

August 24, 2010

Dear Citizens of Maricopa County,

After substantial reflection, I am writing to inform you of my decision to step-down from my volunteer service on the Maricopa Community Colleges Governing Board. Economic realities require that I maintain full-time employment, and as many of you know, the job market is extremely challenging.

While serving as the District One Board Member for the Maricopa Community Colleges these past four years has been a privilege, it continues to require a considerable time commitment that is no longer possible for me to provide. Serving in the diligent manner I promised voters that I would necessitates some 20 to 30-hours per week, devoted solely to the review of information, meeting with internal and external constituents, and working with Board members and the Chancellor on specific issues, all in addition to a full professional life. In deciding to accept a new employment opportunity, it became clear that the demands of the job, including extensive travel, would not allow continued public service on the Board.

I based my purpose for running for and serving on the Board upon data-driven stewardship, a responsibility to leverage, enhance, serve and encourage student success and to optimize commerce. I am proud of the work accomplished, including the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Maricopa Effectiveness and Efficiency Review, improved transfer opportunities for students, and strengthened external partnerships.

My service has not been without its challenges. I was candid and there were several times that I did not voice support for the internal community's popular opinion. I was openly criticized for this difference in perspective. However, when I ran for office, I promised citizens that my conclusions would always be based on a larger context and I have tirelessly listened, questioned, and gathered data before taking any position. My Board votes were based on this same approach, not partisan notions, preconceived ideas or a Board majority. My personal decision to drive after drinking was a poor one. I shared the mistake publicly and accepted the due consequences. I promised it would not affect my service, and I did not let it.

To make the transition to new representation in District One as smooth as possible I am openly communicating my decision to all. Out of respect for the work of the Board and the District, it is important that a replacement be named as soon as possible with the start of the new academic year. The Maricopa County School Superintendent, under state law, will decide how to proceed with that process.

I want students to know that their best interests have always been my number one priority. I have had much support from citizens, employees, educational partners, and leaders in so many areas. I sincerely thank you all for the confidence you have shown in me. It has been an honor to serve.

Sincerely,

***Colleen M. Clark***