



Ms. Matilda “Tillie” Chavez brings 17 years of Higher Education experience to her role as Interim Vice President of Learning at South Mountain Community College (SMCC), integrated with more than 32 years of experience as a Registered Nurse. Ms. Chavez’s Higher Education experience encompasses teaching, development efforts, operational strategies, and improvement initiatives across Maricopa to achieve defined goals. The first in her family to attend college, Ms. Chavez earned a Bachelor’s of Science in nursing from Arizona State University (ASU) and a Master’s of Science in nursing from Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) in Cleveland, Ohio. She will begin her Community College Leadership (Ph.D.) at Old Dominion University (ODU) June of 2018 in Norfolk, VA.

Ms. Chavez’s Higher Education career began as an adjunct faculty member in 2000, residential faculty member in 2001, Division Chair in 2010, Dean of Academic Innovation in 2014 and Interim Vice President of Learning in 2016. During her tenure as Nursing Chair at Phoenix College (PC) she spearheaded the creation of a 32,000 sq. ft. stand-alone facility, Phoenix College Center for Nursing Excellence. This \$7 million+ project included creation of her vision of a miniature hospital, Ed Specs, and budget.

As Dean of Academic Innovation at South Mountain Community College, she expanded the partnership with Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) to help them grow their own workforce. The areas most beneficial to the community included Phlebotomy, Culinary and Early Childhood. The GRIC programs have been offered within their community. This partnership involved the local tribal community and industry partners to see the programs to fruition.

As the Interim VPL, Ms. Chavez obtained a “Base 11 grant” to receive a Massachusetts Institute Technology (MIT) inspired Engineering Lab which enables hands-on project based learning, priced totaling \$249,275.00. In addition, expanded the Native American action plan to create the American Indian Intercultural Center (AIIC). While at SMCC, Ms. Chavez created new partnerships with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and the Town of Guadalupe. This past year, she has led the way for the revitalization of the SMCC Guadalupe Center and the new location of the SMCC Laveen site at Betty Fairfax High School.

A Phoenix native, Ms. Chavez knows a lot about human dignity and care; her 15 years working in area hospitals and emergency rooms and ICU units, this ambition and thrive permeate in the higher education field. As part of her master’s program, at CWRU she had the opportunity to practice nursing in Africa; participating in a partnership with Frontier Nurses in Nigeria. Ms. Chavez developed and implemented village clinics in the African bush to inoculate children, and created a healthcare education program to identify high-risk situations.

She has received the following recognition awards for her outstanding career contributions: In 2007, she received PC’s Distinguished Teacher Award, and in 2008, wrote a grant that funded

more than \$100,000 for classrooms, simulation labs and technology for nursing students. In 2013, Ms. Chavez earned the Arizona Business Magazine's Health Care Award for Nursing, and the Women of Distinction Award from Phoenix College. She received the Dr. Alfredo G. De Los Santos Jr., Outstanding Latina/Latino Faculty: Service/Teaching Victoria Foundation Award in 2014. In 2016, she was inducted into the PC Alumni Hall of Fame.