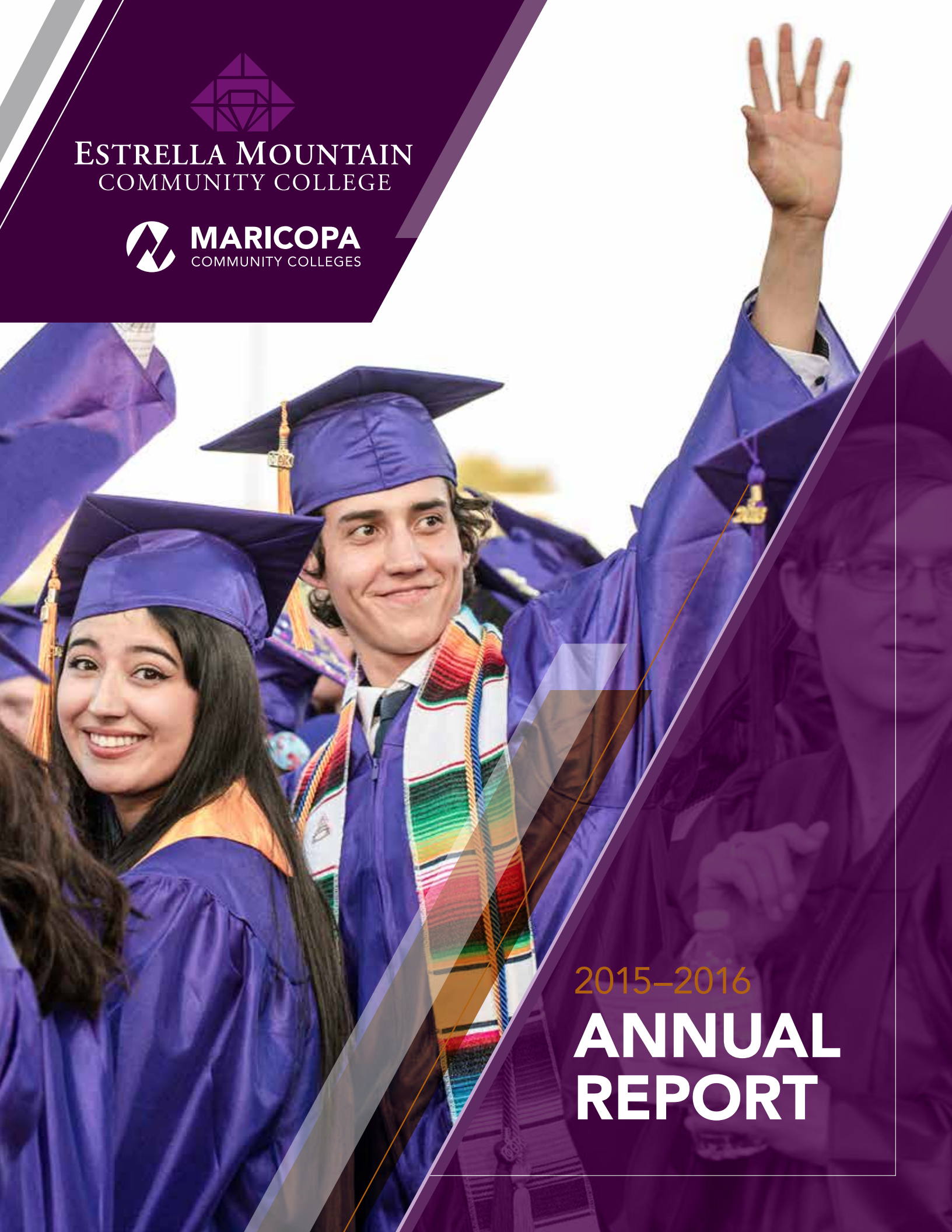




ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



MARICOPA
COMMUNITY COLLEGES



2015–2016

ANNUAL REPORT

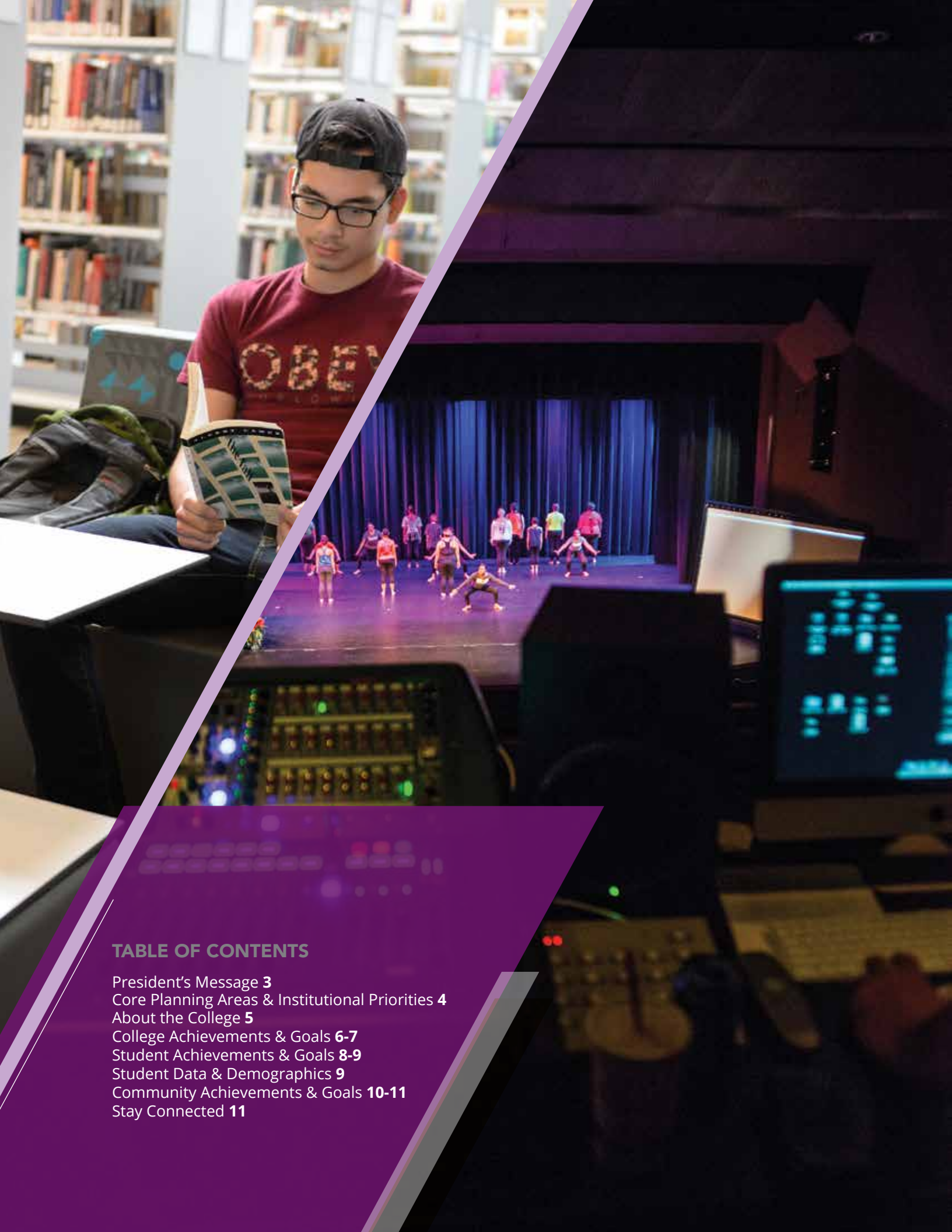


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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A NOTE TO OUR COMMUNITY



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

The U.S. community college is uniquely American, and unique to the world, as a higher education system that is completely open to everyone. This open access provides anyone an opportunity to learn...an opportunity to achieve their goals...an opportunity to give back to the community. A college for the community...that is what Estrella Mountain Community College (EMCC) aspires to be every day.

Estrella Mountain values and delivers education through the paradigm of a Learning College philosophy, a concept that places learning first and provides educational experiences for learners anyway, anyplace, anytime. As a Learning College, we are committed to teaching, learning and caring – TLC – for our students, employees and community.

This past year (2015-2016), Estrella Mountain reached significant milestones. You will read about these accomplishments and more in this report. Some highlights include:

- More than 1,400 students completed degrees and certificates – including workforce programs – a record high. The largest number of graduates also walked in the 2016 commencement – 499
- Opened the state-of-the-art Performing Arts Center for the campus and West Valley
- Launched the EMCC Alumni Association

There are many accomplishments for which the college is proud, and that truly exemplify the meaning of a community college. We could not realize these achievements alone – it is through community partnerships, commitment to learning and an entrepreneurial spirit that we collectively make a positive impact in the West Valley.

The educational contribution to our community truly transforms lives. In my 43 years in education – with 35 years in the community college system and as a product of a community college – I have witnessed its powerful impact.

As Estrella Mountain prepares to enter its 25th Silver Anniversary Celebration in 2017, we have the opportunity to reflect upon the positive effect that the college has in the West Valley. It will be a time to showcase years of education and service, launch the Alumni Legacy Scholarship Fund and thank our community for their support. Together, we all have made Estrella Mountain a college for the community, where your success is our success.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in gold ink that reads "Ernest A. Lara". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ernest A. Lara, Ph.D., President



CORE PLANNING AREAS & INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITIES

2015–2018

The Estrella Mountain Strategic Plan is linked to long-term, divisional and operational planning. The plan informs college budgeting and resource allocation processes, and is continuously refined and improved through an ongoing review of environmental forces and regularly updated institutional outcomes data. Each year, the college's Leadership Council reviews and recommends improvements to the plan.

The Strategic Plan aims to advance the Learning College model further toward comprehensiveness, while strengthening alignment with Maricopa County Community College District planning, and the League for Innovation Learning College objectives. Employees across the college collaboratively work to implement the Strategic Plan, and directly report progress to leadership.

CORE PLANNING AREA I **ACCESS TO LEARNING**

- Priority 1: Maximize student access, learning and success.
- Priority 2: Increase student access and use of academic and support services.

CORE PLANNING AREA II **PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS**

- Priority 1: Increase opportunities for students enrolled in developmental and gateway courses to make significant connections with college personnel (peer mentors and supplemental instruction).
- Priority 2: Increase student use of academic and career planning.

CORE PLANNING AREA III **EFFECTIVE LEARNING AND TEACHING**

- Priority 1: Increase Professional Development for residential and adjunct faculty.
- Priority 2: Increase the contextualization of the curriculum in developmental and gateway courses.

CORE PLANNING AREA IV **ORGANIZATIONAL INTEGRITY**

- Priority 1: Develop a comprehensive and proactive compliance program.
- Priority 2: Increase organizational and environmental sustainability.



ABOUT THE COLLEGE

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
- Diversity
- Collaboration
- Innovation
- Sustainability

LEARNING COLLEGE

Learning colleges place learning first. As a learning college, EMCC provides educational experiences for learners “anyway, anyplace, and anytime.” Our mission is to facilitate learning with every student, through every interaction and by whatever method is most effective. The entire college design is built to facilitate learning – in and out of classrooms – and engage students in connecting to each other, to employees, and to their environment. Learning becomes not a matter of ‘if,’ but a matter of ‘when.’

INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF

Full-time EMCC Instructors **93**
 Part-time EMCC Instructors **395**
 Full-time SWSC Instructors **8**

Fall 2015 data

TUITION RATES

County Resident **\$84**
 Out of County **\$366**

All tuition and fees are subject to change pending MCCCCD Governing Board approval.

2015–2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

COLLEGE

ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Performing Arts Premiere & Grand Opening** – Estrella Mountain Community College (EMCC) celebrated the premiere of the new Performing Arts Center (PAC) with grand opening festivities and a community celebration in November 2015. The free two-day celebration featured tours, activities, and live performances by EMCC students, local school and community ensembles, and national performers. The PAC main theater seats 298, with an additional Black Box theater that can seat up to 90. The college also established a PAC Endowment Scholarship.
- **Aspen Excellence Award** – Estrella Mountain was recognized by the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program as one of the nation's top 150 community colleges eligible to compete for the 2017 Aspen Prize. EMCC is the only community college in Arizona to have been selected in all four cycles of the award since it was announced in 2011.
- **Arts Achievement Award** – EMCC received the 2016 West Valley Art Council's Lifetime Achievement Award for dedication to growing arts programs for students, support of the Gallery 37 program, and the new Performing Arts Center.
- **Best of the West Innovation Award** – EMCC was jointly recognized as a recipient of the Western Maricopa Coalition (WESTMARC) Excellence in Innovation Best of the West Award along with Western Maricopa Education Center (West-MEC) and Arizona Public Services Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station for its partnership to create the West-MEC Southwest Energy Partners Campus in Buckeye.
- **Celebrating Diversity** – EMCC received the 2015 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award from *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine in recognition of an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion.
- **Campaign to End Derogatory Language** – The "I Am Human" Campaign was awarded both the Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) Innovation of the Year Award and the Diversity Advisory Council Award of Excellence for EMCC. The student-initiated multimedia campaign promotes inclusivity and civic responsibility. The project was led by 2015 alumna Ri'Ann Holmes, Michael Bartley and Dr. Olga Tsoudis, along with numerous student, alumni and employee contributors.
- **Award-Winning Faculty** – Faculty members Dr. Anastasia Amabisca, Andy Burch and Sarah Lockhart received recognition from the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) for educational and leadership excellence.





Rule for setting goals: Quality, not quantity.

FUTURE GOALS

- **Increase Graduation Rate and Successful Course Completion** – Estrella Mountain was accepted to the Higher Learning Commission Persistence and Completion Academy. The primary goal is to increase the Student Right to Know Completion rate from 17 percent to 25 percent within five years. The project also seeks to decrease the amount of time it takes for students to complete developmental education deficiencies, increase success in college-level gateway courses, and increase fall-to-fall persistence.
- **Expand Offerings at Buckeye Locations** – EMCC Buckeye achieved more than a 40 percent increase in headcount in 2014-2015, attributed to increased general education course offerings and recruitment efforts. The college will continue to expand courses to support transfer goals and strategically incorporate natural science courses, enabling students to earn a degree or certificate entirely at EMCC Buckeye. The college also plans to increase course offering and programs offered at its new partnership location at the West-MEC Southwest Campus in Buckeye.
- **Implement a Faculty Advising Model** – The Faculty Advising project is a pilot program to assess the efficacy of incorporating residential faculty into the current EMCC advising model. The inclusion of faculty will provide additional student advisement support as well as real world connections between college coursework and careers.



2015–2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Successful Scholars** – EMCC students Dinorah Fougere and Phu Huynh were recognized as 2016 All-USA Scholarship winners and 2016 Coca-Cola Foundation Bronze Scholars. Shelly Smith was awarded the Chancellor’s Scholarship. Joseph Ibrahim and LeReesa Tallent received the 2016 Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation Scholarship.
- **Athletic Achievements** – The women’s cross country team was named to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Cross Country Scholar All America Team, ranking 21st in the nation. Student athletes Emely Castelo, Alejandra Cruz, Mackenzie Galvez, Marisol Gutierrez, Jared Peterson, and Yara Romero were named NJCAA Academic All Americans.
- **Undergraduate Research Conference** – EMCC hosted the 10th annual Student Conference at which students from across MCCCDC presented their scholarly work. The EMCC Honors Expo showcased the work of 82 students, including Valencia Harvey, April Knife, Kaitlin Minervini, Jonathan Schwartz, Aaron Scirocco, and Kylie Sharpe, who went on to present at the Western Regional Honors Conference.
- **PTK Achievements** – The EMCC chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society received numerous accolades from the Arizona Region 2016 Hallmark Awards, including tying for first place for its Honors in Action project and Continued Excellence Advisor Award for employee advisor Marylyn Bradley.
- **Student Success Fair** – Nearly 1,200 current and future students learned about college resources and set personal graduation goals during EMCC’s fourth annual Student Success Fair.
- **Graduation Record** – Estrella Mountain conferred associate degree and certificate awards to 499 graduates at the 20th Annual EMCC Commencement Ceremony held on May 12, 2016, the highest number of graduates in the college’s history.
- **Workforce Training** – EMCC awarded 357 certificates to students completing short-term job training for healthcare and industrial careers through the SouthWest Skill Center during the 2015-2016 academic year.
- **Service Learning and Internships** – Continuing a commitment to social awareness and job readiness, more than 100 internships were listed and 60 EMCC interns worked at local companies.

FUTURE GOALS

- **Increase Internships, Field Experience & Support Materials** – EMCC will work to increase the number of students placed in STEM and IT internships by 10 percent, as well as increase the number of IT agencies with which it partners by 10 percent. The college will also implement a workshop series for Federal Work Study students to develop soft skills that can be applied in their internships and create handbooks for all field experience placements to ensure consistent experiences for students and agency partners.
- **Expand Service Learning & Civic Engagement** – The EMCC Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement will continue to grow service learning and civic engagement opportunities. Goals include increasing participation rates by 5 percent, supporting a commitment to the U.S. President's Volunteer Service Award, and creating more on-campus service learning opportunities.
- **Improve Transitions for Veterans** – With support from a new transition specialist, the EMCC Veterans Center will continue to help veterans successfully transition into the college environment and civilian life by removing barriers. Veteran students will have the opportunity to participate in veteran peer mentoring, receive targeted career training, and be connected to community resources that assist veterans.

STUDENT DATA & DEMOGRAPHICS

ANNUAL ENROLLMENT

Unduplicated Headcount
EMCC Credit Students **12,571**
EMCC Noncredit Students **1,337**
SouthWest Skill Center Students **496**

DEGREE & CERTIFICATE COMPLETERS 2015-2016

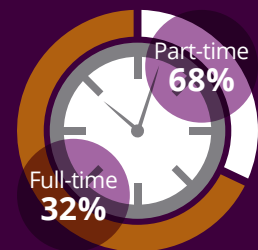
Degrees **1,163**
Certificates **1,177**
SouthWest Skill Center Certificates **357**

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Distinction (3.50-3.69 GPA) **21%**
High Distinction (3.70-3.89 GPA) **21%**
Highest Distinction (3.90-4.00 GPA) **10%**

ENROLLMENT BREAKDOWN

Full-time **3,033**
Part-time **6,131**



STUDENT ETHNICITY

Hispanic **48.1%**
White **32.5%**
Black **9.2%**
Asian/Pacific Islander **4.6%**
American Indian **1.6%**
Other **4.0%**

STUDENT GENDER

Female **57.8%**
Male **40.6%**
Undeclared **1.6%**



STUDENT AGE

15-19 **41.5%**
20-24 **28.3%**
25-29 **10.9%**
30-39 **10.8%**
40-49 **5.9%**
50-59 **1.9%**
60+ **0.8%**



Data Sources: Fall 2015 45th day unduplicated credit headcount, 2015-2016 IPEDS reports and MCCCDD Maricopa Trends.

"If you don't design your own life plan, chances are you'll fall into someone else's plan. And guess what they have planned for you? Not much." — Jim Rohn



2015–2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Supporting Veterans** – The EMCC Veterans Club collaborated with the City of Avondale and Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation to host the second annual Veterans Day Fitness Fun Run 5K. More than \$3,500 was raised to benefit scholarships.
- **Raising AIDS Awareness** – A team of 34 students, employees and family raised nearly \$1,000 and participated in the 2015 Aunt Rita's Foundation AIDS Walk Phoenix.
- **Alternative Spring Break** – In March 2016, 30 students and three staff members participated in an Alternative Spring Break, completing nearly 370 combined volunteer hours for a community service learning project for Homeward Bound.
- **Tale of Two Cities Festival** – The cities of Avondale and Goodyear, in partnership with Estrella Mountain, hosted a fifth annual international-themed community parade and festival.
- **Hermanas STEM Conference** – Partnering with Intel, EMCC hosted the annual Hermanas Conference. Young women in middle and high schools attended sessions to learn about science, technology, engineering, and math.
- **Uniting the Way** – EMCC continued partnerships with Valley of the Sun United Way. For the sixth year, free tax preparation services were provided through the federal Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. The EMCC community also raised more than \$30,000 during its annual United Way giving campaign.
- **West Valley Think Tank** – EMCC hosted two annual summits for the professional development of high school teachers focusing on math and English language arts.
- **Academic Success and Attainment Pathway** – Estrella Mountain partnered with La Joya Community High School to create academic placement preparation modules to assist high school student placement into college-level courses.
- **EMCC Alumni Association** – In Spring 2015, EMCC officially launched its alumni association to connect the network of proud graduates who are active in communities from local to global, contributing time and talents to make a difference through networking and events, mentoring students, supporting scholarships, and championing major initiatives of the college.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS, SUPPORTING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP & SUCCESS

EMCC has established a \$1.68 million fundraising goal as part of the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation district-wide Student Success Campaign, which has an overall goal of \$50 million. The college has achieved half its fundraising goal and intends to accomplish the remainder during its upcoming 25th Silver Anniversary in 2017. The monies raised will go toward scholarships, the Performing Arts Center and establishing the inaugural Alumni Legacy Scholarship Endowment Fund.



FUTURE GOALS

- **Increasing Community Education Enrollment** – EMCC will continue to expand and improve offerings for community education classes, including its successful Kid’s College programming for children and young adults to experience fun learning opportunities and get familiar with the college. Future goals for community education include increasing enrollment by 2 percent, as well as exploring additional classes and week-long day camps for Kid’s College.

COLLEGE FOR THE COMMUNITY STAY CONNECTED

- **Performing Arts Center** – Student performances, regional shows and community events. estrellamountain.edu/arts
- **Art Exhibitions** – Galleries located throughout campus are free and open to the public. estrellamountain.edu/arts
- **Community Events Calendar** – Activities, workshops and special events open to community. estrellamountain.edu/calendars
- **Short-Term Job Training** – Offering programs designed for classroom-to-workplace certification and training. estrellamountain.edu/swsc
- **EMCC Buckeye & West-MEC** – Offering flexible classes, state-of-the-art facilities and student services at two far West Valley locations. estrellamountain.edu/locations
- **Schedule** – Browse a variety of flexible class offerings by degree, course subject or area of study. schedule.estrellamountain.edu
- **EMCC Alumni** – Events and activities to foster alumni networks and community collaboration, including the establishment of scholarships and endowments. estrellamountain.edu/alumni



ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



MARICOPA
COMMUNITY COLLEGES



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Estrella Mountain Community College is a Maricopa Community College accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Financial aid, veterans and veterans' dependent benefits available for qualified programs and applicants. The Maricopa Community Colleges are EEO/AA Institutions.