



Welcome to the new EMCC Alumni & Friends Newsletter! As a graduate and former student, you are part of a legacy of proud Estrella Mountain Lions. We welcome you to get involved in the EMCC Alumni Association (EMCCAA), fostering lifelong connections among alumni, students, faculty, staff, and the community through networking, leadership and community involvement.

**Once an Estrella Mountain Lion, Always Part of the Pride!**

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## Join Us for Free Bowling & More at the Alumni & Friends Mixer!

**Thursday, Sept. 14**

**5:00-7:00 p.m.**

**Main Event @ I-10 & 101 in Avondale**

Free games, food and alumni swag?! Join the EMCC Alumni Association for an opportunity to network and socialize with fellow alums. Reconnect with former classmates, meet new friends and have some fun! The casual, family-friendly event will include complimentary appetizers and games at Main Event, including bowling, laser tag and gravity ropes. **RSVP required by Thursday, Sept. 7.** (One additional guest per alumni may be registered.)



**Click Here to Register Now!**

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## Congratulations Harold Branch: Distinguished Alumni Award

This spring, Estrella Mountain awarded its inaugural Distinguished Alumni Award during the 25th Anniversary Silver Gala celebration to **Harold Branch**, Regional Vice President for LegalShield, and founder of HomeBase Poetry. Designed to recognize alumni who have made remarkable contributions to the college and community, the award serves to demonstrate the EMCC legacy of success. Branch's journey from high school dropout to internationally-recognized performer serves to inspire EMCC alumni and our past, present and future students.

[Read more about Branch and our other featured 25th Anniversary Profiles of Success online.](#)



**TOMORROW  
TOGETHER**

#remember #unity #volunteer

## 9/11 Day of Service & Remembrance First Responders Supply Drive

As part of EMCC's continuing anniversary events, the college will recognize the vital role of first responders in our community with a National Day of Service & Remembrance supply drive in honor of September 11th. But we need your help for supplies!

EMCC volunteers will assemble more than 300 "care packages" for fire, medical, police and civilian support personnel, to support them while they are working in the field. We are accepting donations through Friday, Sept. 8. If you are interested in contributing, please contact the **EMCC Alumni office** at **623-935-8249** for more information. Thank you for your support!

*Suggested items:*

- Bottled water
- Sports drinks (e.g. Gatorade, Powerade)
- Sunscreen
- Lip balm (e.g. Chapstick)
- Chewing gum
- Snacks (non-perishable foods e.g. snack-size peanuts, granola bars, etc.)
- Hand sanitizer
- Tissue packs (personal-size)
- Pens and small notepads
- Tooth brushes and toothpaste

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## Free Alumni Shirt with Scholarship Donation

As an EMCC alum, your success was our success. Help us build the future of EMCC graduates! You can help encourage current and future EMCC students with tax-deductible giving toward much needed scholarships, and thanks to a federal grant your donation can be matched dollar-for-dollar!

And for a limited time, any donations \$25 or more will earn you a free EMCC Alumni T-shirt and window decal! And remember **YOUR DONATION WILL BE DOUBLED** for our students! (Shirts will be mailed to the address provided on your donation, and we might just throw in some extra goodies too.)

**Give Now through the Maricopa Foundation to Get Your Free EMCC Alumni Shirt!**



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## **Giving Back to Our Community: Valle del Sol & Southwest Chamber Awards**

Way to represent the #EMCCPride! Congratulations to EMCC President Dr. Ernest Lara, who will receive the **Valle del Sol Exemplary Leadership Award** at the upcoming Profiles of Success Hispanic Leadership Awards Celebration Luncheon. Lara has more than 30 years of higher education experience and has served as EMCC President since 2007. He is a dedicated leader in student development and continues to advance the academic mission of community colleges.

"It's an honor to receive this award, especially as the college is celebrating its 25th Anniversary," said Lara. "The award is really a testament to the hard work and dedication of our campus community in helping students succeed."

The college was also recently inducted into the **Southwest Valley Chamber of Commerce Silver Club**, in recognition of its 25-year membership with the organization dedicated to advancing economic success in the West Valley, while also receiving the Chamber's "**Swaggie**" **Award for Excellence in Business**. The Southwest Valley Chamber of Commerce continues to be an integral supporter of the college's success in creating learning and training opportunities for tomorrow.

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## More Alum PERKS Coming Soon!

EMCC is working on some new PERKS for our alumni! Look for an email soon about how you can enjoy **thousands of great discounts and specials** on a variety of products, your favorite merchants and local businesses.



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## Did You Know?! EMCC News Bytes

- **Silver Dollars:** In April, the EMCC 25th Silver Anniversary Gala raised more than \$65,000 for student scholarships. [Read more about the Anniversary, EMCC history and more.](#)
- **Welcome New Alums:** The largest ever graduating class of Estrella Mountain Lions walked the commencement stage in May as 545 graduates celebrated with family and friends!
- **Drive Less, Learn More:** New science classes now offered at EMCC Buckeye allow students to complete their degree without the commute to the Avondale campus. [Visit our Buckeye webpage.](#)
- **Full STEAM Ahead:** A newly opened makerspace at EMCC provides students unlimited opportunities to create for the future! With the latest technology - like 3-D printers, laser cutters and digital routers - the STEAM Engine (for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) is both a working fabrication lab and classroom. [Learn more about it here.](#)



## Save the Dates: Upcoming Events

- Upcoming Fine Art Exhibitions & Performing Arts Season: September-December ([View the Schedule](#))
- Hispanic Heritage Month Events: September-October
- Fall Mariachi Festival & Anniversary Celebration: Saturday, Nov. 4
- Veterans Day Celebration & Fun Run: Saturday, Nov. 11 ([Early Bird Registration Now Open](#))
- Alumni & Friends Holiday Ballet Performance: Thursday, Dec. 14

[For more upcoming events at EMCC, visit our calendar.](#)



## Contact Us

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[www.estrellamountain.edu/alumni](http://www.estrellamountain.edu/alumni)

*The mission of the Estrella Mountain Community College Alumni Association is to honor the heritage of Estrella Mountain and the legacy of its students and graduates. By fostering lifelong connections among alumni, students, faculty, staff, and the community, EMCCAA encourages meaningful involvement and leadership to benefit all. EMCCAA strives to cultivate goodwill and support for the college by sponsoring social, educational, philanthropic, and service-oriented programs.*

Estrella Mountain Community College is a Maricopa Community College