

SPOTLIGHT



FALL 2014 | SPRING 2015 | SUMMER 2015

COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENTS

SOUTH MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE SEES STUDENT ENGAGEMENT GAINS

////// Results from the Community College Survey of Student Engagement reported that South Mountain scored above the national benchmark in all five effective educational practices: active and collaborative learning, student effort, academic challenge, student-faculty interaction, and support for learners. (October 2014)

South Mountain Community College designated a 2015 STEM Jobs Approved college.

BELLWETHER FINALIST

////// South Mountain Community College was selected as one of the 10 Bellwether Finalists in the Instructional Program and Services category for "From Rhetoric to Reality: Innovating for Success at a Hispanic and Minority Serving Institution." (January 2015)

LEAGUE OF INNOVATION SUPPORTS CAREER STUDENTS AT SOUTH MOUNTAIN

////// The Walmart Brighter Futures Project and the League for Innovation in the Community College provided \$25,000 in funding to support students in career education certificate programs. (May 2015)

South Mountain Community College received the Campus Technology 2015 Innovators Award in the Student Systems and Services area for its Learner Support System, led by Dawn Thacker. (July 2015)

VOLLEYBALL NAMED ACADEMIC TEAM OF THE YEAR

////// The National Junior College Athletic Association has named South Mountain Community College's women's volleyball team the Academic Team of the Year (2014-15). This is the second consecutive year that the volleyball team has had the top GPA in the nation. The team's GPA was 3.82. (June 2015)

STUDENT ENTREPRENEURS NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED

////// Diana Monell, Lovelyn Omari and Gus Barnes - students enrolled in small business entrepreneurship classes - were honored at the National Association of Community College Entrepreneurship conference and received cash prizes for their demonstrated innovation and creative accomplishments in businesses they are operating while attending college. (October 2014)

NFL star Markus Wheaton (Pittsburgh Steelers) donated 200 turkeys to St. Mary's Food Bank for families that visit the mobile pantry site at South Mountain Community College. (November 2014)

DR. OLSON ATTENDS WHITE HOUSE COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY DAY OF ACTION SUMMIT

////// and announced new actions to help more students prepare for and graduate from college. (December 2014)

MEN'S GOLF TEAM ARE DIVISION 2 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

////// The Men's golf team won the 2015 NJCAA Division 2 National Golf Championship in Scottsboro, AL. The team had a final score of 1137, a 15-shot victory. South Mountain was one of only two teams to finish the week under par. (June 2015)

SPOTLIGHT



FALL 2014 | SPRING 2015 | SUMMER 2015

COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENTS CONTINUED

ATHLETICS BEST YEAR IN THE HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE

////// The 2014-15 season turned out to be the best season ever for South Mountain Community College Athletics. The National Junior College Athletic Association honored eight student-athletes as All-Americans for their respective sports. This is the largest number of individual All-Americans in one year in the history of the college. The eight All-American student-athletes represent the largest total of all the Maricopa Colleges for the 2014-15 athletic year. (June 2015)

SUMMIT AWARD

////// This award honors employees that have gone above and beyond in contributing to the advancement of our vision, mission, and values. Liz Warren and Stephen Hustedde were recognized for their commitment to the college. (May 2015)

PILLAR AWARDS

////// Pillar Awards are awarded to employees who consistently demonstrate outstanding commitment to Learning Organization, Continuous Improvement and Innovation, and Student Success. The 2014 Spring honorees were Camille Newton, Mark Nielson, and Derrick Washington. The 2014 honorees were Damita Kaloostian, Steve Fountaine, and Carol Smith. (January 2015)

MARIA BAILEY-BENSON

////// co-authored the book *A Girlfriend's Guide to Social Media*. Available now at girlfriendguideinc.com and soon on Amazon.

TERESA MUNOZ-MORALES

////// received the 2015 MCCC Women's Leadership Group Woman of Distinction award in March.

LANDRES (BUDDY) CHEEKS

////// in February 2015 the Student Life and Leadership Director was honored by Arizona Common Ground at their First Annual Awards Gala, "A Night of Impact" for the impact he has made in the community through his demonstration of engagement, humility and devotion.

Buddy also received the 2015 Employee Recognition Award in April for outstanding contributions and commitment to advancing the Mission of the Maricopa Community Colleges.

DOLORES URBIETA

////// received the John & Suanne Roueche Excellence Award for her continued commitment to create a positive environment where students can learn math and have a meaningful college experience. (Mar 2015)

STAFF AND FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR STAFF AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXCELLENCE AWARD

////// This honor celebrates those who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the students and colleagues at their college. Congratulations to Ruben Saenz on receiving this honor. (May 2015)

OUTSTANDING ADJUNCT FACULTY AWARDS

////// Maria Eastin (English) and Kaitlin Southerly (English/Reading) received Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Awards this past April. They were selected for the award based on their pedagogy, assessment, development, enrichment and professionalism.