



MARICOPA
COMMUNITY COLLEGES

ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN

2014–2015

**ANNUAL
REPORT**



ESTRELLA HALL

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A NOTE TO OUR COMMUNITY



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

When confronted by a fork in the road and unsure of the path to travel, *Alice in Wonderland's* Cheshire Cat states "it doesn't matter" which road Alice takes because she has no goal.

Without a desired result, charting a course of action becomes difficult. Similar to Alice's dilemma, selecting an academic path enables students to align their interests with a trajectory. For students unsure of their direction, selecting a goal becomes the objective.

As a college, Estrella Mountain Community College (EMCC) recognizes decisions and clear goals are the first steps in a student's academic plan and eventual career success. During the previous year, EMCC continued to strengthen the connection between student choices and college completion, with a growing emphasis on activities and events to promote goal awareness and path selection. Leading the Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD), Estrella Mountain's "I Will Graduate" campaign was implemented at other MCCCD colleges and encapsulates our intention – helping students find their way and be successful.

The annual report contains highlighted accomplishments of the year and also establishes the institution's goals. While EMCC seeks to increase student success, completion rates, degrees and certificates awarded, and transfer rates, we also want to develop the personal components: self-awareness and confidence, cultural capital, community service and connections, humanitarian compassion, and active global awareness. To achieve these goals, not any path will do.

As Estrella Mountain continues to chart the course, we rely on quality partners: our innovative employees who create opportunities and resources for student engagement, and community and business partnerships that foster academic-to-career networks. When reading through last year's achievements, if you find an interest to support please connect with our alumni association. I thank you for joining Estrella Mountain as we create opportunities and pathways for student success.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ernest A. Lara".

Ernest A. Lara, Ph.D., President

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 & 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.



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 produce 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 **90**
 Part-time EMCC Instructors **416**
 Full-time SWSC Instructors **9**
 Part-time SWSC Instructors **1**

Fall 2014 data

TUITION RATES

County Resident **\$84**
 Out of County **\$359**

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

2014–2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Performing Arts Center** – Estrella Mountain Community College completed construction of the new Performing Arts Center. The building will house arts, dance, music, and theatre classrooms, as well as a nearly 300-seat state-of-the-art theater, with a grand opening scheduled for fall 2015.
- **Cyber Defense** – EMCC received the first National Centers of Academic Excellence designation in Cyber Defense for two-year institutions (CAE2Y) in Arizona. The National Security Agency (NSA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) partnership identifies colleges that meet the highest standards for educating and training students to protect and defend cyberspace. Awarded June 2015, EMCC was one of 28 schools to receive the designation this academic year and the distinction spans 2014 to 2019.
- **Sustainability Awards** – Estrella Mountain received the Crescordia Award for Site Development and Landscape in the Public Sector category of the 2014 Arizona Forward Environmental Excellence Awards for the sustainable construction and landscape design of the Estrella Hall expansion and Estrella Conference Center. The college was also recognized with an award as the Arizona Recycling Coalition's School of the Year for sustainable practices.
- **NISOD Awardees** – Dr. Shannon Manuelito, Stephanie Natividad and Dr. Peter Turner received recognition from the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) for educational and leadership excellence.
- **Diversity Award** – Sign Language adjunct faculty members Crystal Bean, Wenonah Holmes, G. Phillip LeBeau, Teresa Thiry, Melissa Westlake, and Paulus Yalim received the Diversity Advisory Council Award of Excellence for EMCC for the college's Deaf Deaf World event.
- **Innovating for Success** – The EMCC Burrowing Owl Project was nominated to the district as the college's Innovation of the Year. EMCC staff and students collaborated on a learning project to construct on-campus habitats for displaced, indigenous burrowing owls. Team members included Jon Busier, Nadine Johnson, Randy Naughton, Allen Reyes, Dr. Rachel Smith, Dr. Bronwen Steele, and Wild at Heart community partners Greg Clark and Bob Fox.
- **Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Honorees** – Two EMCC faculty, Lisa Buccigrosse and Jamie Theresa Lopez, were recognized by the Adjunct Faculty Association and the Maricopa Center for Learning and Instruction. The 2014-2015 recipients demonstrated excellence and dedication in teaching, as nominated by their peers.
- **Women's Leadership** – Dr. Kathleen Iudicello was honored as EMCC's annual Woman of Distinction for her leadership, mentorship of women and commitment to student success.
- **Matter of Distinction** – The American Association of Physics Teachers awarded physics faculty Dr. Dwain Desbien with the 2015 David Halliday and Robert Resnick Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Physics Teaching.





Rule for setting goals: Quality, not quantity.

FUTURE GOALS

- Improving Graduation Rates and Successful Course Completion** – Additional focus on student persistence and completion remains a key goal for EMCC. Many of the college initiatives are designed to engage students, as best practices and research demonstrate that student engagement and feelings of belongingness correlate with course completion and academic persistence (e.g. connections to employees, faculty, events, etc.).
- Aspen Award** – The Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, awarded every two years, recognizes institutions for exceptional student outcomes in four areas: student learning, certificate and degree completion, employment and earnings, and high levels of access and success for minority and low-income students. EMCC was identified as one of the nation’s 150 best community colleges for a third consecutive year in 2015, and is the only community college in Arizona to receive successive and continuous nominations since initiation of the Aspen Award in 2011. EMCC’s goal is to become a finalist and, someday, be recognized as the nation’s premier institution.





2014–2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- **All-USA Scholarship Winners** – EMCC students Monica LeMoine and Riana Jacquez were recognized as 2015 All-USA Scholarship winners. LeMoine was also selected as a National Gold Scholar on the Coca-Cola 2015 Community College Academic Team.
- **Remarkable Scholars** – EMCC student Anthony Holman was awarded the Chancellor’s Scholarship for the highest levels of academic achievement and service to the college. Additional notable scholarships were awarded to Isabel Whaley and Shelly Smith by the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation, and Maria Almanza and Sandra Pasillas by the Maricopa College Faculty Foundation.
- **Powerful Achievement** – EMCC Power Plant Technology graduate Fadwa Sandoval became the first Arizona student to receive the accredited and nationally recognized Nuclear Uniform Curriculum Program certification.
- **Undergraduate Research Conference** – Available to all MCCCCD Students, EMCC hosted the ninth annual Undergraduate Research Conference. More than 80 research proposals were received and 32 were selected for the conference.
- **Honors Excellence** – The 2014 EMCC Honors Expo showcased 650 students. Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Honor Society students coordinated several events, including scholarship workshops for students, hygiene products drive for refugees, and presentations for water conservation efforts.
- **Student Success Fair** – Nearly 1,000 current and future students learned about college resources and set personal graduation goals during EMCC’s third annual Student Success Fair (SSF). To date, more than 3,000 students have participated in EMCC’s SSF. Created and piloted by EMCC in 2013, the SSF was implemented in 2015 at five MCCCCD colleges as part of the ‘I Will Graduate’ programming.
- **Kid’s College** – A record number of students (777) enrolled in noncredit courses and extracurricular classes during the summer, almost a 50 percent increase in attendance. Offered in short course formats, topics included video-game animation, culinary arts, music, dance, and science.
- **Scholarships** – EMCC received \$148,000 grant funds for scholarships to students in the Power Plant Technologies (PPT) program. Funding for students pursuing the Nuclear Uniform Curriculum Program was provided by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and is the only one of its kind offered in Arizona.

FUTURE GOALS

- **Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement**

– During the 2015-2016 academic year, EMCC will pilot a centralized program to streamline and bolster participation in service learning. A program manager and one faculty member will coordinate service learning and civic engagement opportunities for the entire campus. Goals include increasing student participation and organizational commitment to the U.S. President's Volunteer Service Award. Recorded service hours by students will be recognized during EMCC's annual commencement activities through standardized levels of service achievement and memorabilia.



- **Veteran Students Support**

– To provide quality service to a growing population of veterans, EMCC's dedicated Veterans Center will increase community awareness through the community advisory board. The student Veterans Club will continue to sponsor and facilitate events, including days of remembrance, veterans fun runs, and partnerships with community groups that support US veterans.



STUDENT DATA & DEMOGRAPHICS

ANNUAL ENROLLMENT

Unduplicated Headcount
EMCC Credit Students **12,994**
EMCC Noncredit Students **971**
SouthWest Skill Center Students **679**

DEGREE & CERTIFICATE COMPLETERS – 2014-2015

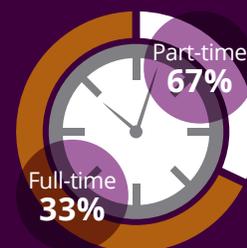
Degrees **1,191**
Certificates **1,203**
SouthWest Skill Center Certificates **492**

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Distinction (3.50-3.69 GPA) **23%**
High Distinction (3.70-3.89 GPA) **20%**
Highest Distinction (3.90-4.00 GPA) **13%**

ENROLLMENT BREAKDOWN

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



STUDENT ETHNICITY

Hispanic **45.6%**
White **33.7%**
Black **10.1%**
Asian/Pacific Islander **4.7%**
American Indian **1.5%**
Other **4.5%**

STUDENT GENDER

Female **58.3%**
Male **39.9%**
Undeclared **1.8%**



STUDENT AGE

15-19 **38.5%**
20-24 **28.3%**
25-29 **10.8%**
30-39 **12.9%**
40-49 **6.4%**
50-59 **2.2%**
60+ **0.8%**



Data Sources: Fall 2015 45th day unduplicated credit headcount, 2014-2015 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



2014–2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Service Learning and Civic Engagements** – Service learning and civic engagement was implemented in the classes of 21 instructors. EMCC students, faculty and staff participated in almost 15,000 hours of service learning during the 2014-2015 academic year.
- **Get Into Energy Education Expo** – As lead college of the Arizona Sun Corridor–Get Into Energy Consortium, EMCC hosted the first Arizona Get Into Energy Education Expo at the Arizona Science Center to increase awareness of energy career education and employment opportunities.
- **Supporting Veterans** – The EMCC Veterans Club collaborated with the City of Avondale to host the Veterans Day Fitness Fun Run. More than \$1,350 was raised to support veteran student scholarships.
- **AIDS Awareness** – EMCC art students designed 10 teddy bears that were auctioned to raise money for HIV/AIDS education, outreach and services at the annual Aunt Rita's Foundation Red Brunch. A team of 30 students, employees and family also participated in the 2014 AIDS Walk Phoenix.
- **Students Supporting Communities** – Members of the Culinary, Future Teachers, Entrepreneur, Phi Theta Kappa, and Administration of Justice student clubs conducted a food drive for the Agua Fria Food Bank, collecting nearly 600 pounds of food items to support the hungry in local communities. EMCC education students hosted a dance event to raise \$1,000 for Special Olympics and volunteered at the Cambridge Ronald McDonald Charity House by cooking meals.
- **Tale of Two Cities** – The cities of Avondale and Goodyear, in partnership with Estrella Mountain, hosted a fourth annual international-themed community parade and festival.
- **West Valley Think Tank K-12 School Districts** – EMCC hosted Math and Reading Summits to increase student transfer rates and alleviate developmental education needs.
- **Hermanas Conference** – Partnering with APS and Intel, EMCC hosted the annual Hermanas Conference. Young women in middle and high schools attended sessions to learn about science, technology, engineering, and math.
- **Tax Assistance** – For the fifth year, EMCC partnered with Valley of the Sun United Way to provide free tax preparation services through the federal Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.
- **United Way Giving** – The college community raised more than \$38,500 for the Valley of the Sun United Way.

Set your goals high and don't stop till you get there.
— Bo Jackson

FUTURE GOALS

- **West Valley Think Tank (WVTT)** – ITQ grant: EMCC's partnership with West Valley school districts addressed the developmental education pipeline by searching for strategies and solutions to resolve the number of students testing into developmental education. With the conclusion of Title V grant monies, WVTT sought and received an Improving Teacher Quality (ITQ) grant. The grant enables the partnership to host and maintain professional development opportunities for K-12 teachers. During the 2015-2016 year, EMCC will continue to provide college-level instructors for the professional growth events, including hosting two conferences at the college campus.
- **Social Support** – Student success requires not only academic support (tutoring, mentoring), but also essential basics (food, shelter, clothing). Fostering a holistic awareness of student success, EMCC is implementing programmatic efforts to sustain students and increase familial support. The EMCC student food pantry and Agua Fria Food Bank were the selected charities for the college's annual United Way employee giving campaign.



COLLEGE FOR THE COMMUNITY STAY CONNECTED

- **Performing Arts Center** – Student performances and community events. estrellamountain.edu/arts
- **Art Exhibitions** – Galleries located in Estrella Hall, Komatke Hall, and the Performing Arts Center are free and open to the public. estrellamountain.edu/arts
- **Community Events Calendar** – Activities, workshops and special events open to community. estrellamountain.edu/calendars
- **SouthWest Skill Center** – Offering programs designed for classroom-to-workplace certification and training. estrellamountain.edu/swsc
- **Buckeye Educational Center** – Offering day and evening classes, six state-of-the-art computer classrooms and student services. estrellamountain.edu/buckeye
- **Schedule** – Browse the variety of offerings by subject area or area of study. Classes listed by semester. 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



MARICOPA
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ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN

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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.