Fall Newsletter 2018

Recent Grad Update!

100% of Spring 2018 Nursing Program Students Passed the NCLEX-RN Exam to Become Licensed AZ Nurses!
Renz Solidum (right) is one of the 22 students that graduated Estrella Mountain's Nursing Program in the spring. All of the graduates aced the state board exam giving Estrella Mountain program a 100% success rate. They are all now licensed to practice nursing in Arizona.

Students in the program work toward an Associate in Applied Science and then transfer to a university of their choice to pursue their Bachelor of Science in Nursing. After Estrella Mountain, Solidum completed studies while engaged in concurrent enrollment at both Estrella Mountain and Northern Arizona University (NAU). He says being in small classes was one of the factors of his success.

"With the smaller classes,” he says, “I always felt like my instructors and classmates were very accessible. It was always easy to get time with instructors and help with specific questions. It made it easy to get to know other students, which helped create a supportive network.” He told us that there were so many positive experiences and benefits of Estrella Mountain’s program that it was too difficult to highlight just one!

Roni Collazo, RN, Ph.D., Division Chair, Nursing and Allied Health, notes that the rate of passing Estrella Mountain has continued to rise over the last few years. This 100% rate is a great triumph, as well a testament to the commitment of Estrella Mountain’s faculty and staff to ensuring student success!

If you’re interested in the data details regarding the state nursing exams, you can visit the Arizona State Board of Nursing website.

Or if you are interested in EMCC’s Nursing program, please visit the EMCC Nursing page today!

Campus Life

From Garden to Table: The EMCC Community Garden is Underway!

On July 30, students, faculty, staff, and members of the community gathered together at a ceremonial event to break ground on a new community garden on the Estrella Mountain campus. Attendees received an overview of the project and then 30 students overturned the fertile ground to plant compost. The City of Phoenix donated a large truckload of compost in addition to a truckload of mulch to fill beds for growing.

Students, faculty, and staff developed this experiential project, which exemplifies one of the many ways Estrella Mountain is a learning college. According to Liahla Roberts, a Science department Laboratory Technician, “The EMCC Community Garden has been more than a year in the making.”

Through hands-on cultivation, working on the EMCC Community Garden facilitates the college’s mission as a learning college to provide education about individual food choices and how they directly impact the environment. The EMCC Community Garden will be utilized as
part of the college’s environmental biology, general biology, and community education courses. “Our objective is to model what we teach in Environmental Biology, which is to think globally and act locally,” says Biology faculty member Jarod Raithel, Ph.D. “By providing this public garden space, a diverse community of user groups will enjoy the satisfaction and rewards of growing their own food.”

Raithel emphasizes, “The value of the teamwork that brought the idea to fruition. The birth of our community garden has truly been a group effort, spearheaded by Liahla Roberts, STEM technician, Jon Busier and Chris Molinar, facilities manager, Robert Dorsett, Director of Veteran's Programming, Dean Kristina Scott, Bronwen Steele,STEAM Coordinator, and Vice President Dr. Rey Rivera. The student presidents of the Veteran's Club, Bryan Barrow, and Horticultural Innovations Club, Chris Farinella, respectively, have been instrumental throughout the process.”

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has touted the benefits of community gardens. In addition to the production of fresh food, the relationship-building that can develop is invaluable particularly in communities grappling with the various disparities born out of poverty. Reaching beyond the classroom, the Estrella Mountain food pantry and the homeless Veterans program will use food grown in the EMCC Community Garden to benefit people in need. The EMCC Community Garden will not only bring together students, campus, civic leaders, and community members but also broaden the knowledge of healthy food practices.

The EMCC Community Garden welcomes volunteer groups, donors, and sponsors. Jonathan Robles in the EMCC Development office at 623-935-8502 or via email at jonathan.robles@estrellamountain.edu for more information.
Mariachi concert coming to EMCC -

A Scholarship Fundraiser!

Saturday, Oct. 27
7:00 p.m.
EMCC Performing Arts Center

Music! Dance! Fiesta! Celebrate the rich history of Mariachi at the Annual West Valley Noche de Mariachi at EMCC on Saturday, Oct. 27, starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center. A full night of live musical and dance performances by local, regional and national artists will benefit EMCC student scholarships. General admission tickets are $25, with additional sponsorships available including a $50 Community Support sponsor ticket that includes a pre-event reception and swag bag! Visit our website for more info: https://www.estrellamountain.edu/mariachi

Click Here to Purchase Tickets today!

Register Now!

Check out EMCC's webpage for more ways to give to scholarships!

EMCC Giving Opportunities

Sunday, Nov. 11
8:00 a.m.
Estrella Mountain Community College, Avondale Campus

Join EMCC and the City of Avondale for a family-friendly 5K fun run with bootcamp-like obstacles between each mile mark that is held here at Estrella Mountain Community College, Avondale Campus. Bootcamp stations include timed sit-ups and push-ups, ammo can lifts, tire flipping and more, all concluding with an awesome grenade toss! (Don't worry, they're only dummy grenades.) Visit our website for more info: https://www.estrellamountain.edu/vetfunrun

Commemorative T-Shirt • Swag Bag • Warrior's Breakfast • Veterans Day Ceremony • & MORE!

***Registration is FREE for all Veterans and Military (Must Register)***
Campus Spotlight: Forbes 2018

Forbes has named the Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) among "America's Best Employers For Women," ranking in the top 20 among 300 employers nationwide.

MCCCD is ranked #19, according to the Forbes list, which was released last week. MCCCD is ranked #4 in the Education industry.

MCCCD is also the only employer in the state of Arizona to be named on this list.

This is Forbes's first-ever ranking of the top 300 companies best supporting their female employees in a range of areas, including pay equity and opportunities for advancement.

Forbes used market research firm Statista to come up with the list. According to Forbes, Statista surveyed 40,000 Americans, including 25,000 women, working for businesses with at least 1,000 employees. The surveys were anonymous.

We should celebrate the progress we're making towards becoming a national leader in higher education and a driving force for economic and workforce development in Arizona. This recognition is an encouraging acknowledgment of our committed focus on diversity and validates MCCCD's commitment to creating an environment that enables women — and all employees — to realize their full potential.

See the complete list here.

Save the Dates: Upcoming Events

- Annual Noche de Mariachi: Saturday, October 27
- 5th Annual Veterans Day Fun Run: Sunday, November 11

For more upcoming events at EMCC, visit our calendar.
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