



## South Mountain Community College Breaks Ground for New Science Complex

The Ground-Breaking Ceremony for the new South Mountain Community College (SMCC) Science Complex took place Thursday, August 26 at 9 am.

The ceremony was celebrated by SMCC leadership, science faculty, alumni, Maricopa Community Colleges, McCarthy Building Inc. and Gensler Design team members.

In a livestreamed event, the program highlighted the impact the new Science Complex will have for students and the surrounding community.

SMCC President, Dr. Shari Olson shared her excitement and gratitude to all who were involved in the process to make the Science Complex a reality, noting the struggles it took to get to the groundbreaking.

"The current Physical Sciences building was built in 1980," shared Dr. Shari Olson during the ceremony. "Building the new science complex became our top priority over the years."

Set to be ready for classes by Fall 2022, the new SMCC Science Complex will provide state-of-the-art technology in labs, classrooms, and career preparation.

"The construction of these buildings, along with the amazing teachers, can provide students with the resources that are necessary to make their dreams come true" added SMCC Alumni and former STEM Club President, Soyasha Pandey, who is now at Arizona State University pursuing a degree in Aerospace Engineering.

Dr. Jacqueline Levy, SMCC Math, Science and Engineering Division Chair also shared a warm thanks to students, faculty and lab personnel for creating a positive experience with the current facility.

"Instilling passion and knowledge for science... it's going to be more rewarding in an updated facility."

"These renovations are going to bring state-of-the-art science facilities to South Phoenix," said Maricopa Colleges Governing Board member, Dr. Tom Nerini. "It has been long overdue."

During the ceremony, SMCC also welcomed words from Michael Gonzales from McCarthy Building and Martha de Plazaola Abbott from Glenser Design.

SMCC captured the moments with the planning team, ceremony speakers, SMCC STEM Club and more to celebrate the accomplishment.