNEST A. LARA, PH.D.
PRESIDENT,
ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

When students choose Estrella Mountain Community College, they embark on a new or continuing educational journey. Through job training, university transfer, community education programs, and student-centered support services, Estrella Mountain is here to help students create extraordinary learning experiences. Estrella Mountain's collaborative learning environment is designed to help each student be successful.

For the second consecutive year, Estrella Mountain was identified for practices which significantly improve student outcomes. From more than 1,000 community colleges nationwide, Estrella Mountain was one of 120 colleges recognized for best practices by the Aspen Institute. We are proud that our commitment to success and student learning is being acknowledged nationally. This acknowledgement reinforces the work we are doing and encourages us to look for new opportunities to increase student success.

Estrella Mountain's Learning College service motto – "Your Success is Our Success" – applies to students and job training partnerships alike. Committed to providing exceptional teaching and applied learning, Estrella Mountain recognizes the need to connect students to the workforce and address community needs. Collaboration has created numerous partnerships including:

- establishing an EMCC site in partnership with the Town of Buckeye for academic, occupational and community education
- continuing the West Valley Think Tank to align math curriculums across elementary and high school districts for community college success
- developing the Arizona Sun Corridor Get Into Energy Consortium, which received a \$13.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor.

As each of us collaborates to address the continuing and future needs of the West Valley, Estrella Mountain remains committed to the belief that we are all stronger together.

This annual report highlights the experiences of our journey: the journey between students, employees, community, and partners. As we set our direction for the future, Estrella Mountain's commitment to excellence, diversity, integrity, and learning will remain our guiding principle.

Thank you for your support as each of us helps students fulfill, enrich and change their lives through learning.

Regards,

ERNEST A. LARA, PH.D.
PRESIDENT



**EDUCATING OUR
COMMUNITY**
ENSURING OUR FUTURE
THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Student success happens in many ways, but access to education is the beginning of a student's journey. Estrella Mountain students:

- currently have a 98 percent retention rate as high school juniors in the Achieving a College Education program
- need financial support and alternative funding to pursue their higher education goals
- rely on collaborative, community support to secure semester-to-semester funds

To learn more about scholarships and how to help Estrella Mountain's scholarship programs, turn to page 11.

At EMCC,
we increase
our self-
and social
awareness,
realizing
the endless
possibilities
in the world.
There is
always
something
new to
pursue.



MEHA TRIVEDI
INSTRUCTIONAL COMPUTING
FACULTY

A COMMITMENT TO LEARNING

VISION, MISSION & CORE 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

ANNUAL ENROLLMENT

UNDUPLICATED HEADCOUNT

EMCC Credit Students **12,508**
 EMCC Noncredit Students **1,374**
 SouthWest Skill Center Students **680**

ENROLLMENT BREAKDOWN

FALL 2011

Full Time **2,492**
 Part Time **5,751**

INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF

FALL 2011

Full-time EMCC Instructors **84**
 Part-time EMCC Instructors **336**
 Full-time SWSC Instructors **11**
 Part-time SWSC Instructors **1**



DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE COMPLETERS

2011-2012

Degrees **609**
 Certificates **565**
 SouthWest Skill Center Certificates **441**

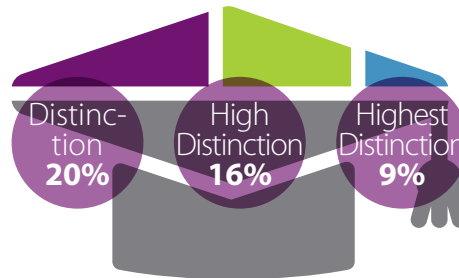
OUTSTANDING GRADUATE ACHIEVEMENTS

CLASS OF 2012

Distinction (3.5-3.69 GPA) **20%**
 High Distinction (3.7-3.89 GPA) **16%**
 Highest Distinction (3.9-4.0 GPA) **9%**

TUITION

County Resident **\$76 per credit hour**
 Out of County **\$300 per credit hour**



STUDENT ETHNICITY

American Indian **2%**
 Asian/Pacific Islander **5%**
 Black **10%**
 Hispanic **40%**
 White **37%**
 Other **6%**

STUDENT GENDER

Female **60%**
 Male **38%**
 Undeclared **2%**



STUDENT AGE

15-19 **38%**
 20-24 **26%**
 25-29 **11%**
 30-39 **14%**
 40-49 **7%**
 50-59 **3%**
 60+ **1%**
 Undeclared **0%**

DEMOGRAPHICS AND POPULATION DATA

ABOUT OUR STUDENTS

Data Sources: Fall 2011 45th day unduplicated credit headcount, 2011-2012 IPEDS reports and MCCCDD Maricopa Trends. All tuition and fees are subject to change pending MCCCDD Governing Board approval.



YEAR IN REVIEW 2011–2012

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

COLLEGE

- **10-year re-accreditation.** Estrella Mountain received continuing 10-year accreditation status from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) March 19, 2012. Estrella Mountain received permission to operate as a category three distance learning institution (up to 100 percent of certificates and degrees can be offered online) and the Buckeye Educational Center (BEC) was sanctioned as an official location of Estrella Mountain.
- **Reaching an institutional milestone.** 2012 marked the 20th anniversary of Estrella Mountain Community College. The campus opened in 1992 and has continued to adapt to community needs, adding the SouthWest Skill Center in 2000 and the Buckeye Educational Center in 2011.
- **1600+ degrees and certificates awarded.** Estrella Mountain awarded 609 associate degrees, 565 college certificates and 441 SouthWest Skill Center certificates during the 2011-2012 academic year.
- **Aspen Award.** For the second consecutive year, Estrella Mountain was identified as one of the nation's 120 best community colleges by the Aspen Institute's College Excellence Program.
- **Award-winning faculty.** Three Estrella Mountain faculty received recognition from the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD).
- **Learning College Summit.** In an ongoing effort to develop strategies to improve learning at Estrella Mountain, a group of 20-30 faculty and staff members attended the annual League for Innovation Learning College Summit.

COMMUNITY

- **Sun Corridor Get Into Energy Consortium.** As the lead institution for the education-energy consortium, Estrella Mountain helped form the Arizona Sun Corridor Get Into Energy Consortium (ASC-GIEC) and helped the consortium receive a \$13.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to fulfill the workforce needs of the energy and mining industries.
- **Speech Language Pathology.** Estrella Mountain developed two unique, online programs to address local school districts' needs: Gifted Education Endorsement and Speech Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA). The SLPA program is the only one available in the State of Arizona.
- **West Valley Think Tank K-12 school districts.** Partnering with high school superintendents to increase student transfer rates and help alleviate many college-level developmental education needs, EMCC participates in the West Valley Think Tank. The third Math Summit was held in fall 2012; participation levels have more than doubled since the initial 2010 summit.
- **Workforce certificates.** Since opening, the SouthWest Skill Center (SWSC) has provided more than 3,500 students with short term, clock hour certificate programs that allow for quick entry into the local workforce.
- **United Way giving.** As a campus community, Estrella Mountain raised more than \$35,000 for the Valley of the Sun United Way 2011 campaign.

STUDENT SUCCESS

- **All-USA Scholarship winners.** EMCC's two 2012 All-USA Scholarship winners placed first and third on the All-Arizona Academic Team.
- **Undergraduate research conference.** Focusing on undergraduate research, students participated in the sixth Student Conference, *Knowledge is Power*, held at EMCC. The conference is unique because students typically do not participate in research until enrolled in a four-year institution or graduate-level coursework.
- **Mentoring program.** Understanding that mentors are important to academic and career success, Estrella Mountain developed a mentoring program – Engage Estrella (E²). Piloted in fall 2012, more than 130 students enrolled for a one-to-one mentor.
- **Internships and workforce experience.** Between fall 2011 and spring 2012, internship offerings more than doubled and the number of interns placed increased by 29 percent.
- **Leadership opportunities and service learning.** In 2011-2012, approximately 225 students participated in a service learning project. The College supported approximately 300 students in various leadership opportunities and workshops.
- **Diversity and social awareness.** Continuing our commitment to diversity and social awareness, EMCC sponsored more than 191 unique activities for students that advance civic and global learning.

WHAT IS A LEARNING COLLEGE?

Estrella Mountain's Learning College Journey began in 2007 and currently continues. Estrella Mountain's Learning College:

- places learning first and provides educational experiences for learners "anyway, anyplace, anytime."
- provides dynamic and engaging learning environments, instead of the traditional architecture of education (e.g. memorization, recitation testing).
- seeks best practices in learning, teaching and processes to create experiences where learning occurs everywhere.

BENEFITS OF A LEARNING COLLEGE

Estrella Mountain believes it is incumbent that the entire campus environment be involved in shaping students' experiences with learning. All Estrella Mountain employees promote learning and assist learners to become responsible for their own learning. The principles of a Learning College are incorporated into Estrella Mountain academics and organizational processes. The tangible benefits of adopting and living the Learning College are evident at Estrella Mountain. Review the examples in the table below.



Estrella Mountain allowed me to take my potential and accelerate it.

REYES MEDRANO

CITY MANAGER,
CITY OF TOLLESON
ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN
ALUMNUS

Learning College Principle

Estrella Mountain in Action

Example

Learning happens "anyway, anyplace, anytime."

Estrella Mountain created a mentor program. Employees and community members can volunteer to assist students with academic and job-related success.

Learners are paired with an employee mentor and develop interpersonal, college-success and job-market skills.

Best practices are frequently created and refined.

Estrella Mountain continually evaluates, implements and improves learning opportunities both in and out of the classroom.

Based upon student feedback, college services have been modified to reduce the complexity of course registration.

Learners build relationships with the College, which can influence an individual's persistence and motivation with education.

Estrella Mountain has organizational flexibility – we adapt and change for student success.

To increase access and seamless transition to four-year institutions, degree transfer pathways are pre-established from EMCC to universities.

LEARNING HAPPENS ANYWAY, ANYPLACE, ANYTIME

LEARNING COLLEGE

As an EMCC alumna and employee, I have the unique opportunity to share my personal experience with each student. In their faces, I see my own.

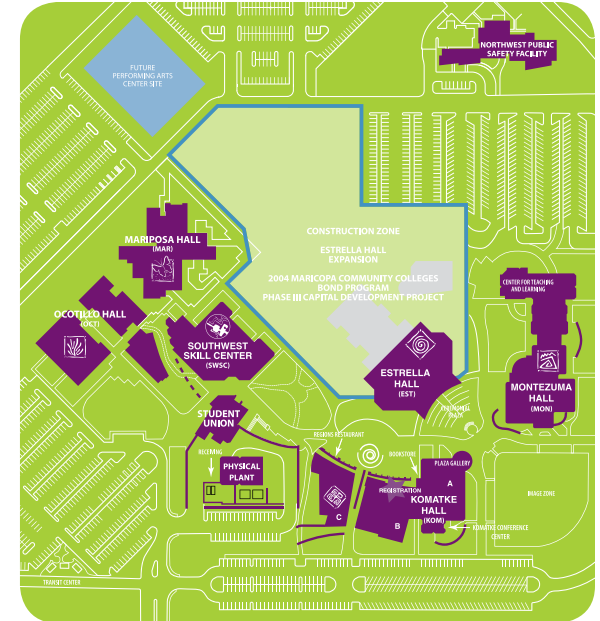


TERRI PROPEs

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY
ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN ALUMNA

RECENT AND CURRENT PROJECTS

- **Student Union: August 2012.** Estrella Mountain repurposed building space to create a 7,300 sq. ft. Student Union to promote student engagement, create informal learning spaces and provide a central location for campus activities. The space is large enough to host community events. More than 1,000 students utilize the space per week.
- **Veterans Center: Spring 2013.** EMCC will expand the Veterans Center facilities and services to support a rapidly growing veterans population. Relocating the center increases space, allowing staff to provide increased levels of service for more than 500 veterans.
- **Estrella Hall expansion: Spring 2013.** The Estrella Hall expansion project began in early 2012 and is expected to finish in early 2013. Additional classrooms and learning spaces will be nested within a single dedicated area for all academic support services (e.g., tutoring, library resources, computer and information commons).



ON THE HORIZON

- **Performing Arts Center.** Final planning for the Performing Arts Center (PAC) is underway. The PAC will support the growth of EMCC's performing arts programming and curriculum: arts, dance, theatre, and music. The space is currently being designed for both academic and community event use.
- **\$13.5 million TAACT Grant.** Leading the Arizona Sun Corridor Get Into Energy Consortium (ASC-GIEC), Estrella Mountain will begin implementing plans to fulfill the workforce needs of the energy and mining industries. The consortium, composed of both education and industry partners, will train trade-impacted workers, veterans and other adults for high-skill, high-wage employment and advancement in energy and mining industries. The effort is part of the \$500 million federal Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACT) grant program.

BUILDING THE FUTURE

MASTER PLANNING

BUILDING A LEARNING COLLEGE 2012–2015

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS & INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITIES

STRATEGIC DIRECTION I: MAXIMIZING STUDENT SUCCESS

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

1. Improve student goal identification and goal achievement.
2. Develop strategies to help students graduate.
3. Increase student engagement.
4. Develop programs / initiatives to help reduce performance gaps among targeted populations.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION II: CREATING A CULTURE OF ASSESSMENT

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

1. Close the loop for all learning assessments to ensure continuous curriculum and program improvements.
2. Increase the depth and breadth of faculty participation in assessment and improve student awareness of EMCC General Education Abilities.
3. Strengthen the connection of assessment of learning outcomes with decision making across campus.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION III: CREATING AN ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE THAT SUPPORTS LEARNING

Estrella Mountain will cultivate an organizational culture in which 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.

1. Improve, develop and expand programs which support current employees and assist new employees in their transition to EMCC's culture based on the Learning College model and principles.
2. Expand and create new opportunities for professional development and career planning.
3. Cultivate an environment and develop opportunities in which employees connect with individual students to create meaningful learning experiences.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION IV: CREATING DYNAMIC ENVIRONMENTS THAT SUPPORT STUDENT LEARNING

Estrella Mountain will promote and support the expansion of dynamic learning environments that integrate technology to enable effective teaching and improve student learning and engagement.

1. Research, build consensus for, and implement effective teaching strategies, inclusive of technology, that support student engagement, learning, persistence, and success.
2. Support student completion and success through continuance of e-learning options for EMCC students.
3. Provide specialized and informal learning spaces to support comprehensive growth of the institution to support student and employee engagement and success.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION V: MAXIMIZING PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCES TO SUPPORT LEARNING

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

1. Increase partnerships to support learning and student completion.
2. Expand fourth revenue stream.
3. Prioritize and reallocate resources to support college programs and services.

LEARN MORE AT estrellamountain.edu/opie/planning-estrella-mountain



STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVES

SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

PROGRAMS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

- **E² Mentoring Program.** Engage Estrella (E²) connects students with individual mentors and career exploration resources to provide opportunities for a successful college experience. E² was launched for fall 2012 and more than 170 students signed up to participate in at least one of the mentoring tiers, indicating a student need and interest in college success assistance. Students can participate in several opportunities: one-to-one mentoring, career interviews and job shadowing. Scholarships are available to students who successfully complete the E² program.
- **ACE Program.** Estrella Mountain's Achieving a College Education (ACE) Program focuses on strengthening students' abilities in math and science. High school juniors and seniors enroll in ACE and develop the skills necessary for college success. Since the program started in 2002, the EMCC ACE Program has served 610 students. Currently, 151 students are in Estrella Mountain's ACE Program and juniors in the program are at a 98 percent retention rate.
- **Student publications.** To encourage and recognize the creative voices of students, arts and literature publications are circulated throughout the year.
 - The *Mariposa Literary Review* receives more than 100 student submissions a year and the top student works in fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and visual arts are published in the annual review.
 - Operating for more than 10 years, Estrella Mountain's Visual Exhibition Program provides students and community members an opportunity to understand cultural perspectives from juried student and traveling art exhibitions.
 - To develop writing and composition skills, Estrella Mountain's online magazine *The Lion's Perspective* is written entirely by students and bridges learning beyond the classroom. Students enrolled in English and Journalism courses research and write articles for the campus community; vetted submissions will be published in the magazine. The first issue is in development and will be published in spring 2013.



EMCC STUDENT ARTWORK BY MATT P. ARAGON



SUPPORT FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Estrella Mountain believes building a strong future depends on the success of learners; a critical step to learning is having the gateway to an education open. The majority of Estrella Mountain students have a financial need, which is often not met by government funding. The College has many initiatives to ensure the door to an education remains available, including:

- Rotary club Annual New Car scholarship fundraiser
- Engage Estrella (E²) scholarships
- Achieving a College Education (ACE) funding
- “Educating Our Community, Ensuring our Future” campaign
 - Employee giving
 - Community donors
 - Facility naming and building plaques

Through the generosity of community members, business organizations, individual donors, and foundations, Estrella Mountain works to provide students with alternative aid and assistance. To join the campaign or participate with Estrella Mountain’s efforts, contact:

Adolfo Gamez – Director, Corporate and Foundation Relations – 623 935 8185

EDUCATING OUR COMMUNITY ENSURING OUR FUTURE

OPPORTUNITY SNAPSHOT

During 2011-2012, Estrella Mountain:

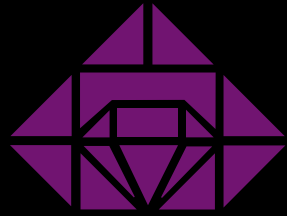
- provided scholarships for 1,531 West Valley students
- received donations from 102 scholarship donors

A majority of EMCC students need financial aid to pursue their education goals, but the amount of funding is limited.



EMCC is very veteran-friendly and provides a lot of services to help me succeed. It is a great campus with amazing faculty who really care.

ROBERTO RODRIGUEZ
U.S. ARMY VETERAN
EMCC STUDENT



ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Celebrating 50 years

**3000 North Dysart Road
Avondale, Arizona 85392
623 935 8000
estrellamountain.edu**

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