

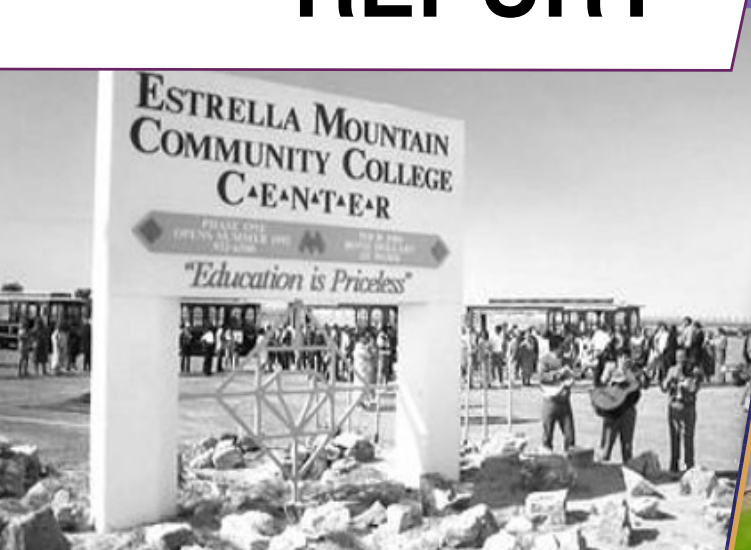


**ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



2020 -
2024 **IMPACT
REPORT**



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

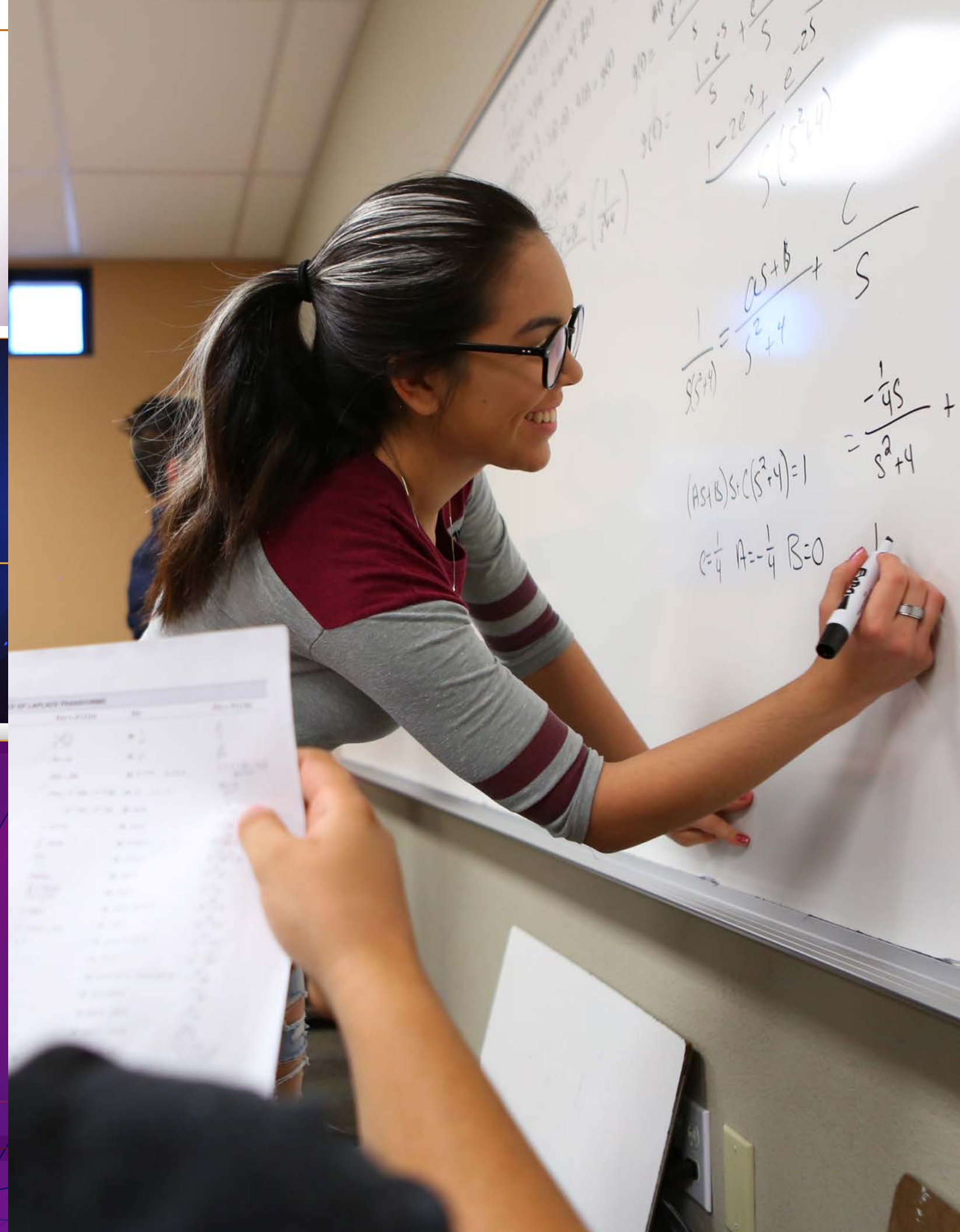
Since assuming the role of president in 2019, my focus has been on making Estrella Mountain Community College the college that meets students where they are. As a first-generation college graduate, I am living proof of the transformative power of education. Obtaining a higher education degree lifted me out of poverty and has created a path to a better life for both me and my children. Education put me on a path where a kid growing up in a San Antonio "barrio" could become a college professor, a dean, a vice president, and now a president who can dedicate their professional career to creating similar opportunities for other students in our communities.



Of course, socioeconomic mobility is essential; however, education has other, equally important, benefits. Education promotes understanding, appreciation, and tolerance by exposing us to diverse people, perspectives, and experiences that help build better and stronger communities.

In 2022, EMCC turned 30 years old. As I reflect on our College's history and its impact on the West Valley communities, I am overjoyed and humbled at the number of lives we have positively impacted. Looking forward to the future, I hope that EMCC continues to be the College of the community and for the community. During my tenure, we will continue to strive for EMCC to be the beacon of hope and opportunity for everyone willing to embark on their education journey. To that end, we will continue to focus on our strategic priorities and the implementation of 4DX to achieve our most Wildly Important Goal (WIG)-student completion.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ray H.", written in a cursive style.



WHERE WE'VE BEEN

GOVERNOR'S INNOVATION AWARD - ACADEMIA 2022

EMCC earned the accolade for the Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning program, which launched in partnership with Intel and the Arizona Commerce Authority. The result is the country's first Intel-designed artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning associate degree and certificate programs. The programs prepare students for entry-level developer/software positions in information technology, automotive, healthcare, aerospace, and more.



EMCC NAMED EDUCATION PARTNER OF THE YEAR FOR SW VALLEY CHAMBER 2022

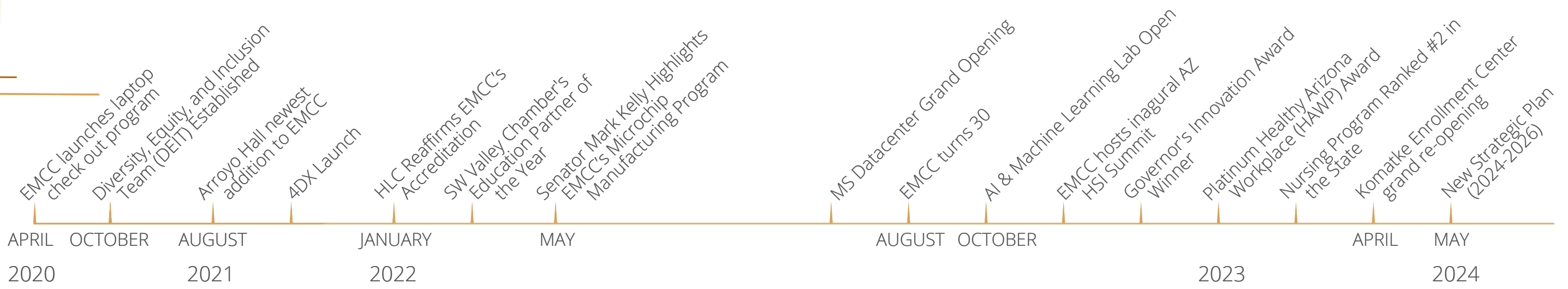
EMCC won the 2022 Southwest Valley Chamber's Education Partner of the Year Award!



Every year, the Southwest Valley Chamber and its members recognize the businesses, organizations, and individuals who have positively impacted the industry and the community.

EMCC NURSING PROGRAM RANKED #2 IN THE STATE

RegisteredNursing.org - a nursing advocacy organization named EMCC's RN program as one of the best in Arizona for 2023! The organization assessed nursing programs based on several factors, representing how well a program supports students during school, towards licensure, and beyond. The organization analyzed past and present first-time NCLEX-RN "pass rates" and determined that EMCC's Nursing Program Ranked #2 in Arizona. Additionally, at the end of the Fall 2022 semester, the Nursing Division introduced 43 new nurses into the West Valley workforce and achieved a 100% NCLEX-RN pass rate in the Spring of 2023!



SIGNATURE EVENTS

Noche de Mariachi

Outgrowing its own Performing Arts Center, EMCC moved the signature event, Noche de Mariachi, to the newly inaugurated Tolleson Performing Arts Center (TPAC) and packed the house in 2024. The TPAC accommodates over 700 guests, and the event was a complete sell-out. The lineup featured the renowned Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles. In 2024, we raised nearly \$70,000. The funds from this annual event go towards supporting student scholarships, and I hope you'll be a part of it.



Veteran's Day Fun Run

The annual Veteran's Day Fun Run is one of the few big celebrations honoring veterans in the West Valley that are open to all. From strollers to walkers or record setters, everyone is welcome to participate in the 5K or simply join the ceremony and festivities.



Soaring Palate

In collaboration with the Southwest Valley Chamber of Commerce, Soaring Palate offers an unforgettable culinary experience. Enjoy Southwest Valley food tasting from over 30 of your favorite local restaurants and great entertainment for a great cause! The inaugural event raised close to \$5,000 for EMCC students.



WHO WE ARE

Our Vision

EMCC will be the educational and cultural center where students can cultivate their potential to promote personal growth and community impact.

Our Mission

EMCC provides transformative and inclusive learning experiences that foster lifelong learning. We strive to empower students to maximize their talents, improve their quality of life, and transform their communities.

Our Values



Student-Centered

We believe in keeping students at the forefront of decision-making to enable their success by assessing and understanding their needs, interests, culture, talents, and goals.



Learning

We believe learning happens in many ways, thus, we provide meaningful and engaging experiences that promote transformation, growth, and continuous improvement.



Integrity

We believe in demonstrating a consistent and uncompromising adherence to ethical principles and values by practicing accountability, transparency, and honesty.



Well-Being

We believe in fostering an environment that compassionately supports each individual's unique approach to enhancing their health and maximizing their potential.



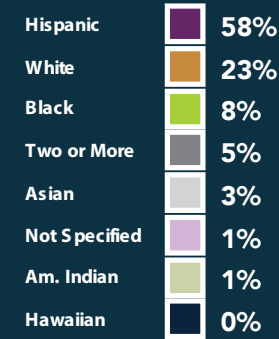
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

We believe in cultivating a respectful environment that embraces the power of a diverse community, fosters a climate of respect, and promotes a sense of belonging.

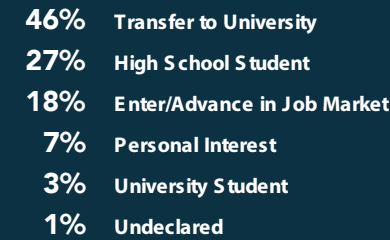
Spring 2024
Total number of credit students

8,549

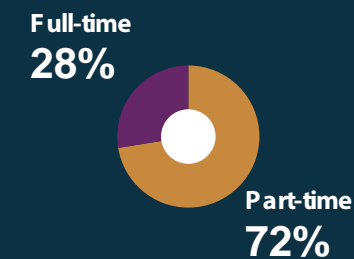
Ethnicity



Student Intent



Academic Load



Gender



2023-2024

Awards Conferred

Transfer Degrees	803
Transfer Certificates	752
Occupational Awards	636
Total Awards	2,191

Awards from IPEDS Year 2022-23

Student Transfers

673

new students transferred to an Arizona public university in 2022-23.

1,155

Students who completed degrees and certificates in 2021-22 – a record high.

\$1.68M

Raised as part of the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation district-wide Student Success Campaign.

Averages

Age	22
Credit Hours	8.1
Class Size	21.8

Prior Education

46%	No College or University
22%	Some College or Univ., No Degree
20%	Undeclared
6%	Some College while in High School
3%	Associate's Degree
2%	Bachelor's Degree
1%	Master's Degree or higher

Residency

89%	Maricopa County Resident
3%	Out-of-County
7%	Out-of-State

First Generation

59%	First Generation
41%	Not First Gen

Non-Credit Headcount

5

STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES



IVAN JACOBO, EXECUTIVE CHEF AND OWNER, ANHELO RESTAURANT, 2024 AZ Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Entrepreneur of the Year. Chef Ivan Jacobo, an EMCC Culinary Arts alumnus, initially dreamed of becoming a mechanic. However, a fascination with Food Network shows during high school shifted his focus towards cooking. Inspired by the artistry of culinary creation and a revealing poll among classmates, he embarked on a culinary journey. Attending culinary school at EMCC, he expanded his skills beyond the classroom and seized every opportunity for additional experience. After various culinary roles, including at a renowned San Francisco restaurant, he returned to Phoenix and ventured into the food truck scene before establishing Anhele. Recognized by Wine Spectator for its fine dining and vibrant wine program, Anhele distinguishes itself through charitable endeavors, including donations to LovelAM for children with heart defects and scholarships for culinary students. Chef Jacobo prioritizes a familial work environment, fostering career advancement for his staff while ensuring work-life balance. Committed to both guest satisfaction and community impact, he dedicates himself to enriching the lives of others, mirroring the support he received on his journey to success. Family remains central to his life, with dedicated time for his wife and daughter, whom he involves in his work, echoing his own upbringing. Driven to give back to those who supported him, Chef Jacobo embodies a commitment to excellence in hospitality and community enrichment, shaping Anhele's success through a blend of culinary mastery and passionate leadership. The Anhele Scholarship Foundation provides scholarships for students in the EMCC culinary program.



DR. NANCY CATALAN, Pharm.D., BSND, attended Estrella Mountain Community College, where she earned her associate degree in 2014. She then went on to Arizona State University to complete her Bachelor's in Nutrition and Dietetics in 2017 and graduated with her Doctor of Pharmacy from Midwestern University, College of Pharmacy-Glendale in 2021. Nancy worked in a retail pharmacy setting for over 10 years as a pharmacy technician. During this time, she learned that there is a special bond that is built when a patient feels comfortable communicating with their pharmacist. Nancy expresses, "This experience helped me set goals to become a bilingual healthcare provider and fill the need for a Spanish-speaking pharmacist. My hope is to help the town of Wickenburg and surrounding communities with any bilingual pharmacy services."



ALEXISS MAILLOUX, an EMCC graduate, is breaking barriers in the male-dominated field of cybersecurity. Now a Senior Cyber Security Analyst working for a global company, she investigates and responds to potential cyber threats for high-profile clients.

Originally intending to pursue a career in nursing, Alexiss shifted gears after realizing she was too squeamish for medicine and discovered her passion for programming. She immersed herself in EMCC's cybersecurity program. Despite the gender imbalance, she thrived with the support of her professors, especially Tom Polliard, who helped her land her first internship and job. She credits her early success to Professor Polliard's passion and encouragement.

With a combination of hard work, passion, and support from EMCC, Alexiss is proving that success in cybersecurity knows no gender.

FACULTY PROFILES

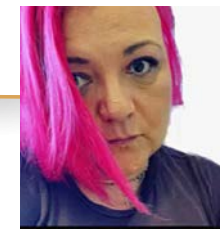
DR. JAROD RAITHEL is a residential biology faculty member in the Life Sciences Division. His teaching extends beyond the classroom and looks to engage students and the community. Dr. Raithel founded the Animal Ambassadors Community Outreach Program in 2018. The program is a student-led initiative that epitomizes the essence of community college education. Dr. Raithel takes currently enrolled students and helps them develop leadership skills and a love for ecology and service. The team maintains a collection of over 20 species of native and exotic reptiles, amphibians, and arthropods that are utilized in educational outreach at local schools, public recreation centers, and other nonprofits free of charge. In 2022-23 alone, the ambassadors hosted 432 groups of visitors and close to 900 guests during our open lab hours.



MEHA TRIVEDI serves as a faculty member and Program Director at Estrella Mountain Community College (EMCC), where she applied her Masters degree in Computer Science and 17 years of industry experience to establish the EMCC Computer Science program. Her 12-plus-year academic tenure also includes supporting institutional initiatives as Division Chair, developing the EMCC Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning program, and teaching, mentoring, and guiding students in their technology journey. Meha has been instrumental in positioning EMCC at the forefront of the IT and Cybersecurity Landscape with the first-ever AI and Machine Learning associate degree and certification program in the country.



"I BELONG" CAMPAIGN. The 'I Belong' Campaign won the District's Diversity Advisory Council Award of Excellence for 2023. Faculty members Lisa Stevens, Briana Procnier, Dr. Anastasia Amabisca, and Susan Malmo won the district-wide accolade for launching the caring campaign. The campaign featured stories from EMCC students and employees detailing the moment they realized they "belonged" in college. They discussed their fears and how they overcame them to help our students realize that despite obstacles and adversities, they can succeed in college and belong at EMCC. The campaign included a website with 27 different stories. Employees wore buttons with QR codes to their individual stories throughout the campaign.



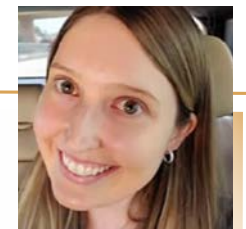
Stace Amabisca



Susan Maimo



Lisa Stevens



Briana Procnier



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

THE MS DATA CENTER ACADEMY, located on the ground floor of Estrella Hall on EMCC's main campus, is the result of a collaboration between EMCC, Glendale Community College (GCC,) and Microsoft. The Data Center Academy is one of only 11 programs worldwide. The project serves students from both colleges and aims to help them get into high-demand, high-paying jobs in IT by delivering cutting-edge training in collaborative learning environments that offer hands-on experiences. The Partnership was nominated in the category of West Valley Quality of Life Enhancement in Education Award for taking a holistic approach to enhance the quality of life of the students it serves, their families, and their communities and was a runner-up in WestMARC's 29th Annual Best of the West Awards Event.

CITY OF SURPRISE: INVESTING IN EDUCATION

The City of Surprise is making a significant investment in education by allocating \$30,000 from its annual budget to provide scholarships for EMCC students. Students in any of the applied technology programs can apply for funding through the Maricopa Community Colleges Scholarship Manager Portal. This partnership began in 2023 and offers scholarships to students in eight high-demand applied technology areas of study, including: Automated Industrial Technology I and II, Electrical, Mechanical, and Robotic Systems Technology, the Semiconductor Technician Quickstart Program, and Back End and Front End Software Development Coding Bootcamps. This initiative reflects a significant effort to enhance the workforce skills of EMCC students, address industry demands, and create opportunities for community members to thrive in technology-driven careers.

AVONDALE EDGE

EMCC is committed to addressing the needs of our community and students, especially as we navigate the post-pandemic landscape. In a significant step toward this goal, we secured a \$430,000 grant from the City of Avondale to help revitalize the service and healthcare industries. This funding will provide scholarships for Avondale students enrolled in our culinary and nursing programs, offering them the opportunity to pursue careers in these vital fields.

Our partnership with the City of Avondale extends beyond education. Together, we've established a One-Stop Basic Needs center that integrates social services between the city and our college, providing comprehensive support to our students. This initiative is designed as a model that can be replicated with other municipalities within the EMCC service area, demonstrating our commitment to expanding support systems across the region.

Additionally, the EMCC Student Food Pantry is available to assist students experiencing food insecurity, and the Lion's Boutique offers clothing for those in need. Through these efforts, we aim to create win-win opportunities that support our students and strengthen our community.

EMCC'S MICROCHIP MANUFACTURING PROGRAM

The Semiconductor Technician Quick Start job training program is a collaborative effort with business partner Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC). It is a 3-credit course delivered over two weeks that trains students with the knowledge they need to enter the semiconductor industry successfully. The course feeds directly into the Automated Industrial Technology AAS degree program. This collaboration has been lauded by Arizona legislators Kate Gallego and Mark Kelly as an example of efforts connecting Arizonans to high-paying manufacturing jobs.

ARIZONA HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTION (HSI) CONSORTIUM

The U.S. Department of Education designates colleges and universities as HSIs when at least 25% of their undergraduate students are Hispanic. Dr. Rey Rivera (EMCC) and Dr. Marla Franco (UA) founded the AZ HSI Consortium in 2021 to unite the 20 Arizona HSIs into a community of practice to improve Latino Student Success in Arizona. Drs. Franco and Rivera want to create the institutional conditions needed to ensure that Latinx students, employees, and those from underrepresented backgrounds feel culturally affirmed and can thrive as they learn and work at our HSIs. The consortium engages in professional development, supports the exchange of evidence-based and culturally relevant practices, facilitates the successful transfer of students, and collaborates to seek funding opportunities and partnerships. One of the consortium's signature events is the AZ HSI Summit, held annually at a different AZ HSI. EMCC hosted the first summit in 2022.



WHERE WE ARE GOING

Estrella Mountain Community College (EMCC) is committed to meeting our community's evolving educational and professional needs. According to Education Forward AZ, nearly 70% of jobs in Arizona will require some type of postsecondary education. EMCC is at the forefront of preparing students for the future. We proactively align our programs and resources with emerging industries, offering affordable, high-quality, practical training that equips our students for success.

One of our most significant achievements was the launch of the Associate of Applied Science in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, which was developed in partnership with Intel Corporation and Chandler Gilbert Community College. This groundbreaking program, the first of its kind at the community college level in Arizona, began as an online pilot in Fall 2021 and represents our commitment to innovative education.

Recognizing the importance of comprehensive student support, we provide flexible scheduling, online learning options, and a robust support system, ensuring students have the resources needed to succeed. By continuously seeking partnerships to meet student's needs, we empower our students to achieve their educational and career aspirations.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on key areas to enhance student outcomes and community impact:

- *Well-being:* We are dedicated to intentionally supporting the well-being of our students and staff.
- *Retention Rates:* We aim to address and remove barriers so students can reach their educational goals.
- *Equity Outcomes:* We are committed to deploying deliberate efforts to help all groups achieve parity in academic success.
- *Regional partnerships:* We will continue to foster partnerships that address our community's educational, workforce, and basic needs.
- *Cultural Appreciation:* We strive to ensure that students see themselves reflected in their educational experiences and to elevate the appreciation of the rich cultural diversity in our community.

EMCC is dedicated to fostering an environment where students not only receive an education but also find the support and opportunities they need to thrive. Together, we are building a brighter future for our students and our community.





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