2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

southmountaincc.edu

SOUTH MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A **MARICOPA** COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FOCUSING ON STUDENT SUCCESS

Our Vision

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

Our 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

Our 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 Message from SMCC President Dr. Shari Olson

The 2021-2022 academic year will stay with me for years to come. This year brought many new experiences and celebrations for South Mountain Community College (SMCC), the staff, faculty, and the students on our campus.

After 11 years leading SMCC, this is my final year as college president, and I am proud of the work and dedication teams across the campus have shown throughout the years. SMCC is resilient, overcoming a difficult time with the Covid-19 global pandemic, where we adapted to continue to bring students the highest quality of education, support, and resources.

In 2021, we began a new normal, where our community transitioned back to an in-person and hybrid modality. We thrived during this time, making historic transformations, such as being approved to begin offering four-year degrees. By Fall of 2023, SMCC will offer a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Behavioral Sciences, an accomplishment that could not have been possible without the work of critical faculty and staff.

SMCC continues to make a national impact, as two of our programs were named Top 10 finalists for the 2022 Bellwether Awards. "The South Phoenix Oral History Project: Using Oral History to Empower Students and Community" and South Mountain Community College STARS (Students Transformed to Achieve Radiant Success) Endowment Program."

Both programs are a prime example of our work to "build community," as our Vision states.

I witnessed long-time faculty Dr. Sian Proctor literally reach for the stars as she piloted SpaceX Inspiration 4 Mission, and other leaders become college Presidents and Vice-Presidents. Seeing our faculty and staff grow and make their dreams come true has been truly astounding.

We also celebrated the STARS Gala, where we brought community leaders, elected officials, and many more to raise funds for the STARS Scholarship and to honor SMCC's founding president Dr. Raúl Cárdenas. In addition, the gala allowed us to showcase the future monument that will give our Athletic Complex a new name in his honor.

As I reflect on my time at SMCC, I am proud of the work we have done together. When I arrived at SMCC, we celebrated the grand opening of the South Mountain Community Library, a beautiful space for our students and community. In my final year at SMCC, I closed my tenure during the grand opening of the Science Complex. This state-of-the-art building will provide a new learning experience for students, opening many opportunities in academics and practice. The new Science Complex will also serve as an open door for the growth of our college.

I thank our community, students, staff, and faculty for the beautiful memories and the help serving the mission of SMCC, "educating minds, transforming lives, touching hearts, and building community."

Dr. Shari Olson
President, South Mountain Community College

A Look Back at Dr. Shari Olson's Tenure at SMCC!

FALL 2022 AND FORWARD

Dr. Shari Olson announced her retirement in the Spring 2022, sparking a nationwide search for the next college president. The search began in the Summer 2022, with a rigorous review process, public forums for staff and faculty, students, and the surrounding community.

Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) and South Mountain Community College (SMCC) are pleased to announce Dr. Richard C. Daniel as the next President of SMCC.

Dr. Daniel's professional experience spans thirty years in the Arizona higher education community. In his former leadership position, Dr. Daniel served as the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Education Forward Arizona, where he worked to identify partnerships and fundraising opportunities for the organization's growth and impact. Dr. Daniel brings an extensive background in education, and a passion for advocacy. SMCC is proud to welcome Dr. Daniel, as he assumed his role November 7, 2022.

MEET DR. RICHARD C. DANIEL

Richard Daniel, Ph.D., was appointed president of SMCC in November of 2022. In this role, he is responsible for the overall leadership and direction of one of the most diverse colleges in the MCCCD.

Immediately prior to being appointed as president at SMCC, Dr. Daniel served as the executive vice president and chief operating officer of Education Forward Arizona, where his responsibilities included: identifying partnership and fundraising opportunities for organizational growth and impact; developing and executing strategic operational planning and program work planning; and ensuring that programmatic and operational/administrative budgets aligned with organizational priorities. Dr. Daniel also led the fundraising efforts for Education Forward Arizona. In 2021, he helped raise $8.5M from foundations, corporations, federal and state grants, and tribal communities, and, in 2022, his fundraising efforts raised approximately $16M in multi-year funding.

Before Education Forward Arizona, Dr. Daniel served as executive vice president and chief operating officer at College Success Arizona, where he worked to bring the transformative opportunities of higher education to students from underserved and underrepresented communities in Arizona.

During his thirty-year career, Dr. Daniel has served in senior leadership positions at public research universities and community colleges, including serving as vice president for Institutional Advancement at Saint Michael's College. In that role, he oversaw a comprehensive advancement operation responsible for raising $3.4 million annually. During his tenure, he successfully reorganized the Office of Institutional Advancement by aligning efforts toward a model of fundraising that was focused and strategic.

Dr. Daniel worked for 15 years at Arizona State University in a number of administrative positions in the areas of Institutional Advancement, Student Affairs and Academic Affairs. He was Associate Vice President for University Advancement and Special Projects and Executive Director for Alumni Relations at The University of Texas at El Paso. He served as Director of Recruitment and Advisement at South Mountain Community College, where he was member of the Strategic Enrollment Management Committee working with faculty, staff to develop academic programs, pathways and services to ensure students made progress toward completion.

Throughout his career, Dr. Daniel has tirelessly advocated for expanding access to educational opportunities that empower individuals, families, and communities. Servant-leadership has been the guiding principle of Dr. Daniel's efforts, during which he has prioritized developing and supporting teams that maximize individual and organizational strengths for the benefit of those they serve.

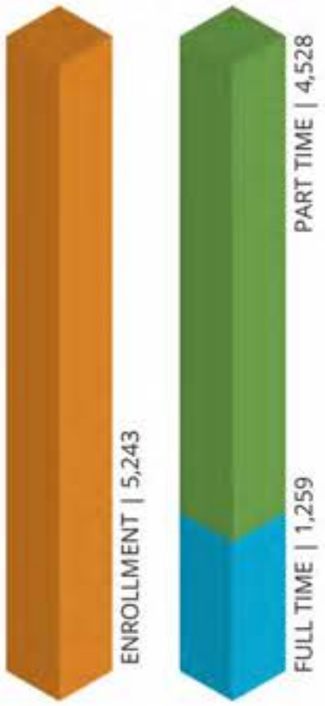
Dr. Daniel also believes in contributing not only through writing and developing research, but also applying it to drive action. Most recently, he was the lead author of the policy brief Prioritizing Access and Opportunity: How Community Colleges Contribute to Increased Attainment and Economic Growth in Arizona. This brief preceded the pandemic and as a result supported the need to create the Arizona Postsecondary Student Resiliency Fund, which provided and continues to provide funds for students facing financial barriers and resource gaps as a result of the pandemic. The Fund awarded $500,000 to 1,156 students statewide over the course of 16 weeks; 258 of those students attended Maricopa County Community Colleges. His work to develop and apply other research projects led to the creation of AdviseAZ AmeriCorps, which places near-peer advisers in high schools to work alongside counselors to help students navigate the complex process of pursuing a postsecondary education.

Dr. Daniel is frequently asked to speak to media and to present at conferences on topics ranging from strategic planning and board development to college and workforce readiness. Born in the mining community of Superior, AZ, Dr. Daniel experienced firsthand the transformative power of higher education, earning his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, as well as his master's degree in Higher Education Administration, and his bachelor's degree in Exercise Science from Arizona State University.

Dr. Daniel and his wife, Rebecca reside in Chandler and are actively involved in the community and enjoy spending time outdoors.

JUST THE FACTS | FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

STUDENTS



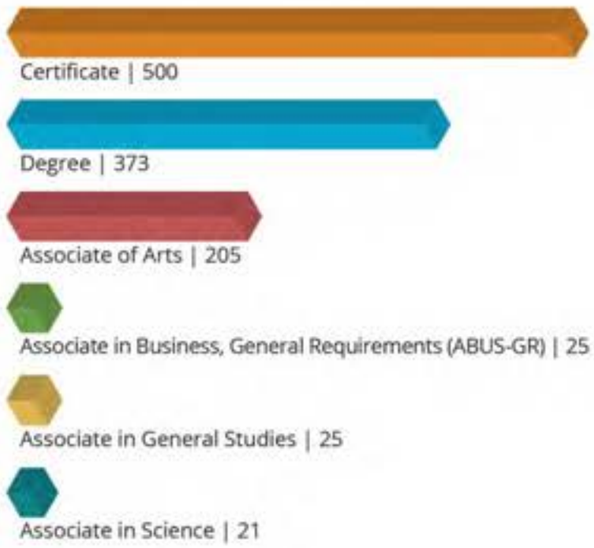
AWARD BY TYPE*

Fall 2021 | Spring 2022 | Summer 2022

TOTAL GRADUATES: 419

TOTAL AWARDS: 873

*Unduplicated



STUDENT POPULATION 2021-2022

SMCC EMPLOYEES

194 Full-time Faculty, Staff, Administration

Part Time Faculty, Staff, Administration **252**

ANNUAL BUDGET

General Fund **$29,619,756**

Restricted Fund* **$17,442,699** | Auxiliary Fund **$269,376** | Capital Fund **$11,778,649**

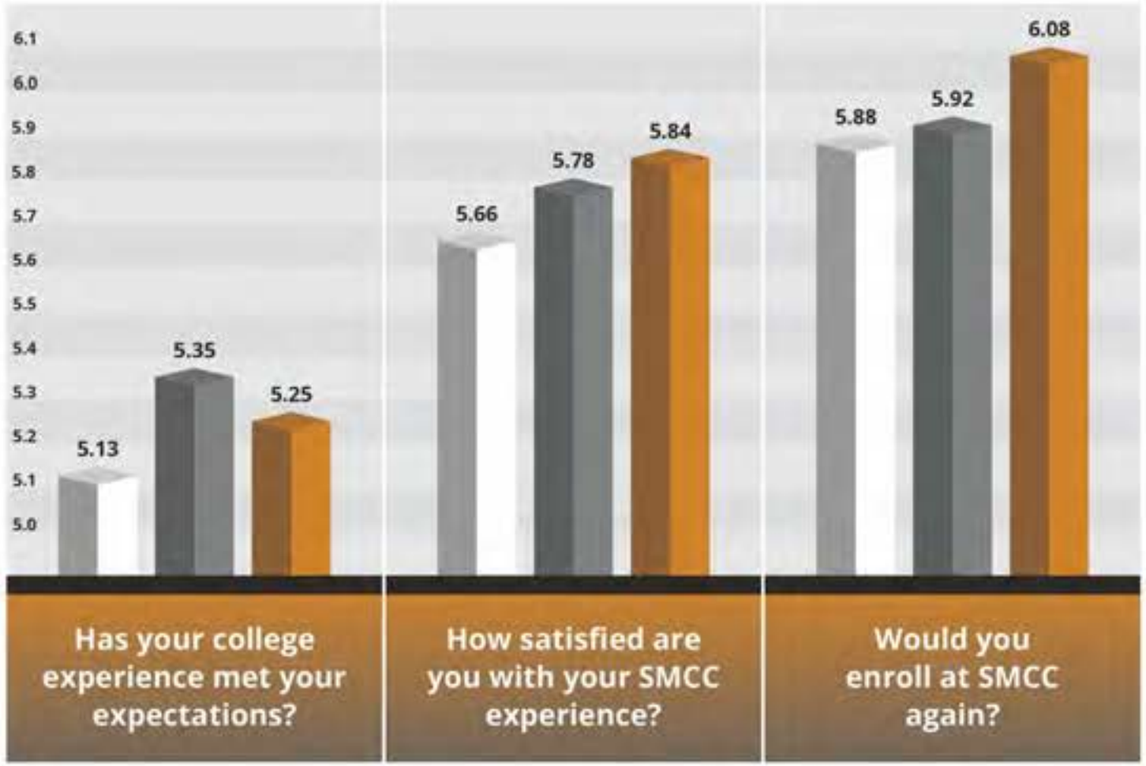
*grants, scholarships, work-study, and loans

STUDENTS RATE THEIR EXPERIENCE AT SMCC

In 2022, SMCC students completed the national Noel-Levitz Student Satisfaction Inventory (SSI) survey to rate their college satisfaction. The survey results showed SMCC students are more likely to have their expectations met and more likely to re-enroll when compared to students at other two-year institutions.

Student satisfaction assessments are a key indicator of the current institutional environment. The data from the Noel -Levitz Satisfaction Inventory (SSI) provides direction for improving the quality of student life and learning in the areas that most important to our students.

The survey measures student satisfaction and important, showing both how satisfied students re in 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.



* Source Noel Levitz 2022 ** Responses based on 7pt Likert Scale.

HOW SATISFIED ARE SMCC STUDENTS?

Student Satisfaction Inventory

The 12 student satisfaction categories provide a broad prospective of students' perceptions and priority of the overall areas of college. Survey results reflect a comparison of SMCC, the whole Maricopa County Community Colleges District (MCCCD) and nationally.

The survey found SMCC performed above average in majority of the categories in comparison to MCCCD and the national average.

* Source Noel Levitz 2022 ** Responses based on 7pt Likert Scale.

COUGAR ATHLETICS 2021-2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

MEN'S GOLF

- Won the 2022 NJCAA Division II National Championship, their eighth national title.
- Won the NJCAA Division II National Championship at Twin Hills Golf and Country Club in Joplin, Mo., May 17-20.
- Finished at +31 to defeat Mississippi Gulf Coast CC and Tyler Junior College by 19 strokes.
- The title was the eighth National Championship in the history of the SMCC men's golf program.

- Head Coach Chelsea Carroll became the first woman in NJCAA history to lead a men's team to a National Championship.
- Sophomore Cecil Belisle won his second-straight National Championship.
- He claimed Individual Medalist honors by finishing at even-par over the 72 holes to defeat his nearest rival by three strokes.
- Belisle won the 2022 NJCAA Jack Nicklaus Award and received the recognition at The 2022 Memorial Tournament.

- Freshman Ethan Klose earned NJCAA First Team All-American honors with a sixth-place finish at NJCAA National Championships.
- Sophomore Sean Markham and Belisle earned PING First Team All-American honors, and Klose received Second Team honors.
- Four Cougars earned 2021-22 NJCAA All-Academic honors: Erskine (First Team), Belisle (Second Team), Jake Carlson and Markham (Third Team).

MEN'S BASEBALL

- Finished 27-29 overall and 15-23 in ACCAC action.
- Carter Richey, Jayden Smith and Gustavo Sosa earned All-ACCAC honors and Smith received an All-Region I award.
- Sosa was selected in the 10th round (pick 302) by the Philadelphia Phillies in the 2022 Major League Baseball Draft.
- Seven Cougars transferred to four-year institutions to continue their baseball careers: Carter Krosky and Drew Woody (Utah Valley University), Alec Stanfield (University of New Mexico), Ryan Figueroa (CSU Bakersfield), Charlie Deeds (Southeastern Oklahoma State), Esteban Hernandez (Southeast Missouri State) and Clayton Kempski (Winthrop University).

- Eleven former Cougars participated in the 2022 NCAA Division I Baseball Tournament and two former Cougars (Kale Koler-Texas A&M, Bobby Peirce-Auburn University) helped their teams advance to the College World Series.
- Fifteen Cougars earned 2021-22 NJCAA All-Academic Honors: Figueroa and Krosky (First Team), Nick Wallerstedt, Josaiah Estrella and Matthew Lighthall (Second Team), and Jacob Beltran, Easton Erwin, Deeds, Stanfield, Connor Schneider, Richey, Brian Leon, Max Maholland, Paul Sachen and Hernandez (Third Team).

MEN'S BASKETBALL

- Finished 14-16 overall and 8-12 in ACCAC action.
- Freshman Darien Allen earned Third Team All-ACCAC honors and averaged 13.4 points, 6.4 rebounds, 2.0 assists, 1.3 steals and 1.1 blocks per game.
- Cam Gwyn and Kane Kenyon earned 2021-22 Third Team NJCAA All-Academic honors.

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

- Competed in their first season as a varsity program, playing a total of 10 contests during the spring.

COUGAR ATHLETICS 2021-2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

WOMEN'S GOLF

- Received NJCAA Academic Team of the Year honors after posting a cumulative 3.65 team GPA.
- The Cougars had four individuals receive NJCAA All-Academic honors: Emma Fisher (First Team), Gina Benoche (First Team), Aria Baker (Second Team) and Tabitha Bitter (Third Team).
- On the course, the Cougars finished eighth at the NJCAA Southwest District Championships on April 18-19 at Hawks Creek Golf Club in Westworth Village, Texas.

- Freshman Kylie Rehberger tied for 52nd at +57 (345) at the NJCAA Division I Women's Championships May 9-12 in Sanford, Fla., at Mayfair Country Club.
- Rehberger earned All-District, All-Region and All-Conference honors during the season.
- Emma Fisher and Rehberger earned All-American Scholar honors from the Women's Golf Coaches Association.
- Fisher transferred to NAIA William Woods University (MO) to continue her intercollegiate golf career.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

- Finished 5-22 overall and 2-13 in ACCAC action.
- Maleah Reynolds earned All-ACCAC Honorable Mention honors.
- Nikole Lunsford (Arizona Christian University) and Sienna Cumbie (Saint Katherine's University) transferred to continue their intercollegiate volleyball careers.
- Five Cougars earned 2021-22 NJCAA All-Academic honors: Madison Cadden (First Team), Gabreya Garcia (Second Team), Gracie Henderson (Third Team), Madison Marcotte (Third Team) and Lunsford (Third Team).

WOMEN'S BEACH VOLLEYBALL

- Finished 5-14 in their second season as a varsity program.
- Posted wins over the GCU Club Team twice, Mesa CC and Ottawa University (AZ) twice.
- Five student-athletes earned 2021-22 NJCAA All-Academic Honors: Madison Cadden (First), Kristine Garcia (Second Team), Nikole Lunsford (Third Team), Madison Marcotte (Third Team), Emily Wilson (Third Team).
- Mckenna Androsky transferred to NCAA Division I Lindenwood University (MO) to continue her intercollegiate beach volleyball career.

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

- Finished 34-24 overall and 25-19 in ACCAC action and qualified for the Region I Division II Tournament for the second-straight season.
- Kate Hogan named First Team NFCA All-American and NJCAA Second Team All-American honors.
- Hogan transferred to NCAA Division I Idaho State University to continue her intercollegiate softball career.
- Four Cougars earned All-Region I Division II honors: Christian Smith, Tara Lorona, Mariah Martinez and Hogan; Smith and Hogan also received Second Team All-ACCAC awards.
- Rylie Atherton (Concordia University-Irvine) and Jaudrey Ah Quin (Lake Forest College) transferred to NCAA Division II institutions to continue their intercollegiate softball careers.
- Lauren Russell, Taylor Mount, Carolina Olivas, Monica Chon, Lorona, Smith and Martinez all transferred to NAIA Park-Gilbert to continue their intercollegiate softball career.
- Six Cougars earned 2021-22 NJCAA All-Academic Honors: Atherton (First Team), Annalise Chavez (First Team), Smith (Third Team), Hogan (Third Team), Russell (Third Team), and Smith (Third Team).

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

- Finished 3-19 overall and 2-16 in ACCAC action.
- Brea Patterson Earned 2021-22 First Team NJCAA All-Academic honors and Daniela Bernal received a Third Team award.

MEET THE CLASS OF 2022 VALEDICTORIAN EMILY GERLACH

Emily Gerlach thrived by advocating for herself and others. As she began her college journey at SMCC in 2019, she was one of many students who spent the majority of their education online due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Rising above many challenges, her perseverance, focus, and career goals led her to become the Class of 2022 Valedictorian.

Having lived in Arizona for almost four years after moving from New Jersey, she found community while attending SMCC. After graduating from Horizon Honors High School, Gerlach decided to major in Behavioral Health Sciences (BHS), a program that supported her in finding her calling to pursue a career as a psychologist.

"The BHS program at SMCC created a small network of friends and community for me," said Gerlach. "I felt I could talk to my classmates, professors like Dr. William Beverly, and friends from the BHS Club, where I found connection and support during school, even if it was primarily online."

Gerlach shared her goal is to open her own private practice to create a space with accessibility for everyone. Diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy before birth, she learned to advocate for herself and her access during her childhood.

"My disability has made me very vocal," said Gerlach, "it taught me to advocate for myself and to help others become their own advocate to help build a strong community from within."

Gerlach cites the primary reasons she chose SMCC was the campus design, and the access for students with disabilities, as she found SMCC to be one of the few colleges to have an "evacuation plan for people like her."

With the goal to open her private practice in the future, Gerlach explains she wants her space to be flexible and accessible for everyone, including herself.

"During the Ability Maricopa Convocation, the student speaker shared data that really resonated with me," said Gerlach, "including mentioning that people with disabilities are twice as likely to open their own businesses."

Gerlach found guidance in her educational journey with professors such as Dr. Beverly, campus counselors, and Catherine Pettet, SMCC's Director of Disability Resources and Services. Gerlach was also awarded the President's Honors Scholarship from the Honors Program, and was a recipient of the Chancellor's Award.

Becoming Valedictorian for her class culminated years of hard work and dedication. Her time in the BHS program, and the close community cemented her goal to become a therapist who "helps people grow into themselves."

Gerlach graduated with four degrees – an Associates of Applied Science (AAS) Behavioral Science, Associates in Arts (AA) and AGEC-A; a Certificate of Completion (CCL) Advanced Behavioral Health Science (BHS); and a Certificate of Completion (CCL) Basic Behavioral Health Science (BHS).

Gerlach stayed at the SMCC campus after graduation, as she continued her Bachelor's Degree through the 90/30 Northern Arizona University (NAU) program. She hopes to eventually continue on to her Master's Degree, as it will get her closer to her goal of owning her own private practice.

Her final message to her classmates was to reassure them that "having a healthy amount of fear is okay because it creates courage to make anything happen."

PHI THETA KAPPA AT SMCC

SMCC's Phi Theta Kappa chapter, Alpha Eta Delta, ended the Spring semester with many victories and lessons.

The chapter recruited more than **400 members** and strives to reach a goal of 80-100 new members by the end of the Fall 2022 semester.

PTK News:

- Students are presently working on an Honors in Action Project, researching the unique challenges faced by foster children who transition out of the system and into adulthood with little guidance or support. Some of our students have had first-hand experience with the system, and in their outreach, seek to increase awareness and connect students with resources to help them successfully transition into community college education. One student, Jazmyn Escobar, was invited to a Phoenix Banquet which addressed this subject.
- SMCC PTK continues to work on the development of a mobile app, Cougy Campus to build an interactive map. They have regrouped and are collaborating with the CAD club and other students on campus.
- SMCC has been selected as the site for the PTK AZ Regional Conference March 10-11, 2023. SMCC will be co-hosting with Phoenix College.

2022 ALL-ARIZONA ACADEMIC TEAM SCHOLARS

APRIL FAMOSO

AN TRAN

College Project Award
Marquairah Salazar, Bob Durham, April Famoso Pineda, An Tran, Anthony Gaona, and multiple others across the college who have continued to be involved this semester.

Distinguished Chapter Team
Marquairah Salazar, Bob Durham, April Famoso Pineda, An Tran, Anthony Gaona, and multiple others across the college who have continued to be involved this semester.

Chapter Officer Awards
Marquairah Salazar and Bob Durham

2021 Advisor Award
Dr. Carol Smith

Administrator Award
Dr. Janet Ortega

STUDENT LIFE AND LEADERSHIP

SMCC's "The Village" serves students and the community through three different programs:

- **Shopping at SMCC**
- **Gabriel's Pantry**
- **St. Mary's Drive-Thru Mobile Pantry**

The newly reimagined space created Shopping at SMCC, where students and staff can access food for the day, as well as take home needed groceries.

CIVIC Engagement

Student Life and Leadership engaged in Civic Actions encompassed actions to promote the quality of life in the community, through both political and non-political processes. Many of the events, projects and activities surround the Civic Holidays that include Constitution Day, National Voter Registration Day, and National Vote Early Day and collaborating with our community and national partners, including tabling opportunities on campus.

Student Governance Board

80% of students in the 2021-2022 Student Governance Board graduated and transferred to a university.

Monday, October 4, 2021 | 10 am - 1 pm
SMCC Learning Resource Center

southmountaincc.edu/events

SOUTH MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

For the Academic year 2021-22

Shopping at SMCC

Total served:

- Distributed 90,7000 pounds of food
- Served 764 households
- Which included 1401 individuals within those households

Gabriel's Pantry

Total served:

- 3,999 snack items

St. Mary's Drive-Thru Mobile Pantry

Total served:

- Distributed 25,978 pounds of food
- Served 464 households
- Which included 2007 individuals within those households

This collective effort in the fall of 2021 included:

- 261 volunteers:
  - The National Guard
  - Student athletes
  - Club members
  - College personnel such as administrators, staff, and faculty

SMCC CELEBRATES THE GRAND OPENING OF THE NEW

SCIENCE COMPLEX

SMCC brought the community together to celebrate the grand opening of the 34,000 sq. ft state-of-the-art Science Complex on August 12.

The one-year long renovation and construction project spearheaded by McCarthy Building Companies Inc. and imagined by Gensler Design culminated in a new modern and contemporary complex for the Physical and Life Sciences program at SMCC.

For more than 40 years, SMCC has fostered students pursuing STEM careers and supported student success with its former facility. Coupled with the renovation of two existing buildings, this new addition to the college ensures students will receive the highest and latest quality of education on our campus.

"Our students deserve a space to pursue their dreams of becoming engineers, scientists, and medical professionals," said SMCC President Dr. Shari Olson. "The community in South Phoenix needed this new facility, and we're bringing it to them with the latest technology and labs to help students pursue their desired careers."

SMCC and Maricopa Community Colleges Leadership, MCCCD Governing Board Members, McCarthy Building Companies, Gensler Design, elected officials, and community members joined the grand opening at the beginning of the Fall 2022 for a first look at the complex and its unique design.

"McCarthy values STEM education programs and having the opportunity to be part of making this project a reality in South Phoenix is something we're all very proud of," said Mike Gonzalez, vice president of McCarthy Building Companies Education group. "Thanks to the extensive collaboration with SMCC and its program end-users, the designer and our trade partners, we found solutions to challenges and this remarkable new Science Complex is being delivered earlier than planned to help more SMCC students pursue their dreams."

The new SMCC Science Complex features the latest classroom technology and labs by integrating a "forward-thinking" floor plan and a contemporary look with lab support areas, faculty offices, and creative learning spaces. This renovation will also include a new cadaver lab, a much-needed facility for faculty and students pursuing degrees in the healthcare fields.

The Science Complex was also created as a space to help prepare students for STEM careers, and to continue fostering community within the campus with an integrated botanical garden and shared sticky spaces. Classes will be offered in the newly constructed Science Complex starting in the Spring 2023 semester.

2021-2022
SMCC HIGHLIGHTS

McCarthy Building Donates $12,500 to SMCC Construction Trades Institute

The SMCC Construction Trades Institute continues to receive support from community partners looking to grow the trades workforce in Phoenix.

McCarthy Building Companies, a Construction Trades Institute founding partner, donated $12,500 to the institute for the Fall 2021 during a check-presentation ceremony. The donation will benefit students directly, funding OSHA 10 card certifications, books, and student resources in the CTI Student Center.

"It's really bringing together the community to support our students," said Kyle Mitchell, Construction Trades Institute Program Coordinator. "We are able to invest directly into our classrooms and students."

SMCC President, Dr. Shari Olson, SMCC CTI Staff, and McCarthy Building Companies representatives celebrated this moment as the preservation of a long-lasting partnership from the college and our business partners.

Award Winning Singer, Songwriter, Storyteller, Martha Redbone Visits SMCC Storytelling Institute

Martha Redbone, a recognized singer, songwriter and storyteller visited the SMCC Storytelling Institute in April, 2022, to share her story with students from AAEC High School.

Known for her unique mix of blues, soul and native American music, Redbone spent two days connecting with high school students enrolled in the institute as part of her visit to Arizona.

Her message and conversation with students focused in embracing your roots and your story, as well as finding strength in resiliency. She also encouraged the young men and women to follow their call, especially if they want to pursue careers in the arts.

SMCC Storytelling Professor Marilyn Torres supported her class to ask questions, and learn from Redbone's experience in her life and career. "We are happy to have her here at the institute, our students can learn so much from her and can embrace so many of her lessons."

Student Voting at South Mountain Community College Up

In the Fall 2021, SMCC reported that student voting on its campus increased during the 2020 presidential election, rising to 55 percent in 2020 from a rate of 44 percent in 2016.

Despite many voting drive and awareness efforts that were canceled due to the pandemic, SMCC continued voter awareness efforts to its students through strong digital outreach and engagement campaigns in an effort to help educate and motivate the campus community.

In March of 2021, SMCC was one of 230 college campuses nationwide designated as a "Voter Friendly" campus, and the college continued to bolster efforts in helping students overcome barriers to participating in the political process.

The report comes from the Institute for Democracy & Higher Education (IDHE), creators of the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement, or NSLVE. IDHE is located at Tufts University's Tisch College of Civic Life.

"We are thrilled by the growth in voter turnout on our campus, especially considering the chaos that Covid-19 created," said SMCC's Vice President of Student Development Dr. Osaro Ighodaro. "There's still more work to do as we continue on our ongoing efforts to drive education, registration and turnout."

Storytelling INSTITUTE

2021-2022
SMCC HIGHLIGHTS

April 25, 2022 is Proclaimed Dr. Sian Proctor Day

Dr. Sian Proctor, SMCC Geology Faculty at SMCC, made her dream of traveling to space come true! After months of supporting her Inspiration4 Mission to space and the international platform she is now on, SMCC, Maricopa Community Colleges District, and the City of Phoenix honored Dr. Sian Proctor widely. On April 25, 2022, City of Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego proclaimed the day to be Dr. Sian Proctor Day in honor of her journey as an educator, entrepreneur, a creative, and her historic mission to space as part of the first-ever all-civilian crewed spaceflight.

Dr. Proctor shared stories from her Inspiration4 journey and inspired many to create their space to inspire. She also recognized many student artists who participated in the Maricopa Space2Inspire contest before her flight to space.

All art and poetry selected traveled to space with Dr. Proctor as part of the Inspiration4 mission.

SMCC Historian, Dr. Summer Cherland Published by the Journal of Arizona History

Dr. Summer Cherland, SMCC Faculty and Historian for the college, was published by the *Journal of Arizona History* for her recent article, A College "Down There": Resistance, Community Control, and Higher Education in South Phoenix, 1977-1981.

Dr. Cherland is a founding faculty member of the South Phoenix Oral History Project; an oral history project focused on collecting the History of South Phoenix housed at SMCC. SMCC students led this project in the hopes of keeping the history of their community.

As the article's author, Dr. Cherland attributes much of the project's success to the broad campus collaboration from the Storytelling Institute and supporting faculty.

SMCC Student Wins Top Prize at MCCCD Big Pitch

South Mountain Community College student Christa Roberts won the Center for Entrepreneurial Innovation Big Pitch Competition for their submission, Altalune Mystics, and won $15,000 to now help their business grow.

Altalune Mystics focuses on birth care for people at all stages of the cycle, from fertility to prenatal care during the pregnancy to postpartum and child education.

"Everyone needs self-care and that extra boost at times," Roberts said. "What we stress at Altalune Mystics is to take care of yourself. We want to change the narrative around birth so that it is not so medical and clinical. It should be enjoyed and taken celebrated."

After the boot camp, Roberts and their fellow applicants had a week to finalize an online pitch deck. When they heard they had progressed to the next stage of 10 competitors, they had a week to prepare an in-person presentation in front of judges from MCCCD and Fortune 500 companies in Arizona. In the end all the hard work paid off and Roberts walked away with the top prize.

You can read the full story at southmuntaincc.edu/news.

SMCC Commencement was a Night to Remember for the Class of 2022

After two years of celebrating students online, or in creative ways to stay safely distanced during the Covid-19 global pandemic, SMCC celebrated an in-person Commencement at the Arizona Federal Theatre.

More than 200 students walked across the stage following tradition as they received their diplomas.

In-person and online, families and graduates were able to cheer for the accomplishments of the Class of 2022.

The Class of 2022 welcomed SMCC President, Dr. Shari Olson as she gave her last address for Commencement, Emily Gerlach, Class of 2022 Valedictorian, Keynote Speaker, Dr. Sian Proctor and other key members of our community.

2021-2022 SMCC HIGHLIGHTS

Making History: Chelsea Carroll Becomes First Woman Head Coach to Lead a Men's Team to a National Title

SMCC men's golf head coach Chelsea Carroll made history in 2022 when she became the first woman to lead a men's team to an NJCAA National Championship as the Cougars captured the 2022 NJCAA DII Title. She received the 2022 Dave Williams NJCAA National Coach of the Year honors for her efforts.

SMCC Athletics has confirmed with the NJCAA that they consider her the first woman in its history to lead a men's team to a National Championship in any division. Her achievement came weeks before the 50th anniversary (June 23, 1972) of the passage of Title IX legislation.

SMCC Awarded Nearly $1.5 Million For TRiO Upward Bound

The U.S. Department of Education announced that South Mountain Community College will receive a federal Upward Bound grant of $1,488,005 to help more low-income students who would be the first members of their families to earn degrees prepare for and enroll in college. This is the fourth consecutive cycle that SMCC has earned Upward Bound funding, since the first award the college received in 2007.

One of the federal TRIO Programs, Upward Bound is an intensive intervention program that prepares students for higher education through various enrichment courses. At least two-thirds of the students in each local Upward Bound program are from low-income economic backgrounds and families in which neither parent has a bachelor's degree.

"The TRiO Upward Bound grant provides vital services to low-income first-generation students at the Academies at South Mountain and Central High School," said SMCC's program director Dr. Nicole Wetzel. "South Mountain Community College is proud to support underrepresented students on their journey to achieving their college degree."

BACHELOR'S DEGREES APPROVED AT ARIZONA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Arizona Governor Doug Ducey signed Senate Bill 1453 May 4, 2021, allowing community colleges to offer four-year baccalaureate degrees. The bill aimed to offer four-year degrees in an effort to further enhance students' access, opportunity, and affordability to higher education in Arizona, marking a historic moment for Arizona's families.

"Our motivation to offer baccalaureate degrees is to better support the needs of the skilled workforce in the highest demand areas of our state in a way that is equitable, accessible, and affordable for students," said Dr. Steven Gonzalez, Interim Chancellor for the Maricopa County Community Colleges District. "This is a historic moment for higher education in Arizona, and in the coming days I will bring together the colleges and faculty to determine which programs we will advance immediately for consideration as a four-year baccalaureate program. I thank Governor Ducey for keeping Arizona's students top of mind and signing Senate Bill 1453."

SMCC is Selected to Develop Program: BS, Behavioral Sciences

At the start of the Fall 2022, Interim Chancellor for the Maricopa County Community Colleges District (MCCCD), Dr. Steven Gonzalez announced the colleges that would offer the first baccalaureate degrees in the district.

With authorization from the MCCCD Governing Board, SMCC was selected to offer a BS, Behavioral Science degree.

BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE AND HUMAN SERVICES

The next steps to move forward include submitting approval from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). It is expected the program will be able to go into effect in the Fall 2023.

AMERICAN INDIAN STUDENT CENTER

The **American Indian Student Center (AISC)** was established in 2016 under the learning division at SMCC. AISC was created to assist American Indian and Alaskan native students in achieving both academic and personal success. By supporting students with one-on-one mentoring and academic guidance, AISC improves individual lives, enhances the overall college experience, and builds partnerships with tribal communities, tribal and local organizations, and tribal agencies.

AISC Headcount and Performance Rate

- There was a slight decrease in the student enrollment for the Fall and Spring semester, but the enrollment remained the same during the Summer term. Comparing our enrollment numbers from prior academic years, the enrollment number has remained relatively high considering the pandemic.
- On average the student success and completion rate has been above 70%

*Headcount and completion rate are rounded up and should be in percentage

AISC Budget

- AISC had a budget of $2,415.00 overspent by $129.42 with $251.61 in-kind from Early Childhood Education Program and American Indian Outreach Program from District Office.

AISC was recognized by the Maricopa County Community Colleges District (MCCCD) Governing Board for having the highest completion numbers throughout the colleges. Over the course of the last few years, SMCC has been intentional about support for Native American students. The Native American Center has provided faculty and staff with cultural awareness training, while providing the community a safe space for tribal events and activities. As a result, Native students completing 12 part-time or 24 full-time credits in their first year increased from 21% to 42%.

SMCC American Indian Student Graduates

Carpio, Yvette – AA Degree
Cross, Sena - AA Degree in History
Edison, Renee – AA in IT
Hopkins, Dasha – AA Degree
Maldonado, Sherilyn – AA in General Studies
Middaugh, Taylor – Certificate Behavioral Health
Royal, David – CCL Degree
Torres, Rudy – AA Criminal Justice and AGEC
Yellowhair, Briana – Degree in Nursing

American Indian Student Fund

In 2022, SMCC launched the American Indian Student Fund, created to financially support indigenous students through scholarships.

As completion numbers and enrollment increase, AISC is working to provide more financial opportunities for students attending SMCC, giving the community the opportunity to donate directly to the fund. Donations can be accepted at southmountaincc.edu/giving.

SMCC, MCCCD and External Event Participation

MCCCD American Indian Convocation and LGBTQ+ Convocation

SMCC and MCCCD Native American Heritage Month Celebrations

- Celebrate Orange Day
- Brown Bag Events – Necklace Making and Navajo String Game
- Open Book Discussion – There, There by Tommy Orange
- Rock Your Mocs
- FAFSA Workshop by Delphina Thomas November 9, 2021

SMCC Tribal Scholarship Day

Pascua Yaqui Events

- Halloween Spooktacular
- Navidad en Guadalupe Community Christmas Drive
- Student Recognition Year-End Celebration
- Higher Education Assistance Program (HEAP) Scholarship Workshop

Native American Student Advocacy Institute (NASAI) Conference
AZ State Capitol Tour by State Senator Sally Ann Gonzales and Representative Marcelino Quiñonez.
27th Annual Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day
Collaboration With Community Partners and Tribal Communites

ASU Arizona State University

- ASU American Indian Student Support Services
- Native Connections
- Native Health
- Phoenix Indian Center

NAU NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

- NAU Native American Cultural Center
- Gila River Indian Community
- Navajo Nation
- Pascua Yaqui Tribe

FACULTY AND STAFF AWARDS

2022 NISOD
National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development

Excellence Awards

The NISOD Excellence Award celebrates outstanding contributions to student completion and success by faculty and staff.

David Bannenberg
SMCC Facilities Director

Damita Kaloostian
Dean of Planning,
Research and Development

SMCC PHI THETA KAPPA CATALYST CONFERENCE

2021 Advisor Award
Dr. Carol Smith
Educational Administrator | VPL Office
Residential Faculty, English
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society (PTK) Advisor

Administrator Award
Dr. Janet Ortega
SMCC VP of Organizational
Effectiveness and Technology (OE & T)

Chair Academy
2021 Paul A. Elsner Excellence in Leadership Award
Dr. Shari Olson
SMCC President

2022 BELLWETHER AWARD FINALISTS

Instructional Programs and Services Category:
The South Phoenix Oral History Project:
Using Oral History to Empower Students and Community

The South Phoenix Oral History Project began in 2017 as a simple inquiry by students at South Mountain Community College, who were interested in exploring the rich, cultural history of the South Phoenix area. They discovered that much of the documented history excluded their own neighborhoods, which were predominately the homes of African American, Asian American, and Mexican American Phoenicians. This initiative then became into the South Phoenix Oral History Project (SPOH): a student-founded and led initiative to capture and preserve the history of South Phoenix.

Planning, Governance and Finance Category:
South Mountain Community College STARS (Students Transformed to Achieve Radiant Success) Endowment Program

This initiative created an enduring fund which would provide scholarships for returning SMCC students, thereby reducing dependency on student loans.

Part of the effort included an – at the time – unorthodox way of building the endowment: visiting each employee on campus and asking them directly for their support. Each employee was invited to make donations by payroll deduction. They could choose to deduct either $4.16 per pay period for employees working 12 months per year or $5.55 per pay period for employees working nine months per year.

The goal of raising $100,000 in pledges and donations was exceeded within the nine-month timeline, as did two subsequent similar campaigns. Two successful signature events were established: an annual statewide STARS Talent Show held each fall, and an SMCC Gala held each spring.

STARS

Students Transformed to Achieve Radiant Success

STARS was the brainchild of faculty members Dr. Jerome Garrison and Lorraine Calbow, who decided to create a student-directed scholarship fund. This gave life to two major events at SMCC dedicated to raise funds for the STARS Scholarship. In 2021-22, SMCC brought back to life these events in-person and on campus for a special experience for the South Mountain community and its supporters.

Shining STARS Talent Show and Fundraiser

SMCC brought together talent from across the city for the Annual Shining STARS Talent Show and Fundraiser. After the COVID-19 pandemic, SMCC hosted the grand show in person at the SMCC Performing Arts Center.

2021 Shining STARS Winners were:
First Place - **Stephen Neal**
Second Place - **Angel Madrid** (virtual performance only)
Third Place - **Mikayla Castillo**

Shining STARS raised a total of **$10,100 in donations!**

STARS Talent Show

2022 STARS Gala

SMCC celebrated the 2022 STARS Gala April 9! This grand event brought together leaders, elected officials and community members to raise funds for the **STARS Scholarship Fund.** The STARS Gala honored founding College President Dr. Raúl Cárdenas.

Dr. Cárdenas came to SMCC as the first Hispanic and minority college president in the history of Arizona. Over the course of his storied career, he not only led two colleges with sophistication, compassion, and excellence, he also sought to improve the field of higher education and promote the significance of MCCCD in his work with a myriad of regional and national associations.

Since 1978, Dr. Cárdenas has collected accolades and support, garnering a national reputation for excellence in higher education. He has been celebrated by his colleagues on national and regional associations for Hispanic and Southwest leaders. SMCC is proud to have honored Dr. Cárdenas at its Spring STARS Gala.

The event raised a total of $42,200!

STARS Scholarship

STARS Gala

DONORS

•$100,000 and Higher

- **Individuals**
  - B. Jean Thomas
- **Businesses/Organizations**
  - The Fleischer Foundation
  - GE Capital Franchise Finance Corporation
  - South Mountain Community College

•$50,000 - $99,999

- **Individuals**
  - Jacqueline Marschel

Businesses/Organizations

- Arizona Community Foundation
- General Motors Desert Proving Ground
- Goodrich Corporation
- Norwest Bank Arizona
- Verizon Foundation

•$25,000 - $49,999

- **Individuals**
  - Lorraine L. Calbow
  - Shari L. Olson
  - Sherri L. Thomas

Businesses/Organizations

- The Benevity Community Impact Fund
- The Coleman Foundation, Inc.
- The Cowley Family Foundation
- The Joyner-Walker Foundation Inc.
- Maricopa Community Colleges District Office
- Ronnie Felix Memorial Scholarship Fund

•$10,000 - $24,999

- **Individuals**
  - Dolly D. Aguirre
  - Esther M. Gaintner (DECEASED)
  - Jacqueline Jaap
  - Meekness LeCato
  - Ann B. Lindner
  - Caroline Martens (DECEASED)
  - Kathryn J. Martens
  - Mildred H. Martindale (DECEASED)
  - Annabelle C. Pacheco
  - Teresa Leyba Ruiz
  - Helen J. Smith
  - Elizabeth A. Warren
  - Inez Moreno-Weinert
  - LynnAnn Wojciechowicz
- **Businesses/Organizations**
  - Davidson Family Foundation
  - First Interstate Bank Charitable Foundation
  - General Dynamics
  - McCarthy Holdings, Inc.
  - Motorola Foundation
  - The Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation (Angels Care)
  - US West Foundation

•$5,000 -$9,000

- **Individuals**
  - Jose A. Bracamonte
  - Joyce K. Elsner
  - LeRoy M. Gaintner
  - James D. Galbraith
  - Isabel H. LeRoy
  - Brian Lorig
  - Linda A. Lujan
  - Angelita Montano
  - Henry L. Rose
  - Frederick E. Stahl
  - Guadalupe H. Villicana
  - Cordelia L. Washington
  - Dan S. Whittemore

Businesses/Organizations

- Aetna Life & Casualty
- Americrown International Speedway Corporation
- ARCO Foundation of CA
- Blackbaud Giving Fund by its agent, YourCause-Wells Fargo
- Intel Latina Outreach Group
- PMH Health Resource, Inc.
- Presidential Pools & Spas, LLC
- Salt River Project
- Thunderbirds Foundation
- The Victoria Foundation
- YourCause, LLC Trustee for Wells Fargo Foundation

•$2,500 -$4,999

- **Individuals**
  - Sasha Aickin
  - Kenneth H. Atwater
  - Carlie B. Back
  - Regis E. Della-Calce
  - Terryl R. Fender
  - Regan A. Ferguson
  - Gerald L. Gaintner
  - Fred Gaskin
  - Calvin C. Goode (DECEASED)
  - Kathleen M. Hawkins
  - Stephen F. Hustedde
  - Mary K. Long
  - Sandra Mares
  - Mike Marusich
  - Kimberly S. Mauldin
  - Julie Kirkpatrick Miller
  - Yvonne D. Montiel
  - Laurita Moore
  - Brian J. Murphy
  - Wilma H. Patterson
  - Laura A. Pastor
  - Ricardo B. Provencio
  - Gerald D. Reynolds
  - Reynaldo Rivera
  - Kenneth C. Roberts
  - Susan S. Stange
  - Dzung C. Tran
  - John B. White

Businesses/Organizations

- AG Communication Systems Corp
- The Arizona Lottery
- Avant Datacomm Solutions, Inc.
- Bright Funds Foundation
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona
- The Chase Manhattan Foundation
- EY
- Extra Innings East Valley
- Fanniel ENT Fashions LLC
- Haydon Building Corporation
- Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
- Honeywell Foundation
- Horizons Foundation
- Jones Studio
- Lyon Engineering & Lyon Custom Tees & Embroidery
- Motorsports Charities Inc.
- Mr. Goodcents Franchise Systems, Inc.
- T J Concrete Construction, Inc.
- Tanner Chapel A.M.E. Church, Inc.
- Turner Construction Company
- Valley of the Sun United Way
- Gila River Indian Community

•$1,000 - $2,499

- **Individuals**
  - JoAnne T. Scoccia-Alden
  - Stephanie Allen
  - Eufemia Amabisca
  - Stacey S. Ayers
  - Lillian M. Barker
  - Mary Marsh-Bell
  - Bradley G. Belsaas
  - Gregory M. Brownell
  - Marcia J. Busching
  - Donald R. Campbell (DECEASED)
  - Raul Cardenas
  - Todd Cavanagh
  - Summer M. Cherland
  - Erica Chouinard
  - Katherine Robinson-Clark
  - Alisa D. Cooper
  - Rosalinda V. Cota
  - Philip D. Cram
  - Cheryl B. Crutcher
  - Tom G. Czyz
  - Jamie L. Deeds
  - Nancy A. Deegan
  - Carl Deierling
  - Todd B. Eastin
  - Del Monte Edwards
  - Francisco Espinobarros
  - Timothy S. Frank
  - David R. Frazer
  - Louise N. Gacioch
  - James L. Gaintner
  - Irene S. Gaither
  - Donald I. Garrison
  - Rufus Glasper
  - Dorothy J. Glueck
  - Guy H. Goodman
  - Noah D. Gutteil
  - Christina M. Haines
  - Henrietta Augustus A. Harris
  - Mary B. Hess
  - Nguyen H. Hoang
  - Doug Hogan
  - Julie M. Holston
  - Osaro O. Ighodaro
  - Neal Jones
  - Wayne Jones
  - Michael E. Kamolz
  - Trina M. Larson
  - Michael L. Lewis
  - Yu Lien Huang Lin
  - Steven Linnerson
  - Priscilla Londen
  - Manuel G. Lopez
  - Araceli Lyon
  - Azra Mahmood
  - Edward D. McCartney
  - Miguel Mendez
  - John D. Mildrew (DECEASED)
  - Karen Mischlispy
  - Dennis E. Mitchem (DECEASED)
  - Thalya Nero
  - Thayla Leska Nero
  - Jeri Newgaard
  - Janet L. Ortega
  - Sandra J. Pesqueira
  - Alice Pike
  - Ed Prestwood
  - Melanie Pshaenich
  - Rick Robinson
  - Ranjita Saha
  - Bonnie Schellenberg
  - Donna J. Schober
  - Belen Servin
  - Sandra Siegel
  - Alicia D. Smith
  - Kathryn Smith
  - Marvin Sondag
  - Stephen R. VangalderSusan L. Starrfield
  - Betsy S. Taylor
  - Dawn S. Thacker
  - Marilyn Torres
  - Josephine G. Valverde
  - Rosemary M. Vasquez
  - Sylvia S. Villaverde
  - Charlotte Walters
  - Stacey L. Wright
  - Guillermo Zepeda

Businesses/Organizations

- Advanced Lining Solutions, Inc.
- APS Energy Services
- Arcadia Surgical Supply LLC
- Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Arizona State University Office of the President
- Boys & Girls Clubs of the East Valley
- City of Phoenix
- Delta Dental Plan of Arizona Inc.
- The Dorrance Family Foundation
- Hartford Insurance Company
- Intel Foundation Matching Gift to Education Program
- ITC Management, Inc.- Intertech Collision Centers
- The JL Berry Company, Inc.
- Lowmans Arizona Funeral Home
- MariSol Federal Credit Union
- Mike Pulos' Spaghetti Company of Chandler, LLC
- Mountainside Fitness Acquisitions, LLC (MFA)
- Omega Psi Phi Fraternity
- Pacific Century Bank
- Paradise Valley Community College
- Pathway Youth & Family Services LLC
- Phoenix Mercury Charities
- Resolana: Southwest Institute for Family & Community Dvlpmt.
- Richard + Bauer
- SMCC Storytelling Institute
- South Mountain Village Festivals
- State Farm Companies Foundation
- T. Y. Lin International
- Tanner Properties, Inc
- USAFunds - United Student Aid Funds, Inc.
- Walmart Foundation

LEADERSHIP

Dr. Shari Olson
President

Bernice Portervint, JD
Interim Vice President of Learning - Began Spring 2021

Dr. Osaro Ighodaro
Vice President of Student Development

Dr. Janet Ortega
Vice President of Organizational Effectiveness and Technology

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Tim Budworth
Associate Vice President - Technology

Dr. Travis May
Interim Dean of Academic Innovation - Began Spring 2021

Guy Goodman
Dean of Enrollment Services

Dana Frasca
Dean of Enrollment Services - Began June 2022

Damita Kaloostian
Dean of Planning, Research and Development

Maricopa County Community College District Governing Board

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Dr. Tom Nerini | *Secretary*

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Jean McGrath

Jacqueline Smith, J.D.

Linda Thor, Ed.D.

Kathleen Winn

Quintin Evans
Student Member

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Interim Chancellor

Bettina Celis
Acting Vice Chancellor & Provost of Academic and Student Affairs

Matt Hasson
Chief Communication Officer

Janice Falkenberg, Esq.
General Counsel

Kimberly Brainard Granio
Vice Chancellor of Business Services

Dr. Cathleen Hernandez
Interim Chief of Staff

Dr. Georgetta Kelly
Chief Human Resources Officer

Dr. Mark Koan
Chief Information Officer

Darcy Renfro
Vice Chancellor, Community, Government Relations, & Economic Development

Brian Spicker
President and Chief Executive Officer

SOUTH MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A **MARICOPA** COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SMCC Main Campus
7050 S. 24 Street
Phoenix, AZ 85042

Guadalupe Center
9233 S. Avenida del Yaqui (Priest Dr.)
Guadalupe, AZ 85283

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MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

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