SOUTH MOUNTAIN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

southmountaincc.edu

7050 S. 24th Street | Phoenix, AZ 85042 | 602.243.8000

FOCUSING ON STUDENT SUCCESS

VISION

South Mountain Community College educates minds, transforms lives, touches hearts, and builds community.

MISSION

South Mountain Community College provides quality higher education for our diverse community. We create a caring teaching and learning environment that fosters student development and supports productive citizenship in an increasingly global and technological society. Our purpose is to meet these needs by offering:

General education courses
Transfer programs
Occupational education and career development
Continuing education
Developmental studies and English as a second language
Cultural, civic, and social events
Academic support and student services

VALUES

We are inspired and guided by our core values:

Collaboration: We are inclusive in our relationships with colleagues, departments and community, and respectful of their ideas.

Community: We serve our community by recognizing our inter-dependence, celebrating our history, honoring our diverse cultures, and building our future.

Excellence: We model exemplary teaching, learning, service and leadership through continuous improvement, creativity and innovation.

Integrity: We are accountable to the communities we serve and are truthful, sincere, transparent and responsible for our actions.

Wellbeing: We are a college community that encourages and develops social, physical, career, community and financial wellbeing.

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Over the past 37 years, South Mountain Community College has educated 140,000 individuals. Programs were developed and delivered to meet the needs of the local community and the greater Phoenix area so that students could achieve educational and career goals. Today, South Mountain Community College offers more than 55 degree and certificate programs designed to meet specific educational and workforce needs.

As we look ahead and plan for the future, the reality is that economic difficulties impact the College, our students and the community. As resources from the state have been eliminated, we, like many other public organizations, must look for innovative solutions, be thoughtful in how we administer resources and strengthen our fundraising efforts in order to continue to provide opportunities for students to grow and become productive members of the community.

At South Mountain Community College, we know that education is an investment into the future of the student, their family and the community. We are dedicated to creating a future that offers hope and opportunity for everyone. As we grow, adapt and anticipate the needs of students and the community, public and private investment is crucial. In order to improve and update programs, develop new programs that align with emerging labor market demands, and increase student scholarships, we need you to be a part of the solution.

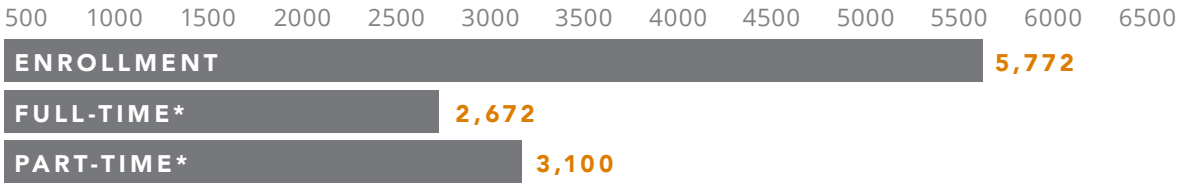
Thank you for helping with this effort to support students, the community and the College.

Dr. Shari Olson
President

JUST THE FACTS

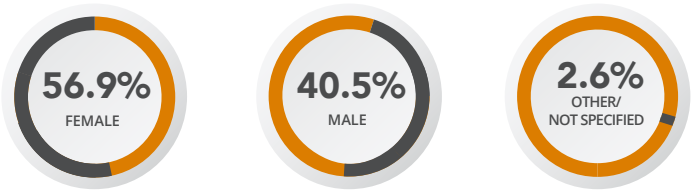
FISCAL YEAR 2015–2016

STUDENTS

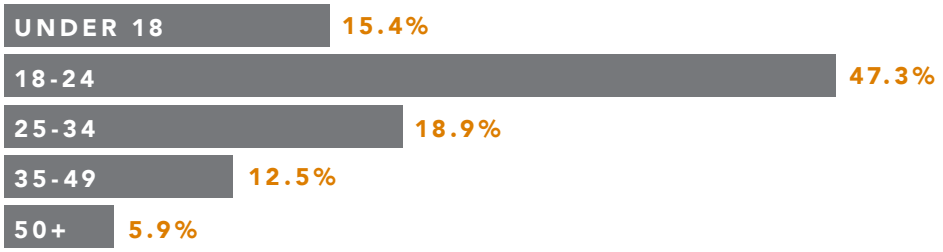


*Enrollment reflects credit students only.

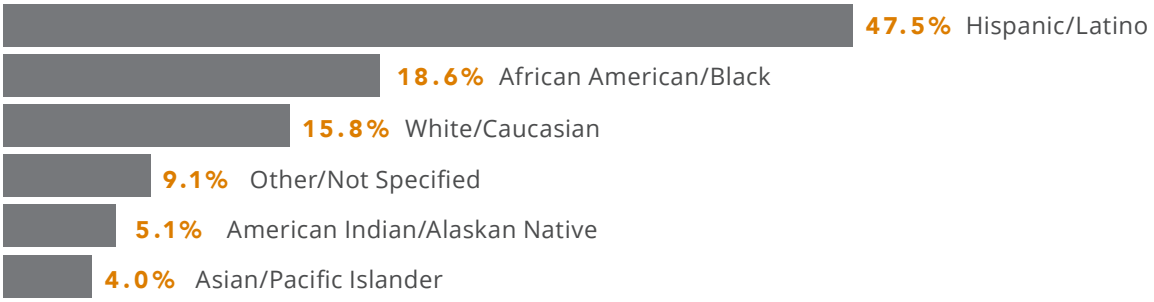
STUDENT GENDER



STUDENT AGE



STUDENT RACE



FACULTY TO STUDENT RATIO 15:1

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE 14

$1.28 MILLION

AWARDED IN SCHOLARSHIPS

3,282 STUDENTS

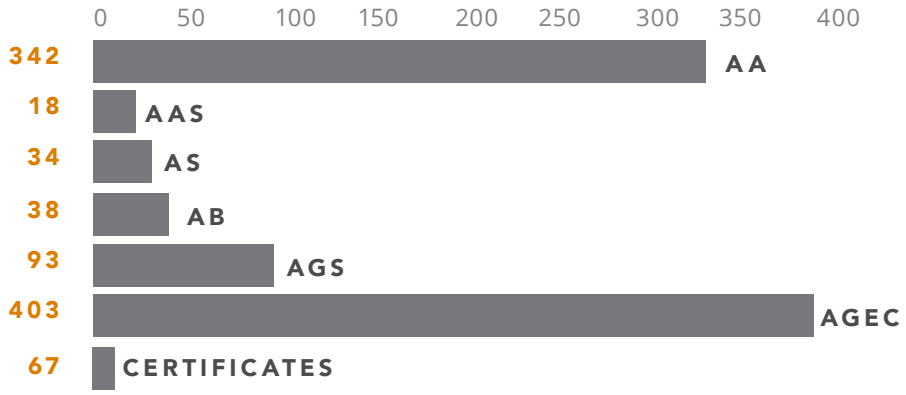
RECEIVED SOME TYPE OF FINANCIAL AID

$13.2 MILLION

AWARDED IN GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, WORK STUDY, AND LOANS

* Grants, scholarships, work-study, and loans

TOTAL AWARDS



TOTAL AWARDS
995

GRADUATES
442

SMCC EMPLOYEES

Full-time Faculty, Staff, Administration	200
Part-time Faculty, Staff, Administration	404

ANNUAL BUDGET

General Fund: **$26, 885,111**

Restricted Fund*: **$13,116,790**

Auxiliary Fund: **$5,012,620**

Capital Fund: **$403,241**

* Grants, scholarships, work-study, and loans

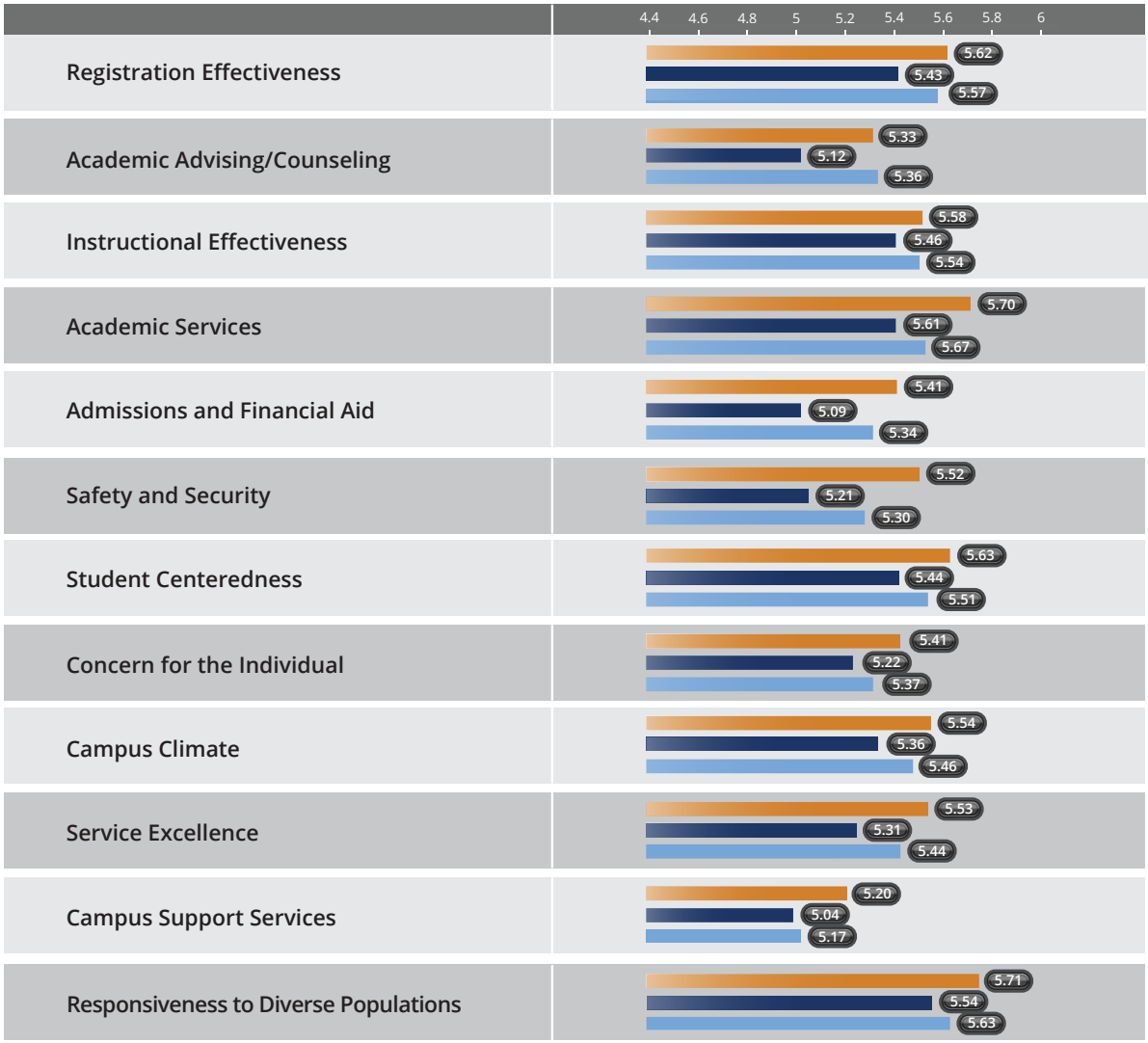
STUDENTS RATE EXPERIENCE AT SMCC WITH HIGH MARKS IN NOEL LEVITZ SURVEY

In spring 2016, SMCC students completed the national survey and stated they are more likely to have their expectations met and more likely to re-enroll when compared to students at other two-year institutions across the nation.

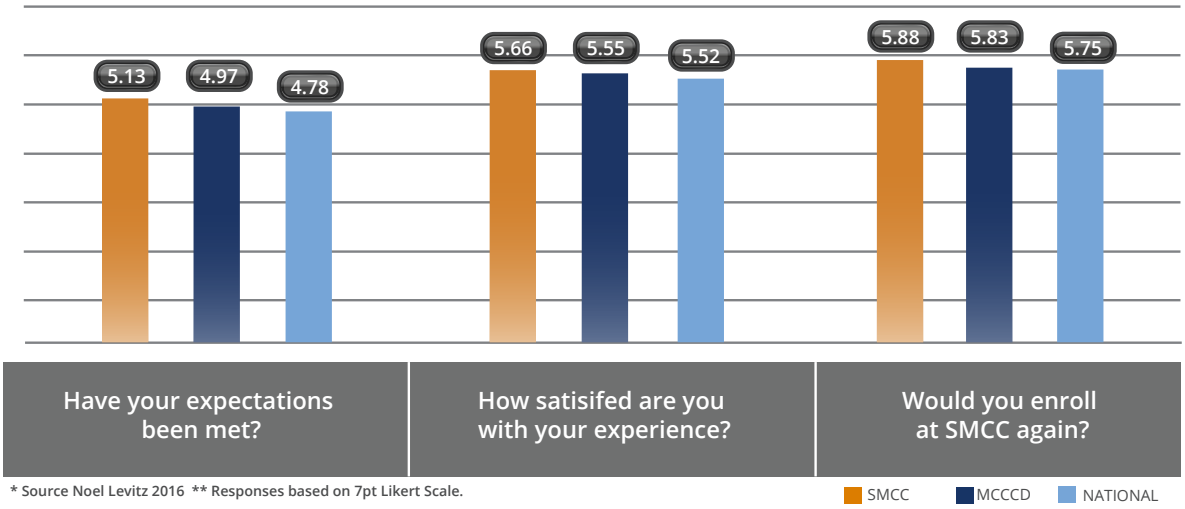
Student satisfaction assessments are a key indicator of the current institutional environment. The data from the Noel-Levitz Student Satisfaction Inventory (SSI) provides direction for improving the quality of student life and learning in the areas that are most important to our students. The survey measures student satisfaction and importance, showing both how satisfied students are with their college experience and what experiences are important to them. The results support institutional efforts by identifying potential next steps the college can implement to effectively respond to student concerns.

The ratings for each item use a 7-point Likert scale (7 = most important/satisfied and 1 = least important/satisfied). Means scores for importance and satisfaction for individual items are calculated by summing the respondents' ratings and dividing by the number of respondents.

HOW SATISFIED ARE SMCC STUDENTS?



WHAT OUR STUDENTS ARE SAYING



* Source Noel Levitz 2016 ** Responses based on 7pt Likert Scale.

NJCAA HONORS STUDENT ATHLETES AND TEAMS WITH ACADEMIC AWARDS

When the NJCAA officially released the names of the 2015-16 NJCAA Academic Student-Athlete Award winners as well as the NJCAA All-Academic Team Award winners, six Cougar Athletic teams were honored. All-Academic Team Awards are awarded to teams that post a 3.00 GPA or higher.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Girls Softball Team

NJCAA ACADEMIC STUDENT-ATHLETE AWARDS

ALL-ACADEMIC TEAMS

Volleyball	3.57	Softball	3.34
Women's Golf	3.48	Women's Soccer	3.10
Baseball	3.38	Men's Basketball	3.04

INDIVIDUAL ATHLETES

The Cougars also had 30 individual athletes garner 2015-2016 Academic Student-Athlete Awards. Academic Student-Athlete Awards are awarded on a 4.00 scale as follows:

NJCAA Pinnacle Award for Academic Excellence (4.00 GPA)

NJCAA Award for Superior Academic Achievement (3.80 to 3.99)

NJCAA Award for Exemplary Academic Achievement (3.60 to 3.79)

NJCAA Pinnacle Award for Academic Excellence (4.00 GPA)

Kendall Bradford – Softball
Robery Bryniarski – Baseball
Baylee Hilton – Softball
Vanessa Leiterman – Golf
Hunter Phelan – Golf
Justin Warren – Golf

NJCAA Award for Superior Academic Achievement (3.80 to 3.99)

Trevor Davies – Basketball
Brian Kiser – Baseball
Nicholas Lacayo – Baseball
Caitlin McDowell – Softball
Kiara Morgan – Basketball
Garrin Nash – Soccer
Eric Schwalbe – Baseball
Marshall Shill – Baseball
Justin Wick – Baseball
Cedar Young – Volleyball

NJCAA Award for Exemplary Academic Achievement (3.60 to 3.79)

Jacob Aguilar – Baseball
Abigail Bacon – Soccer
Karina Baker – Volleyball
Matthew Drannbauer – Basketball
Logan Gardner – Golf
Jihley Gomez Mendoza – Soccer
Savannah Gulstad – Volleyball
April Kilpatrick – Volleyball
Jessica Klemme – Volleyball
Kheanna Landrum-Byrd – Volleyball
Angel Laughter – Golf
Skyler Palermo – Baseball
Jaime Pinson – Softball
Gavin Wood – Basketball

SOUTH MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE ATHLETIC TEAM TAKES NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

This year, the men's Cougar Golf and Cougar Basketball teams celebrated successful seasons. For the fifth time in the last seven years, the golf team captured the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division 2 National Championship, and the basketball team had one of the most successful seasons in College history.

After trailing by one shot for half the tournament, the golf team turned up the pressure and won the championship with a 20-shot lead. Cougar Golf finished the tournament as the only team under par. Freshman Justin Warren came into the final day of the tournament in third place, but played tremendously and finished the 18 holes in a tie for the individual championship. Warren went into the playoff, which only lasted two holes, and won the Individual National Title! For the second straight year, SMCC wins the Team and Individual titles at the National Championship. All five team members finished in the top 14 and received All-American honors, and Coach Andy Walker received the ACCAC Conference Coach of the Year as well as the NJCAA Division II Coach of the Year.

For the first time in College history, the 2015-16 men's basketball team was named NJCAA Academic All-American Team by achieving a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. Connor MacDougall and Terrance Johnson were named to the NJCAA All-American team and the All-ACCAC Team; Jackson Price was also named to the All-ACCAC Team; Gavin Wood and Matt Drannbauer were two Academic All-Americans; Connor MacDougall was also named to the All-National Tournament team; and, Desmond Johnson received the prestigious National Tournament Small Man Award.

Seven players this year, including freshmen, signed letters of intent to play for their respective universities, two of whom will be moving on to Division I Colleges. The Men's Basketball Team finished the season in eighth place at the NJCAA National Tournament, and Coach Daven Vo was named the 2015-16 District Coach of the Year.

NJCAA DIVISION II NATIONAL GOLF CHAMPIONS & COACH OF THE YEAR, ANDY WALKER

SOUTH MOUNTAIN STUDENTS COMMITTED TO THE COMMUNITY

In 2015-16, South Mountain Community College students, staff and faculty donated over 1,000 hours of service to the community.

- Cleaned up Julian Elementary School on Make a Difference Day.
- Donated supplies and assembled 650 care packages for Central Arizona Shelter Services.
- Provided food distribution services twice a month through a partnership with St. Mary's Food Bank. More than 2,300 community members received food boxes and 5,000 pounds of food was distributed.
- 55 students, staff and faculty volunteered once a month at the Andre House Homeless Shelter Soup line and served 4,700 food plates for those in need.
- Partnered with Beat Street to provide a poetry slam for area high school students.

HOPE COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS ACADEMY BREAKS GROUND

On April 7, 2016, the Hope College and Career Readiness Academy (Hope) broke ground. Hope is a partnership with South Mountain Community College, Maricopa County Community College District and the Maricopa County Regional School District to provide opportunity youth in South Phoenix a place to return to school and receive specialized training while earning their high school diploma.

Research indicates that traditional educational routes are not working for these young adults. Working together, we can prepare all teens and young adults with the skills they need to be productive, fulfilled citizens and community members.

In fall 2013, Measures for America, which researches and reports on well-being and opportunity in America, identified Phoenix as fourth among major metropolitan areas in the U.S. for disconnection among those between the ages of 16 and 24, with a rate of 17.2 percent or 93,000 young people. This is one in every five young people in the Phoenix Metropolitan area. In the SMCC service area, the number is one in every three.

Together MCRSD, Maricopa Community Colleges and South Mountain Community College will work together to make a significant impact on the lives of youth currently not invested in education or the workforce.

DR. JEROME GARRISON, SR. HONORED AT DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BREAKFAST

Dr. Garrison is a lifelong educator and learner with an sincere passion for the community. He has played an intricate role in building SMCC's Music and Fine Arts programs in an environment that provides opportunity and fosters student success.

Dr. Garrison has been instrumental in helping build the arts community: he started the annual Messiah performance in 1987, and led the SMCC design team to build the Performing Arts Center in 2003. In 2008, Dr. Garrison was given the South Mountain/Laveen Chamber of Commerce Volunteer Service Award for his involvement and commitment to community.

Additionally, Dr. Garrison has helped raise over $300,000 for the SMCC Students Achieving Radiant Success (STARS) Foundation Scholarship. He continues his dedication and passion to provide college opportunities to students by recently organizing a community board of directors to plan and implement external fundraising for STARS.

Dr. Jerome Garrison

Dr. Garrison's personal quote - "The happiest people don't necessarily have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything." -Tom Peters, Business Writer.

DR. MARK SPENCER MAKES INTERNATIONAL HEADLINES WITH CO-AUTHORED PAPER ON EVOLUTION

Dr. Mark Spencer

Dr. Mark Spencer, science faculty at South Mountain Community College (SMCC), recently co-authored a paper on the changes that have occurred in the skull during human and non-primate evolution, focused on the mechanics of feeding.

This collaborative research paper addresses the anatomy of a recently discovered species of hominin - the upright walking ancestors and relatives of living people. It highlights an evolutionary shift that occurred at the origin of our lineage toward having jaws that were less powerfully built, indicating changes in diet 2 million years ago.

"Science is my passion," said Dr. Mark Spencer. "I recognize the value it has within our society - being scientifically literate empowers people, both as a community and as individuals."

Dr. Spencer has been teaching at SMCC since 2012. Prior to this he was at Duke University, University of Colorado, Denver, and Arizona State University.

"As an educator, I always focus on opening up new interests and opportunities to students. Although I have taught all levels, including Ph.D. students, I most enjoy teaching introductory courses - helping students to overcome their anxiety about science and watching them make connections between what they learn and their own lives is immensely rewarding to me."

"Teaching at South Mountain has been a wonderful opportunity. Because the classes are kept smaller, I get to know my students and work with them to advance their understanding of science while pursuing their varied goals," Dr. Spencer stated.

AT SOUTH MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE, STUDENTS DISCOVER THEIR SUPER POWERS

Super powers are hidden talents, strengths and skills you already possess.

At South Mountain Community College, students get more than a degree. They discover their strengths and key interests, develop the skills needed to advance their education and future career, and apply them to the plan for personal and academic success. Eighty-one percent of all participating students have become more confident and discovered skills they didn't know they had; they found it easier to make important decisions about academic goals and career paths.

College is the optimal time for self-discovery. At SMCC, the My 360 tool provides students with real-life applications so they can pursue their passion and find their place in the world. This all new student experience is provided while enrolled in a Student Success course.

STEMJOBS℠ APPROVED SOUTH MOUNTAIN

STEM JobsSM magazine featured South Mountain Community College in its winter 2015 issue. Daniel Nichols, President of STEM JobsSM, stated, "We're pleased to showcase South Mountain Community College as a school leading the way in translating education into real-world jobs, and its responsiveness to meeting those demands."

SOUTH MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE PARTNERS WITH SI SE PUEDE FOUNDATION TO OFFER STEM PROGRAMMING TO AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

On Wednesday, September 30, 2015, South Mountain Community College announced a partnership with the Si Se Puede Foundation to offer a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Robotics program to local high school students.

"STEM skills are becoming increasingly necessary to give youth a path to success," said South Mountain President Shari Olson. "Through this partnership, we will be able to offer engaging, hands-on learning that will get them excited about STEM majors and careers."

According to US2020, more than nine million STEM professionals will be needed by 2022. Providing opportunities like the STEM Robotics exposes today's youth to engineering, physics and calculus so that they can learn skills needed to navigate an ever increasingly complicated and technology driven world.

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SOUTH MOUNTAIN NAMED A MILITARY FRIENDLY SCHOOL

Based on the work of the college to embrace military students and its dedication of resources to ensure success in the classroom and after graduation, South Mountain was awarded the designation as a Military Friendly School by Victory Media. This designation is only awarded to the top 15 percent of colleges that make significant strides in supporting military students.

VETERANS CENTER OPENS IN THE STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING

The Veteran's Center opened on September 17, 2015, to connect veteran and military students with the resources they need – including tutoring, counseling, educational benefits and academic guidance. It is the goal of the center to be a place where veteran students can connect with one another and receive the assistance needed to achieve personal and academic goals.

"SMCC is honored to offer the public an opportunity to view this enhancement to our campus," said Dr. Shari Olson, SMCC President. "Our college has always strived to provide excellent services for our military students and their families. We are dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of our students."

SMCC ANNOUNCED AS A 2016 BELLWETHER FINALIST

The College was selected as a top 10 finalist in the area of workforce development for the work done in entrepreneurship. The field was very competitive in 2016 with nearly 300 Bellwether applications. Prior to the application process, over 1,000 community college programs were nominated from a wide range of agencies including peer institutions, conferences, and the media.

The presentation, No Ordinary Pathway to Entrepreneurial Success, was delivered by Dr. Shari Olson, Dr. Rey Rivera, Bruce McHenry and Robin Romano from MariSol Federal Credit Union.

The Bellwether Awards recognize innovative and trend-setting post-secondary programs that are successfully leading community colleges into the future. Bellwether Finalist colleges are recognized as trend-setting institutions with programs that other colleges might replicate by the Community College Futures Assembly, an independent national policy forum for key opinion leaders to work as a "think tank" in identifying critical issues facing the future of community colleges.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE WINS NATIONAL GOLD PARAGON AWARD FOR NEW LOGO

South Mountain Community College captured the Logo Gold 2015 Paragon Award from the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations. NCMPR presented the award on March 13 during its three-day national conference in St. Louis.

NCMPR presented gold, silver and bronze awards in 53 categories at the Paragon Awards dinner and ceremony. Some 236 colleges submitted a total of 1,773 entries to the contest.

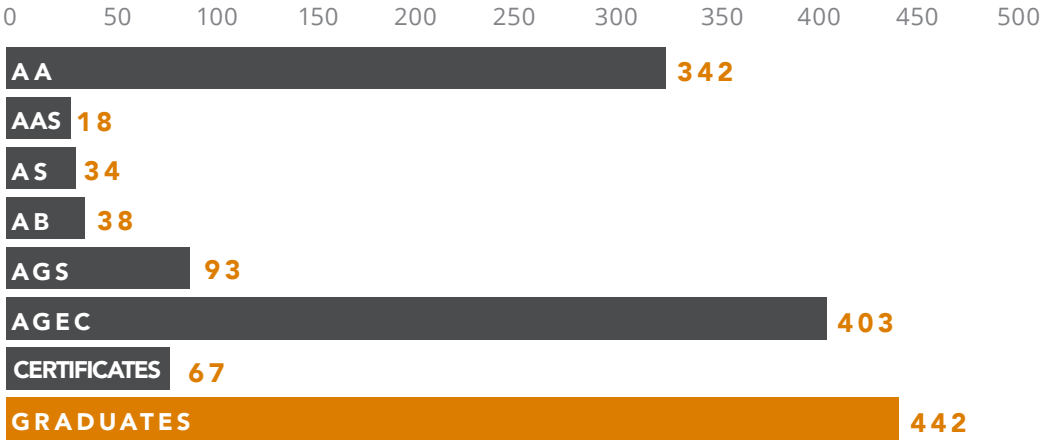
NCMPR annually presents Paragon Awards to recognize outstanding achievement in communication at community and technical colleges. It's the only national competition of its kind that honors excellence exclusively among marketing and PR professionals at two-year community and technical colleges.

LEARNING BY DEGREES

South Mountain Community College remains committed to the success of its students by offering a wide range of academic courses and workforce programs in classrooms, labs and through real-life experiences. In addition, we offer a wide array of student support services to assist students with their academic and professional skills preparation. At South Mountain Community College, our goal is to provide quality education at an affordable price with open access to all members of the community.

TOTAL AWARDS

During the 2015-16 academic year, South Mountain awarded 995 associate degrees and certificates to 442 students.



NEW PROGRAMS

This academic year, South Mountain Community College provided students with new opportunities through programs that will help them enter the workforce or transfer to a four-year institution. The new programs are:

Entrepreneurial Studies Level 1
IT: Android/iOS Programming
IT: Microsoft Programming
Pharmacy Customer Service
Web Application Development
Sustainability
Sustainability/Ecological Literacy

SOUTH MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE ENGAGES IN AN EFFORT TO REDUCE ITS CARBON FOOTPRINT

Look behind the athletic fields. South Mountain Community College has constructed a 180,000 square-foot solar array that covers just over four acres.

These 2,812 ground-mounted PV modules are expected to produce approximately 1.9 million kilowatt hours of electricity in the first year of operation - enough to fulfill the electrical needs of 160* average sized homes per year - and nearly 35.5 million kilowatt hours over the next 20 years, which is an anticipated savings between $750,000 to $1.7 million** for the College.

Installing the 858-kilowatt array is one way to decrease our reliance on non-renewable forms of energy. The college, like the rest of the surrounding community, still relies on non-renewable sources of energy like coal, natural gas and oil for most of our electricity. This is why it is so important to reduce our energy use through efficiency upgrades and conservation practices by faculty, staff and students.

"The ongoing sustainability efforts of the College will provide value to the community for years to come," said SMCC President Dr. Shari Olson. "The solar array is just one of several sustainability initiatives that SMCC has undertaken to not only off set energy use and costs, but to help move forward the thinking and development of green technologies and jobs."

The electricity produced by this array will ensure the College's access to low cost energy over the next 20 to 30 years. The array is owned, operated and maintained by SolarCity.

This installation also enhances existing SMCC academic programs focused on green jobs, innovations and sustainability. Students in these programs are able to track in real time the energy production of the array and the benefits of harnessing a renewable resource.

"Not only is the array a highly visible product that connects students who are interested in science, technology, engineering, math and land use, it is tangible evidence of our commitment to sustainability," stated Dr. Olson.

The array went live in early 2016.

*Typical home with an average annual electric use of 12,000 kWh.

**Based on historical 30 year SRP escalation data (0.5%-4.0%).

SOUTH MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECEIVES OVER $231,000 FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

As part of the U.S. Department of Education's Student Support Services Program (a TRIO program), South Mountain Community College received $231,103 in order to continue providing students with the academic and support services they need to succeed in college. This award is renewable each year for five years totaling $1.15 million.

This grant is aimed at providing low-income, first generation, and disabled students the opportunity to attend college and complete a program of study. While student financial aid programs help students overcome financial barriers to higher education, TRIO programs help students overcome class, social and cultural barriers to higher education.

"At South Mountain, our TRIO programs strive to increase retention and graduation rates for students by providing services, opportunities and resources that enhance personal skills and academic excellence," stated Dr. Shari Olson, president.

TRIO programs at South Mountain include Upward Bound and STEP (Students Transfer with Educational Preparation). More information about these programs is available at southmountaincc.edu/trio.

STUDENT VENTURE PITCH PROGRAM PARTNERS WITH ASU

Arizona State University (ASU), supported by grant funding from the Cisco Corporate Advised Fund at Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF), and community college partners are providing an innovative, comprehensive learning experience to help local underserved students gain entrepreneurial and digitization skills through the ASU Poder program.

Poder (Spanish for "to be able to" and "power"), is a five-week social entrepreneurship training program that launched during the spring 2016 semester at South Mountain Community College (SMCC). The program allows underserved community college students to create solutions to pressing societal problems using digitization skills acquired through Cisco curriculum, while receiving career and college preparation training to succeed educationally.

"Entrepreneurship can be transformative both personally and professionally," said Ji Mi Choi, associate vice president of entrepreneurship and innovation at ASU. "The ASU Poder program combines entrepreneurship training with digitization skills. This can be an enabling combination whether someone is seeking to start their own venture or simply gaining the skills to be better problem solvers and critical thinkers." Twenty-five students participated in the first cohort of ASU Poder. The program will continue to be offered on SMCC campus through the fall 2018 semester.

"True to its name, Poder is an empowering program for those in the idea or start-up phase of entrepreneurship," said Kerry Taft, a spring 2016 Poder participant. "I am in the growth phase with my business and was still able to learn some new, creative ways of looking at entrepreneurship."

"Poder provides culturally-responsive social entrepreneurship training to better serve underserved community college students," said Bruce McHenry, business faculty and director of the Community Entrepreneurship Center at South Mountain Community College.

This program is now in its second year at SMCC and has expanded to other colleges in the Maricopa Community College District, a result of this collaborative partnership.

SMCC STUDENT SELECTED FOR 2016 CISCO DREAM TEAM

Rachel Umpleby was selected from more than 80 applicants across the United States and Canada to be one of 10 students for the 2016 Cisco Dream Team. As part of this team, Umpleby experienced a unique development opportunity to work hands-on with industry leaders to deploy and support the event Network Operations Center in Las Vegas, Nevada.

HOOP OF LEARNING ESTABLISHES NEW PARTNERSHIP

In Spring 2016, South Mountain Community College HOOP of Learning program partnered with RED INK: International Journal of Indigenous Literature, Arts, & Humanities to demonstrate to HOOP students the importance of sharing Native American perspectives through literature. As part of the partnership, HOOP students created a book of their stories through their lens, teaching them how to blend their academic and cultural experiences. The book, Native Voices through Literature, demonstrates a progressive approach for Native American awareness.

HOOP students at South Mountain Community College have also shown academic success throughout the 2015-16 academic year. The overall GPA at the end of Summer 2016 was 3.23 and students earned over 200 credits.

COMMUNITY ENTREPRENEURSHIP DIRECTOR SPEAKS AT INNOVATION ARIZONA

On Thursday, October 1, 2015, South Mountain Community College Community Entrepreneurship Center Director Bruce McHenry participated in a panel discussion about incubators and co-working spaces.

"Business incubators are geared to help speed up the growth and success of startup and early stage companies," stated McHenry. "The Community Entrepreneurship Center at South Mountain will provide students and community members with the mentoring, expertise, networking and potential capital investments to jumpstart their businesses."
The Innovation Arizona Summit provides an opportunity for businesses and educators to strengthen their connections.

"We were excited that Bruce was invited to take part in this year's Summit," said South Mountain Community College President Dr. Shari Olson. "This event provided the college an opportunity to support the entrepreneurial community and showcase how we are working to expand resources for entrepreneurs in south Phoenix."

For more information about the Community Entrepreneurship Center or entrepreneurship programs, visit southmountaincc.edu/mybusiness.

EDUCATING THE WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE

South Mountain Community College continues to support the local and regional economy by addressing the needs of employers and by providing students with the education and degrees needed for fast-growing, in-demand careers.

There is a strong commitment to ensuring clear educational pathways that enable students to easily transfer from associate degrees to four-year programs. Similarly, the certificate and degree programs are increasingly tied directly to real-time demands of current and future job markets. This prepares students to have the basic skills and analytical and technical knowledge required for jobs and careers in the 21st century workplace.

MICRO-FINANCE PROGRAM SELECTED AS THE SMCC INNOVATION OF THE YEAR

Access to start-up capital is a challenge for entrepreneurs. To meet this challenge SMCC created an innovative community partnership with a credit union and a social business think tank. The partnership enables students to be eligible for a micro-finance business loan from $500 to $2,500.

This program was selected as the Innovation of the Year for South Mountain Community College. In partnership with the League for Innovation in the Community College, MCCCD recently awarded the Maricopa Innovation of the Year Awards, acknowledging the employees, their programs and their commitment to excellence in education through innovation.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE NAMED AS ONE OF THE TOP 150 COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN THE NATION

Highlighting the critical importance of improving student success in America's community colleges, the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program named SMCC as one of the nation's top 150 community colleges eligible to compete for the 2017 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence and $1 million dollars in prize funds.

The Prize, awarded every two years, is the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges and recognizes institutions for exceptional student outcomes in four areas: student learning, certificate and degree completion, employment and earnings, and access and success for minority and low-income students.

Nearly half of America's college students attend community college, with more than seven million students – youth and adult learners – working towards certificates and degrees in these institutions across the country.

"Community colleges have tremendous power to change lives, and their success will increasingly define our nation's economic strength and the potential for social mobility in our country," said Josh Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program. "This competition is designed to spotlight the excellent work being done in the most effective community colleges, those that best help students obtain meaningful, high-quality education and training for competitive-wage jobs after college. We hope it will raise the bar and provide a roadmap to better student outcomes for community colleges nationwide."

SOUTH MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECOGNIZED BY WHITE HOUSE AS A BRIGHT SPOT IN HISPANIC EDUCATION.

The White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics has recognized South Mountain Community College for the Bilingual Nursing Fellows Program (BNFP) as a Bright Spot in Hispanic Education.

This Initiative seeks to leverage Bright Spots to encourage collaboration between stakeholders focused on similar issues in sharing data-driven approaches, promising practices, peer advice, and effective partnerships, ultimately resulting in increased support for the educational attainment of the Hispanic community, from cradle-to-career.

The BNFP program at South Mountain was created to meet the critical shortfall of Spanish speaking nurses in Arizona and to prepare students for employment as registered nurses. Through partnerships with Phoenix College and Arizona State University, students are able to transfer directly into the BSN program at ASU for reduced tuition rates.

Fall 2015, through collaboration with the Arizona Action Coalition Diversity Council, a mentoring program has been implemented. The program is designed to have 20 BNFP student mentees pair with mentors from the National Association of Hispanic Nurses, Black Nurses Association of Greater Phoenix, and Philippine Nurses Association of Arizona to engage with undeserved populations in community health settings. This group will also be working with the South Mountain Storytelling Institute to learn how the art of storytelling can assist them in their nursing careers.

Since the program began more than 15 years ago, over 300 students have become a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse or certified nurse assistant. The BNFP program also has a 100 percent LCN NCLEX pass rate and 95 percent RN NCLEX pass rate. To date, 226 students have received their Associates in Applied Sciences with 108 additional students in the program fall 2016.

As a Bright Spot, the South Mountain BNFP program is part of a national online catalog that includes over 230 programs that invest in key education priorities for Hispanics.

“It is an honor to have the college recognized as a Bright Spot in Hispanic Education,” said Dr. Shari Olson, South Mountain President. “Not only is the BNFP program instrumental in meeting current workforce needs, it is an example of the college’s leadership, dedication and steadfast commitment to the Hispanic community.”

For more information on the BNFP program, visit southmountaincc.edu/BNFP.

COMMUNITY ENTREPRENUERSHIP CENTER HELD GRAND OPENING

On Thursday, November 12, 2015, South Mountain Community College opened the doors to the new Community Entrepreneurship Center (CEC). The new CEC is a business incubator offering education, services, tools, and resources for start-up and existing businesses that includes dedicated workspace, office, conference room, 'superman' call booth, kitchen, and lounge space for student-entrepreneurs. The space offers computers as well as Wi-Fi for bring-your-own-devices.

The CEC environment creates connections to grow and sustain entrepreneurs and small businesses by providing a unique co-learning space where student entrepreneurs are able to collaborate with faculty, staff, and community partners supporting entrepreneurship.

Community partners providing support include:

- SCORE (Service Corp of Retired Executives)
- SBDC (Maricopa Small Business Development Center)
- AWEE (Arizona Women's Education & Employment center)
- ASU Skysong Office of Entrepreneurship + Innovation
- MariSol Federal Credit Union
- small Matters

This Center is the culmination of an idea that began about three years ago, an idea about a new opportunity for students that would serve as a catalyst for entrepreneurism and small business. It plays a vital role in creating the opportunities student entrepreneurs need to succeed.

TWO STUDENTS SELECTED FOR PRESTIGIOUS ALL-ARIZONA ACADEMIC TEAM

Congratulations Mickey Diamond Diaz and Ronald Turner

Mickey Diamond Diaz

Ronald Turner

Outstanding students Mickey Diaz and Ronald Turner were named to the prestigious 2016 All-Arizona Academic Team. Mickey and Ronald both received four semesters of tuition waivers to an Arizona state university of their choice courtesy of the Arizona Board of Regents and a scholarship from the college in the amount of $1000.

Both full-time students are active members of the college's Alpha Eta Delta chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society.

"The All-Arizona Academic Team competition provides pathways for our academically talented students to transfer to Arizona universities. Mickey and Ronald exemplify the type of dedication and commitment to academics and community leadership. South Mountain Community College is proud to support these students in achieving their best and continuing their education," said Dr. Shari Olson, South Mountain Community College President.

Mickey Diamond Diaz was inducted into the prestigious Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society during the Spring 2015 semester. Soon after, he was elected as Alpha Eta Delta's Vice-President of Service, where he presided over swearing in new members for the fall Induction Ceremony. In addition to his work in Phi Theta Kappa, Diaz was selected as South Mountain Community College's Chancellor's Scholar for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Diaz graduated in May 2016 and transferred to the Grand Canyon University Honors College. He plans to earn a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature degree in the fall of 2018 and aspires to become an automotive journalist.

Ronald Turner is a member of the SMCC Honors Program, Foundation Scholarship award winner, and a member of the SMCC Alpha Eta Delta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa.

Turner is majoring in Sustainability at SMCC and plans on transferring to Arizona State University in spring 2017 to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Sustainability while continuing to work in the behavioral health field with at risk youth.

Both students were honored along with fellow All-Arizona candidates at the annual luncheon held March 2016.

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BREAKDOWN BY CUMULATIVE LIFETIME GIFTS

CATEGORY	2015	2016
$1,000 - $2,499	64	71
$2,500 - $4,999	33	36
$5,000 - $9,999	25	29
$10,000 - $24,999	18	20
$25,000 - $49,000	4	4
$50,000 - $99,999	4	4
$100,000 or higher	2	2

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