



## 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Clip of the Week

Twenty-three years ago, a current SMCC faculty member assisting a student....who is today a current SMCC employee! Here Lara Collins is shown assisting Steve Cruz, perhaps suggesting a career in Library work....where Steve can be found today.



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Mike Rynearson, *The Phoenix Gazette*

Faculty member Lara Collins advises freshman Steve Cruz during registration at SMCC.

# 'Personal attention' awaiting walk-ins at SMCC registration

By Steve Cheseborough  
*Gazette Southwest Bureau*

An almost graveyard-like still hung over South Mountain Community College on Tuesday, the first day of walk-in registration.

But the staff and student volunteer registration workers who assembled in the Student Services Building seemed cheerful, wearing T-shirts and "I ♥ SMCC" visors and rushing to assist the occasional registrant who came through.

"I think the thing that this institution offers is that you can get a lot of personal attention," dean Fred Stahl said.

"I've been in colleges where youngsters get in line and they get bounced around so much they say, 'The heck with it. I don't want to go to school,'" associate dean Armando Gonzales said.

Stahl said 1,200 people had registered by mail before walk-in

started. The 1,200 translated into 490 full-time student equivalents or "ftse," the standard measure of college enrollment.

South Mountain's goal for this semester, Stahl said, is 2,000 students and 800 ftse. On Aug. 30 of last year, the school had 1,171 students and 607 ftse.

Like other Maricopa County Community Colleges, South Mountain has a new fitness center full of mechanical and electronic conditioning equipment. The centers were built, district chancellor Paul Elsner said, "as part of our commitment to our employees."

While the use of the center is free to employees, it is open to the public for the \$18.25 cost of a one-credit course plus a \$10 locker fee.

Elsner and Stahl said they hope to see people enroll for other classes after coming to the campuses to use

the fitness centers.

South Mountain also has some new faces in the administration. After dean Wil Counts resigned in June to take a teaching job at Maricopa Technical Community College, South Mountain president Raúl Cárdenas made Stahl the sole dean. Associate deans Gonzales and Henrietta Harris were hired to work under Stahl and divide Counts' duties.

Gonzales comes to South Mountain from the college district administration, where he was associate director of corporate services.

As associate dean of instruction, Gonzales said he plans to continue making contacts with businesses to see how the college can cater to their educational needs.

A native of Superior, Gonzales has been an administrator at Rio Salado Community College, has

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