

# Environmental Scan 2009



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# *2009 Environmental Scan*

June 2009

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## *2009 Environmental Scan*

### *Forward*

#### **Introduction**

Environmental scanning is an essential component of the district strategic planning process. The purpose of environmental scanning is to provide the basis for the development of overall District-wide strategic directions and priorities. An understanding of new developments in the environment is critical to planning for the future; thus, environmental scanning is one of the necessary components of sound strategic planning.

The environmental scanning process is a district-wide collaboration. Individuals from many colleges participate throughout the year in identifying trends or events that could impact the Maricopa Community College District. An environmental scanning wiki, “BrainKeeper”, allows individuals to easily post and share information across the district. This year over 150 issues, trends and events that could signal a change in the future were posted to the site. While a wide variety of articles are available, the annual collection is not meant to be exhaustive. The articles provide a rich source of information for use in strategic planning.

#### **Report Overview**

Information presented in this report was gathered in these environmental scanning categories: economy and workforce; education; external stakeholders-partnerships; political and legislative; and social and technological. Each section of this report provides a summary of key trends written by a research contributor. An index and the selected article summaries that follow are extracted directly from the analysis that was posted on the environmental scanning wiki. The source, a summary of the trend and implications for the district are provided for each article. These were submitted throughout the year by the scanning participants.

An annual environmental scanning summit was held to synthesize and highlight the most critical trends that may shape the future of the district. During the summit representatives from many areas across the district met to review and discuss these topics and add their own perspective. The environmental scanning summit executive summary in the next section summarizes the key findings from these discussions.





## *2009 Environmental Scanning Summit*

### *Executive Summary*

What are the forces that will shape the future of the community colleges? An environmental scanning summit was held in April 2009 and provided an opportunity to explore future trends that could impact the Maricopa Community Colleges. During this meeting, individuals from across the district prioritized and synthesized key trends and summarized the critical implications for the district. Representatives were invited from each campus and from functional areas within the district office. Trends and implications were discussed in the following environmental scanning areas: economy and workforce; education; external stakeholders – partnerships; political and legislative; and social and technological. Articles submitted to the environmental scanning wiki were reviewed and individuals contributed their own perspective and expertise to the discussions. At the conclusion of the meeting individuals were asked to indicate the most critical trend and implication facing the district. The summarized results of these conversations are provided in this executive summary.

#### **General Observations**

According to environmental scanning participants, the shift in the economy will have the largest impact on the future of the district and is the overarching theme that emerged throughout their discussions. The dramatic changes in the economy, according to several participants, will provide “an opportunity for great change in how we do things.” Others indicated that adaptability, flexibility, collaboration and innovation will be called for in this new environment. The opinion of the group is parallel to those expressed in a recent publication of the Society for College and University Planning. Trends in Higher Education characterizes the current planning period as a “time of maximum uncertainty and creative possibility between ending the way things have been and before the way they will be has become apparent.” They suggest that higher education should “expect continued turmoil and plan to seize opportunities for redefining and refreshing (the) organization’s integrated plan.”<sup>1</sup>

#### **Economy and Workforce Trends**

The major economic and workforce trends highlighted by the summit participants relate to the increasing demand for career and workforce training and the recession and its impact on higher education.

- In terms of career training, the need for a quick response in order to take advantage of stimulus funding was discussed. In the long term, colleges will be challenged to define what businesses are going to need and anticipate jobs that may not yet exist. Collaboration will be critical in order to meet the workforce training needs of the future and manage resources

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<sup>1</sup> Gruman, Phyllis T.H., Trends in Higher Education Volume 6 n1. April 2009, p. 1. Society for College and University Planning < [http://www.scup.org/asset/53017/SCUP\\_TrendsWeb\\_v6n1.pdf](http://www.scup.org/asset/53017/SCUP_TrendsWeb_v6n1.pdf) >

efficiently. Students will need soft skills and flexibility in addition to training that meets industry standards.

- The pool of resources for higher education is shrinking and the pressure to serve more students poses a challenge to maintaining services at their current levels. Reduced state funding, static tuition and lower property tax collection rates will negatively impact higher education.
- Many students will take the opportunity to pursue their educational goals due to the economic downturn. Community colleges provide an affordable alternative to private educational providers and may fill the gap in services caused by University cut-backs.
- Students will need more financial aid support and services due to the economic downturn.

### **Education Trends**

Some of the critical educational trends that were highlighted by participants include the increasing demand for career related training, changing educational technology and increasing numbers of first-time students.

- There will be increased demand for programs that prepare students for careers (both occupational and academic). This will require an exploration of alternative delivery methods, program structure, scheduling and pedagogy. Sustainability will be important.
- Changing technology will provide opportunities for students to accelerate learning. It will allow learning to take place anywhere and expand educational opportunities globally. These changes will make support services more accessible and change the way that services are delivered. New technologies will be a tool to facilitate collaborative learning and social networking.
- As more young, first-time, students enter higher education, student success strategies will need to be emphasized. Curriculum and delivery will need to be developed to meet the needs of these students. Social and behavioral needs of students will need to be addressed. In addition, dual enrollment and early college programs are anticipated to grow and parental involvement will be important for younger students.

### **External Stakeholders and Partnerships Trends**

Several themes emerged from the discussions concerning the external stakeholders and partnerships. Relationships with K-12 schools, the community, businesses, university partnerships are changing according to the participants.

- The K-12 system is under stress due to diminishing resources and increasing accountability. One consequence may be a rise in the number of under-prepared students. Colleges will be charged with developing programs and support mechanisms to help these students.
- As community needs change, an increasing array of services and formats will be developed. Flexibility in program development and scheduling will be key to meeting community

demand for both credit and non-credit offerings. Collaboration with community partners will be more prevalent in order to maximize resources.

- Business needs are changing and so will the types of training that the community college provides. Content, duration and delivery of courses will need to reflect the new business environment. Partnering with business will become increasingly important both to help define the new workplace skills and to provide training and workplace experiences for students.
- Universities are feeling the impact of reduced state aid. Streamlining programs, increasing tuition and cutting scholarships are all strategies that are being used to balance budgets. Increased student demand for community college offerings may be one result of these changes. Changes in University programs and policies will also have possible implications for curriculum pathways and transfer.

### **Political and Legislative Trends**

The main issues that were discussed are the immediate implications of the federal stimulus package, the increased demand for accountability and State and County funding shortages.

- There are a number of workforce and stimulus initiatives that are currently available with a relatively short window for implementation. It is anticipated that the need to produce “shovel ready” projects will accelerate. The number of federal grants will increase and subsequently new programs will be developed.
- An increased emphasis on accountability in higher education is anticipated. This will result in more reporting requirements and greater oversight. Consequently, more emphasis will be placed on strategies to improve student success, increase graduation rates and improve retention.
- Funding for higher education from state and county sources is diminishing due to the current economy. Reductions are expected to continue for some time. Increasing demand in combination with fewer resources will challenge colleges to provide the level of service that the community and students expect.

### **Social and Technological Trends**

Worldwide weakening economic conditions were noted as having the largest social impact. The changing demographics of the communities served by the community college also have significant implications for the future. Finally, the rapid development of diverse technologies was discussed as one of the key trends affecting education.

- One impact of the weakening global economic condition is stalled innovation and less investment in research and development. Uncertainty and fear have a negative impact on recovery. Within Maricopa, collaboration will be critical in order to maximize resources.
- The student population is going to be ever more diverse. Veterans will be joining the student population. Students of all ages and ethnic backgrounds will continue to seek higher educational opportunities. Flexibility, agility and adaptability will be important in providing

services to this diverse student population. The customer service orientation will be important.

- The expansion of new technological applications is anticipated to increase the expectation for seamless interfaces.

## *Economy and Workforce Trends*

The national recession that began in December of 2007 appears to be approaching its zenith in the early months of 2009 in terms of bad economic news. Each day seems to bring more reports of layoffs, foreclosures, unemployment, and deficits. The U.S. lost 1.9 million jobs in the first four months of 2009, on top of 3 million lost in 2008. Last year's collapse in employment was the worst since the end of World War II. Nationwide, employment declined in every month of 2008. Currently, the U.S. unemployment rate stands at 8.9% in April 2009, and may top 10% this year. Some states are already there. Factoring in other measures of unemployment and underemployment, such as discouraged, marginally attached, and part time workers, the U.S. rate jumps to 15.8%. Unemployment is a lagging indicator, and will continue to rise even as the economy begins to recover. Projections are for a severe downturn lasting into the second half of 2009 comparable in severity to the mid-1970s and early 1980s recessions.

Arizona has been hard hit. The collapsing housing market, combined with tightening access to credit and higher energy costs tipped the state into recession several months before the U.S. The recession in Arizona began before the national recession and is expected to last longer. In 2006 Arizona ranked second in employment growth among states. In 2008 it ranked 48<sup>th</sup>. State unemployment stands at 7.8% in March. In Greater Phoenix, home prices are down over 50% from their peak in mid-2006. The housing market is now showing signs of stabilization. Existing home sales have bottomed out. A large portion of sales (almost 50%) are foreclosures, but money is once again flowing. It is conservatively estimated that the Greater Phoenix housing market is overbuilt by 40,000 to 50,000 homes. It will take several years for these homes to be absorbed. The Greater Phoenix housing market is not expected to return to its normal, pre-bubble levels until 2012.

The current state of the economy is impacting the Maricopa Community Colleges in both positive and negative ways. On the positive side, enrollment is up in the spring of 2009 after several years of decline. This trend is expected to continue as displaced workers return to school to improve skills or re-career. Recent announcements by the state's three universities to cap enrollment, hike tuition, and impose tuition surcharges will likely boost enrollment as well. This, combined with Maricopa's recent decision not to raise tuition makes our colleges an affordable alternative to the state universities and private institutions. On the negative side, the colleges will continue to suffer from revenue shortfalls as the result of state budget cuts and other reductions. These revenue shortfalls come at a time of increased demand by the public, and will place additional pressures on the Maricopa system to provide services and financial assistance while maintaining high standards.

Career and workforce training will be a primary role for the Maricopa Community Colleges as the economy recovers. The colleges have already begun working with local and regional partners to provide training for displaced workers as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Our colleges must be able to respond quickly to the changing needs of business, and meet industry mandated standards and certifications. This includes anticipating changes in the market as new occupations and industries emerge, and providing the flexibility to offer new courses and

programs, often through new delivery systems as well.

At the height of recession, bright spots are emerging in the U.S. economy. Inflation is under control. This is due primarily to lower energy prices, which are saving Americans nearly \$1 billion a day at the pump. Mortgage rates are at historic lows, allowing those who can qualify to refinance. The stock market, which was down 50%, has recovered 25% of its value since March. Consumer confidence is showing signs of improvement. The Feds have also been proactive in stimulating the economy, providing \$787 billion from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, \$275 billion to facilitate modification of home mortgages, \$1 trillion to increase the flow of credit into the economy, and \$75-\$100 billion to purge bank balance sheets of sour assets.

As for Arizona, employment growth is expected to return by the second quarter of 2010, but not until the end of 2012 is employment projected to reach the statewide levels seen in the third quarter of 2007 - a five year correction. Many wonder what industries will drive the economic recovery in Arizona. Will emerging sectors such as bioscience, nanotechnology, or sustainability play a significant role, or will the state revert to its traditional economic model of development and construction? Despite the prospect of a stagnant economy in the near future, Arizona's long term prospects for economic growth remains strong. The state population is projected to reach 15 million by 2040, which is eight-and-a-half million more people than reside in Arizona today. Providing education and workforce training for this population will be the primary goal of the Maricopa Community Colleges in the decades to come.

Contributed by John Catapano, Center For Workforce Development

Maricopa County Community College District

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# *Index of Economy and Workforce Article Summaries*

<b>Careers</b>	Arizona's Teacher Shortage Continues College Role in "Green Job" Growth High Paying Technology Careers without 4-year degree Largest Arizona Employers New Nurses Face Hiring Challenges New Teacher Opportunities Thin Real-estate School Enrollment Falls, Agents Abandon Practice Teacher Interest Increasing Top 8 Jobs for 2009
<b>Employment outlook</b>	Aging Workforce Presents Educational Opportunities Arizona unemployment rate hits 5.9 percent Job declines continue into 2009
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<b>Work Force Investment Act (WIA)</b>	Job Training - Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

# *Selected Economy and Workforce Article Summaries*

## **Careers**

### **Arizona's Teacher Shortage Continues**

#### **Source:**

Author: Ray Parker

Title: Arizona faces severe teacher shortage

Publication: The Arizona Republic

Date: February 20, 2009

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research

<http://azcentral.com/arizonarepubli/local/articles/2009/02/20/20090220teacherneeds02220.html>

#### **Summary:**

As in other states, Arizona schools are struggling with a critical shortage of high-quality math and science teachers. The Arizona Department of Education projects the state will need an additional 400 math and 250 science teachers per year. That's roughly 500 more teachers than the state's three public universities are currently producing.

#### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

MCCCD could benefit (i.e., increased enrollment and positive community service) by advancing opportunity through: teacher education coursework offerings, expanding 2+2 articulation agreements with four-year institutions, beefed-up teacher readiness programs, improved math and science course offerings, promoting ACE scholarship enrollment during academic and summer sessions for middle school students, faculty outreach recruitment to underrepresented populations in junior high and high school feeder-schools, procurement of grant opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programs and improved scholarship opportunities, increased financial support (grants and scholarships) for underrepresented and economically less fortunate students, and improved faculty training in teaching quality math and science curriculum.

### **College Role in "Green Job" Growth**

#### **Source:**

Author: John D. Sutter

Title: Growing excitement, expectations for green jobs corps

Publication: CNN.com

Date: March 04, 2009

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research

<http://cnn.site.printthis.clickability.com/pt/cpt>

#### **Summary:**

Across the country, many folks are looking to the renewable energy sector in hopes its "green-collar jobs" will offer them stability in this shaky economy. Some are enrolling in

community college or apprenticeship programs that train students to be wind turbine mechanics, solar panel installers, fuel-cell engineers or energy efficiency experts. Government support has rallied excitement for the prospect of a green jobs corps, as President Obama's stimulus package puts about \$20 billion into greening the economy, according to the White House. In his recent speech to Congress, Obama said the U.S. will double its supply of renewable energy in three years. To do so, he's calling on a new class of workers to be trained in environmental fields. Green jobs training programs will get \$500 million from the stimulus.

#### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

Numerous new programs could be explored by the MCCCD colleges to possibly include wind turbine mechanics, solar panel installers, fuel-cell engineers or energy efficiency experts. The federal monies targeted for such initiatives, and Arizona's strategic location in the Sun Belt, suggest obvious incentives for exploring options.

#### **High Paying Technology Careers without 4-year degree**

##### **Source:**

Source: The Arizona Republic  
Author: Beard, Betty  
Title: Tech skills bring way to cash in on a career  
Date: Sunday, September 14, 2008  
Hardcopy location: Jann Contento

##### **Summary:**

Career opportunities in technical areas offer high salaries without the completion of a four-year college degree. Many jobs in manufacturing, information technology and health care, often requiring a fair level of computer technology skills, provide high wage employment opportunities. Vocational high schools and community colleges are leading the way in providing the necessary technical skills. While completion of a four-year degree remains a hedge in job security and advancement, a two-year associate degree can enable salary earnings nearly three-quarters of a 4-year degree.

#### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor, average salaries in the fastest growing jobs requiring post-secondary and associate degree training ranged from \$36,000 to nearly \$65,000 in 2007. In Maricopa County, the manufacturing sector, precision machinists and technical health care professionals are currently showing consistent employment growth opportunities. Job trends in high tech fields challenge MCCCD to provide the educational training to meet community needs.

#### **Largest Arizona Employers**

##### **Source:**

Source: The Arizona Republic  
Author: Harris, Craig  
Title: Grocers, health providers lead job growth in Arizona  
Date: May 4, 2008  
Hardcopy Location: Jann Contento

**Summary:**

The Arizona Republic's annual compilation of the state's largest private employers, based on number of workers, lists four retail grocery stores in the top ten. Among the top ten include Banner Health, Wells Fargo & Co., Honeywell International Inc., and Raytheon Co. The Apollo Group Inc, on-line University of Phoenix, was number three.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

MCCCD may benefit by knowing the top employers in the state and help provide their students the educational training necessary for employment. The competitive educational offerings by the Apollo Group's on-line educational services may also be of interest.

**New Nurses Face Hiring Challenges****Source:**

Source: Arizona Republic

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/business/articles/2009/01/25/20090125biz-nursing0125.html>

**Summary:**

Recent nursing graduates are finding it difficult to obtain employment as hospitals are scaling back on hiring because of the recession. Also influencing this trend is the fact veteran nurses are less likely to retire, while part time nurses are working more hours to add to their income.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

The relevance of this to our nursing programs in the District may suggest increased placement assistance.

**New Teacher Opportunities Thin****Source:**

Author: Michelle Reese

Title: New teachers can expect tough job search

Date: March 28, 2009

Publication: East Valley/Scottsdale Tribune

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research

<http://license.icopyright.net/user/viewFreeUse.act?fuid>

**Summary:**

Many valley school districts are announcing teacher cutbacks due primarily to funding issues related to the economy. New teachers graduating from the state's colleges and universities will face difficulty in landing a teaching position. Although some districts are experiencing a decrease in enrollment, most cite potential state budget cuts influencing their hiring decisions. There remains a critical teaching shortage for qualified special education, math and science teachers, however some districts will be underfunded in meeting those concerns. Beginning teachers hoping to land an appointment upon graduation may have to consider relocating outside the county to more rural areas.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

Teacher training programs at the community colleges should be aware of the current hiring practices as the number of teachers required in larger school districts may be reduced. More rural school districts may offer some opportunities for aspiring teachers.

**Real-estate School Enrollment Falls, Agents Abandon Practice****Source:**

Source: Arizona Republic June, 2008 by J. Craig Anderson

**Summary:**

With many schools in the district offering Real Estate courses and programs, with the housing market in decline, there is a decline in real estate students and those with licenses who are practicing agents.

**Teacher Interest Increasing****Source:**

Author: The Associated Press

Title: Interest in becoming a teacher surges

Publication: MSNBC.com

Date: March 25, 2009

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research

<http://www.msnbc.msn.co/id/29732200/print/1/displaymode/1098/>

**Summary:**

A growing number of people are seeking additional education in hopes of entering the teaching profession. Interest in becoming a teacher has surged, and more pathways are emerging to provide people an efficacious path. Teach for America, which recruits new college graduates, and those not initially trained as educators, has received more than 35,000 applications, a 42 percent increase over last year.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

District-wide teacher training programs may wish to review data related to this trend and prepare to serve anticipated demands for these curriculum offerings. A noted need for K-12 teachers in the state has been indicated as a trend for the past decade. Expanded 2+2 type programs and greater communication among the colleges and universities may also help curtail any lost opportunities.

**Top 8 Jobs for 2009****Source:**

Source: Fast Company

Author:

Title: The Top Jobs for 2009

Date: January 13, 2009

<http://www.fastcompany.com/articles/2009/01/top-jobs-2009.html>

## **Summary:**

In 2009, the job market will be full of contrasts: some industries will be eviscerated while others face shortages of workers. The good news is that despite the recession, there are still real jobs to be had. The bad news is that you may have to change fields to find one. The trick to job hunting in 2009 will be to figure out how your skill-set can translate across industries.

## **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

"To a great extent, education is recession proof," says Roy Krause, President and CEO of recruiting and staffing company Spherion. In 2009, roughly 38,000 of our economy's new jobs will be created in colleges and universities nationwide. As more students wait out the recession in college and graduate programs, the need for teachers, administrators, assistants and other staff will expand.

The demand for primary and secondary-school teachers will be booming as well. "There always seems to be a shortage there," says Krause. Some of the most in-demand teaching roles will prepare workers for the most in-demand jobs. "There are literally not enough educational programs to generate the volume of health-care workers we'll need," Varelas explains. As high schools and universities expand to meet demand for nurses, computer engineers and teachers, the demand for teachers and professors will grow commensurately.

## **Employment Outlook**

### **Aging Workforce Presents Educational Opportunities**

#### **Source:**

Source: AARP Web Page

Author: Report prepared by Towers Perrin

Title: The Business Case for Workers Age 50+ Date: 2005

[http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/econ/workers\\_fifty\\_plus\\_1.pdf](http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/econ/workers_fifty_plus_1.pdf)

#### **Summary:**

1) Both the workforce and population are aging 2) Labor shortages are projected in a growing number of sectors of the economy 3) Many workers intend to continue to work beyond the traditional retirement age.

## **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

This report is geared towards potential employers as a strong justification not to get caught up in age discrimination when it comes to seeking to fill skilled positions. For MCCCD it could be a marketing opportunity to reach out to the baby boomer generation to provide them with skills to be competitive and grow in the current work environment. Particularly those who may be looking at a second or third career at this point in their lives and have an outdated skill set; in particular with computer technology.

### **Arizona unemployment rate hits 5.9 percent**

#### **Source:**

<http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/story/128232>

**Summary:**

Arizona's unemployment rate has reached its highest level since July 2003 and is increasing faster than the national unemployment rate. Losses continue to be felt in construction and retail, while jobs continue to increase in education and healthcare.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

Historically, enrollments increase with increasing unemployment. Declining areas can be sources for students looking to retool and resources need to be allocated to training programs in those areas with job growth.

**Job declines continue into 2009****Source:**

Source: Arizona Republic, 10/3/08

**Summary:**

It seems Arizona will not only lose jobs this year but next year, too, because of the continued downturn in housing and weak consumer spending.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

More unemployed may mean more people coming to school for retooling. Healthcare should continue to be a strong area for vocational training. Decreasing sales tax revenue may mean decreased funding from the state.

**Housing Market****Maricopa County 6-Month Foreclosures****Source:**

Source: Arizona Republic

Title: Search foreclosures, notices

Author: Steinberg, Grayson

Date: August 25, 2008

Hardcopy available: Jann Contento

<http://www.azcentral.com/realestate/datacenter/foreclosures.html>

**Summary:**

Maricopa County foreclosures report 16,647 during the first six months of 2008. This figure is five times higher compared to the same period last year and pre-foreclosures (35,111) more than three times as high. The city of Tolleson had the highest percentage increase in both categories compared to 2007, more than 600%. Litchfield Park and Queen Creek recorded the next highest percentage increase.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

The astounding growth in home foreclosures in Maricopa County may cause an erosion in MCCCD tax base and impact a subsequent funding source for the colleges. Outlying areas in extreme east and west valley locations appear the hardest hit.

## **Median Valley Home Prices Vary**

### **Source:**

Source: The Arizona Republic

Title: Median prices of Valley homes are all over the map

Author: Reagor, Catherine and Konig, Ryan

Date: May 15, 2008

Hardcopy Location: Jann Contento

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/business/articles/0315biz-vhv0316.html>

### **Summary:**

According to The Arizona Republic's valley Home Values Survey, many home sales values have declined across the valley however, more than one quarter of zip code areas posted increases. Most increases were centrally located.

### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

MCCCD serves a diverse geographical community. The current housing challenges, fuel costs, and population changes facing the Phoenix metropolitan may influence where students choose to enroll.

## **Recession/Recovery**

### **Don't Buy the Chirpy Forecasts**

#### **Source:**

Author: Rogoff, K. & Reinhart, C.

Publication: Newsweek

Date: March 30, 2009, p35.

#### **Summary:**

This is another article that attempts to assess when the current recession will end. The administration is predicting the recession will end in the last months of 2009, and then recover with increases in GDP by around 4% per year for several years. The article argues for a "far more cautious assessment". Historically recessions caused by banking crises "last far longer than normal downturns, and to cause considerably more damage" they state. "If the United States follows the norm of recent crises, as it has until now, output may take four years to return to its pre-crisis level" and "unemployment will continue to rise for three more years, reaching 11-12% in 2011." The authors indicate that "had policymakers looked the standard warning signs of past financial crises, . . ., they would have realized the extent to which their economies were likely headed for a calamity." The US national debt is expected to reach \$8.5 Trillion over the next three years, more than 50% of US GDP. Stocks have fallen roughly 55%, and housing is expected to fall 36%. The current crisis is "far more global than anything seen since the 1930's." At that time "most countries took a decade to grow back to where they had started."

#### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

The US could be looking at three years of increases in unemployment, topping out at 11-12%. Production could take anywhere from 4 to 10 years to return to pre-recession levels.

While they do think the country is on the right track in terms of policy and bail-outs, they project it will take significantly longer for the country to recover.

### **Forecast: No Quick Recovery**

#### **Source:**

Source: Chris Casacchia, Forecast: No Quick Recovery

Publication: Phoenix Business Journal

Date: October 2, 2008

Hardcopy available from James Waugh

<http://c.bizjournals.com/ct/c/23747272>

#### **Summary:**

The Arizona economy will hit rock bottom in the third or fourth quarter of 2009, and a national recovery won't begin until the first part of 2010. Overall job losses in 2008/09 are expected to hit 47,500, with most of them hitting this year. Education and health services are expected to gain 10,700 jobs through the end of 2008 and an additional 7,800 in 2009.

#### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

The credit crunch and job losses will directly affect our potential and current student and staff base in the near future. Limited financial aid funding coupled with more unemployed people may make recruitment more of a challenge through 2010.

### **Household Net Worth Declines**

#### **Source:**

Author: Martin Crutsinger, AP Economics Writer

Title: Household net worth plunges by record amount

Publication: boston.com

Date: March 12, 2009

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research

[http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2009/03/12/fed\\_reports\\_record\\_fall\\_in\\_household\\_net](http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2009/03/12/fed_reports_record_fall_in_household_net)

#### **Summary:**

The net worth of American households fell by the largest amount in more than a half-century of record keeping during the fourth quarter of last year, reflecting the blow families are taking from a plunging stock market and dwindling home prices.

#### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

The decline in the net worth of families with students who enroll in Maricopa community colleges could have financial impact on college going. Financial aid implications, including sources like Pell Grants, may play an increasingly important role for MCCCD colleges and the students that attend them.

## **Reports Hint Recession Closer to Bottom**

### **Source:**

Publication: The Arizona Republic

Date: April 2, 2009, pD1.

### **Summary:**

The newest reports show that the economy is contracting at a slower pace, which may mean the depth of the current recession is closer to hitting bottom. However, "analysts think the low point is still months away" and that there will be more bad news -- particularly higher unemployment -- before the economy rebounds. One prediction is that this recession, which is the longest in the last quarter century, could improve by September 2009. GDP dropped; construction spending dropped; manufacturing "shrank for the 14th straight month" and the manufacturing index hit a 28 year low in December; GM's sales dropped 45% from last March, while Ford dropped 41% and Chrysler 39%.

## **Stock Prices Get Burned**

### **Source:**

Publication: The Arizona Republic

Date: February 25, 2009, pD1.

### **Summary:**

The price of stock in major American corporations has fallen by 97% to 84%. At one time, many of these stocks were recommended as "very Safe", since these corporations were seen as the backbone of American industry and could never go under. Examples: (first figure January 3, 07; last Feb 24, 09) General Motors \$30.30 to \$2.22 -93%; Eastman Kodak \$25.90 to \$3.57 -86%; American Airlines \$30.65 to \$4.72 -85%; The New York Times \$24.27 to \$3.95 -84%; Citigroup \$55.66 to \$2.60 -95%. This is an indication of the depth of the current recession.

## **World Bank See Faltering Global Economics in 2009**

### **Source:**

Author: Bomkamp S., (AP)

Publication: The Arizona Republic

Date: March 9, 2009.

### **Summary:**

According to the World Bank "the global economy will shrink this year for the first time since World War II." In 2009 trade fell to its lowest level in 80 years. The poorest countries -- which some have called the bottom billion -- will face a shortfall of \$270 Billion to \$700 Billion. "Only one-quarter of those vulnerable countries will be able to ease the economic downturn through . . . 'safety net' programs". The ramifications on poor countries "will likely remain for some time." This greatly increases the chances of social and political unrest in the poorest countries. To avoid this, the World Bank indicated: "We need investments in safety nets, infrastructure, and small and medium sized companies to create jobs." International financial institutions will not be able to cover even the lowest estimates of needed investments.

## **World Economic Report Paints Grim Picture**

### **Source:**

Source: The Arizona Republic

Author: Jeannine Aversa

Title: World economic report paints grim picture

Date: April 23, 2009

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2009/04/23/20090423economy0423.html>

### **Summary:**

The global economy is expected to lurch into reverse this year for the first time since World War II with appalling consequences for nations large and small - trillions of dollars in lost business, millions of people thrust into hunger and homelessness and crime on the rise. And the pain won't stop this year, the International Monetary Fund declared Wednesday, for what it said is "by far the deepest global recession since the Great Depression." To cushion the blow and head off further damage next year, the IMF is calling for more stimulus projects from the world's governments, including major spending for public-works projects.

### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

The deteriorating economic conditions will continue to impact MCCCD's employees and the current and potential students. Stepping up to the challenges and pursuing the opportunities provided by the stimulus projects are critical to MCCCD's success. The high impact customer service goal is one way to promote both employee and student success by living the service standards and following through with the plan.

## **Workforce Investment Act (WIA)**

### **Job Training - Workforce Investment Act (WIA)**

#### **Source:**

Source: Working for American Institute

Date: 2009

<http://www.workingforamerica.org/documents/workforce.htm>

<http://www.workingforamerica.org/documents/Factsheets/factsheet13.htm>

#### **Summary:**

*What The Law Requires:* Most adult and dislocated worker training, with some exceptions, must be provided through "individual training accounts" (ITAs). The exceptions include on-the-job training, customized training, training provided to special populations by community-based organizations and areas having insufficient eligible providers. Vouchers can only be used for training with certified training providers. Employers and unions can receive contracts to provide OJT or customized training to new workers or existing workers who need to upgrade their skills in order to retain self-sufficiency.

#### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

Funding is already flowing into existing Workforce Investment Act (WIA) job training programs for the City of Phoenix and Maricopa County, to assist dislocated workers and low income adults . There is also increased funding for youth, for which the age has increased to

24, which will make it available to our students who are eligible. We also can apply for competitive grants to provide job training in energy efficiency and renewable energy fields (“green jobs”), health care, and teacher education. MCCCCD is preparing to make collaborative application for these funds when they are available. The challenge with these funds is that they will only be available for two years.



## *Education Trends*

The number of students entering higher educational institutions underprepared for college level work remains unfortunately relevant. Students requiring developmental preparation in math, English and reading are of particular concern. One-half of Maricopa County's high school graduates who enter Arizona colleges or universities require at least one remedial math course. Literature suggests that faculty can help improve success in basic-skills courses by taking an active role in re-shaping curriculum, recording data and measuring student progress. One developmental math solutions project proposes a "retooling" of math education by incorporating other disciplines, encompassing comprehensive reading with a math component.

State education leaders have proposed accompanying the current AIMS test with examination scores from either the SAT or ACT as a competency indicator for "college ready" high school performance. Evidence suggests that college graduation rates were influenced by higher SAT scores at campuses whose incoming student's SAT scores improved substantially. Approximately 30% of Arizona high-school students currently take the SAT exam, and Arizona student scores on the SAT exam declined for the third consecutive year.

National trends supporting student success and retention efforts emphasize a number of factors: front loading financial support services, campus connection efforts, promoting academic engagement, setting high expectations, offering student success course, assigning a mentor, learning center tutoring, early academic warning system, and early student outreach. A student's prior education, first time college-going, socioeconomic status, English proficiency and ethnicity were all noted as contributing success factors. The overall challenge remains to improve both college enrollment and degree-attainment rates for all students.

Across all disciplines, approximately one-third of students who enroll in public, two-year colleges eventually transfer to 4-year universities. The Arizona Board of Regents and the Governor have endorsed efforts (2020 vision) to better educate the state's workforce, improve the state's research base, and increase baccalaureate degree completion. More Arizona students are taking advanced placement courses and exams to cut costs and prepare for higher education. As the Carnegie Foundation is re-considering "regulating time" as the primary condition that constitutes education achievement measures, some states are supporting an accelerated study program which endorses moving student cohorts through associates' of arts degree in three years.

High school level Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs are expanding, echoing U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data which claims that 18/20 of the fastest growing occupations within the next decade will require career and technical education. The national economic stimulus bill encourages short-term (three to six month) job training programs at community colleges. Economic conditions are also prompting many older students to return to college. Trends indicate many colleges accommodating older students by offering more online course offerings, and additional non-degree occupational coursework for nontraditional students.

Contributed by Jann Contento, Coordinator Student Success Programs Estrella Mountain

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# *Selected Education Article Summaries*

## **Degree Attainment**

### **Accelerating the Associate Degree**

#### **Source:**

Source: Inside Higher Ed

Title: Accelerating the Associate Degree

Date: March 19, 2009

<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2009/03/19/asap>

#### **Summary:**

City University of New York's Accelerated Study in Associates Program (ASAP) aims to move students through their programs of study in cohorts toward completion within three years. Block scheduling, shorter terms, daytime classes. First cohort did not include any students with developmental/remedial needs; so far, 80% retention from first year to second.

#### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

Additional element - speed/acceleration. Consider adding to iStartSmart initiative. Expensive model (student eligible for financial aid have remainder of tuition waived; textbooks and transportation covered by CUNY) but a motivating one.

### **Carnegie Unit of College Credit: Possible Changes**

#### **Source:**

Author(s): Jane V. Wellman and Thomas Ehrlich

Title: Re-Examining the Sacrosanct Credit Hour

Publication: The Chronicle of Higher Education

Date: September 30, 2008

Hardcopy location: Institutional research

<http://chronicle.com> Section: The Chronicle Review Volume 50, Issue 5, Page B16

#### **Summary:**

In the early 1900s, the Carnegie Foundation for Advancement for Teaching, along with the General Education Board, promoted the adoption of the student credit hour as a common measure for comparing activities and encouraging greater efficiency and competition among institutions.

The credit-hour measure made possible the calculation of relative faculty workloads, the cost of instruction per student hour, and ultimately the rate of educational efficiency for individual professors, fields, department, and colleges. The measure gained added muscle when state governments began to use the credit hour to standardize budget formulas in public-university systems and to compare student workloads between institutions by converting enrollment into "full-time equivalencies." The earned credit-hour does not however, measure learning based on specific goals or results. Many believe the current pretense of "regulating time" as the basis for academic credits should be re-considered. The

authors suggest a change in the language from “student credit hours” to “student credit units,” along with the elimination of other time-based measures, like academic calendar requirements, that are associated with credit hours.

### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

Changes in the Carnegie definition of what constitutes education achievement measures holds significant implications for Maricopa community colleges. Many facets of MCCCD’s operations could be influenced by such a change: funding formula, achievement measures, educational delivery mode, face-to-face, on-line, and hybrid learning, distance learning, degree and certificate requirements, transfer equivalency, and accreditation to name a few.

### **College Degree's Declining Value**

#### **Source:**

Author: Greg Ip

Title: The Declining Value of Your College Degree

Publication: The Wall Street Journal

Date: February 26, 2009

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research

<http://online.wsj.co/article/SB121623686919059307.html?mod=yhoofront>

#### **Summary:**

A four-year college degree, seen for generations as a ticket to a better life, is no longer considered enough to guarantee a steadily rising paycheck. The issue isn’t a lack of economic growth, which was solid for most of the 2000s. Rather, it’s that the fruits of growth are flowing largely to “a relatively small group of people who have a particular set of skills and assets that lots of other people don’t,” says Bernstein. In short, a college degree is often necessary, but not sufficient, to get a paycheck that beats inflation.

### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

Occupational training offerings provide multiple opportunities for returning adults or current younger students to prepare for ever changing workforce demands. MCCCD occupies a necessary role in serving community needs.

### **Students Encouraged to Graduate in Four Years**

#### **Source:**

Source: The Arizona Republic

Author: Ryman, Anne

Title: Students urged by universities to graduate within 4 years

Date: May 5, 2008

Hard copy available: Jann Contento

#### **Summary:**

According to a recent report, roughly 30 percent of students at Arizona's three state universities earn their undergraduate degrees in four years. The UA reports 32%, ASU 30%, and NAU, 29% of their students graduating in 4 years. Last year, all three Arizona universities began charging students 20 percent more if they earned more than 150 credit

hours to earn their baccalaureate degrees. This "tuition surcharge" will decrease to 145 credits for the 2008-09 school year. An extra year of school can add nearly \$19,000 when tuition, housing, textbooks, transportation and other expenses are considered.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

MCCCD could consider this an incentive to efficaciously advance students, with transfer intent, to graduate in 4 years. Proper and effective academic advising and accurate academic programs of study could contribute to efforts.

**Younger Generation Not Gaining in Education Level**

**Source:**

Source: The Chronicle of Higher Education  
Title: Younger Americans Are No Longer Gaining in Educational Level, Report Says  
Author: Ashburn, Elyse  
Publication: The American Council on Education - 23rd edition "Minorities in Higher Education"  
Date: October 9, 2008  
Hardcopy location: Jann Contento  
<http://chronicle.com/daily/2008/10/4954n.htm>

**Summary:**

A recent report suggests the younger generation of students may not exceed the educational achievements of their parents or grandparents, despite greater opportunities for educational advancement. The gaps between educational attainment of some races and ethnic groups are particularly discouraging. According to the report, young Hispanic Americans, (the fastest growing ethnic group) are actually less well educated than their older counterparts.

- Only 16 percent Of young Hispanic Americans have at least an associates degree, compared with 17.8 percent of Hispanic Americans age 30 or older
- Young Black Americans have similar degree-attainment rates as their older counterparts
- Young Asian-Americans and non-Hispanic whites have higher rates than their older counterparts
- Traditional college-age Hispanics enroll in higher education at a lower rate than young Americans of any other group except Native Americans

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

MCCCD is challenged to improve both the college enrollment and degree-attainment rates for all students. Aggressive, active recruitment, ample student financial aid, effective retention, and ease of transfer are often considered when addressing district-wide efforts.

## Distance/hybrid Learning

### Older Students May Take Online Courses

#### **Source:**

Source: The Chronicle of Higher Education

Author: Kolowich, Steve

Title: Recession May Drive More Adult Students to Take Online Classes

Date: 1/16/2009

<http://chronicle.com/weekly/v55/i19/19a01102.htm>

#### **Summary:**

Economic storms historically have prompted more adults to seek shelter in the classroom. But this time around, two-year colleges and private for-profit institutions are especially optimistic about attracting more students — and many of those older students will probably take courses online, according to one of the authors of a recent survey. Competition for the growing pool of students interested in online learning is increasing. "This competition may be leading schools to increase their geographic reach and to concentrate on nondegree, nontraditional students," the authors wrote. "For the first time, [schools] are seeing students choose another college for its online program," said Ms. Allen.

#### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

The recession may increase older student enrollment especially in online courses. MCCCD may want to increase the geographic reach by offering more online courses and concentrate on non-degree, nontraditional students.

## Educational Technology

### New Technologies to Affect Education

#### **Source:**

Source: eschoolnews.com Author: Stansbury, Meris Title: Six technologies soon to affect education Date: March 26, 2009

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/?I=57910&PAGE=3>

#### **Summary:**

Collaborative environments, cloud computing, and "smart" objects are among the technologies that a group of experts believes will have a profound impact on K-12 education within the next five years or sooner. The group, called the New Media Consortium (NMC), has come out with an annual report on emerging technologies in higher education for the last several years. This year, for the first time, NMC has issued a K-12 version of its "Horizon Report" as well.

#### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

"For education leaders, this report is extremely valuable and critical to making sure that school districts are integrating technological tools that will have maximum impact," said Karen Greenwood Henke, CoSN board liaison. "Having a grasp on up-and-coming

technologies empowers technology leaders to plan for the future and keep their students, educators, and administrators on the cutting edge." MCCC CD should also be prepared to adapt to these changes.

The six technologies detailed in the report are:

- One year or less: collaborative environments and online communication tools
- Two to three years: mobile devices and cloud computing
- Four to five years: smart objects and the personal web

## **Readiness**

### **Change in Incoming Graduates to Community Colleges**

#### **Source:**

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education

Title: New Data Predict Major Shifts in Student Population, Requiring Colleges to Change Strategies

Date: March 20, 2008

<http://chronicle.com/daily/2008/03/2177n.htm>

Hardcopy available: Damita Kaloostian

#### **Summary:**

Colleges and universities have been seeing the changes in the composition of the nation's student body for years. An analysis of population data released on Wednesday confirms that major shifts are under way. "The reality is that the change has hit," said Nancy Davis Griffin, dean of admissions at Saint Anselm College, in Manchester, N.H.

After this year's high-school seniors receive their diplomas, the number of graduates nationwide will begin a slow decline until 2015, according to the new analysis, by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. At the same time, the number of minority graduates is expected to grow rapidly as Hispanic and Asian students replace white ones.

#### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCC CD):**

New student population may change types of programs and resources needed at the colleges.

### **College Freshman Not "College Ready"**

#### **Source:**

Author: Pat Kossan

Title: New way urged for gauging schools

Publication: The Arizona Republic

Date: January 20, 2009

Hardcopy location: Institutional research

**Summary:**

Half of Maricopa County's high-school graduates who enter Arizona universities or colleges must take a remedial math class. And just under a quarter must take a remedial English class. Two House leaders are proposing a pilot program that could lead to making the percentage of students who graduate "college-ready" the prime indicator of how well a high school performs. The study tracked students from 115 Maricopa County districts or charter high schools that entered one of the three state universities or Maricopa Community Colleges. Those students accounted for 55 percent of the county's 2006 graduates, or about 17,400 students. The results: Seventy-seven percent were prepared to enter a college-level English course without extra help; half were ready for college algebra. A legislative task force will examine the future of AIMS, possibly eliminating it as a graduation requirement, or replacing it with a college entrance (ACT, SAT) type exam. In all measures, schools would have to show progress in the percentage of students meeting the new goals.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

Remediation needs placed on MCCCD institutions has been well documented. Underprepared Arizona H.S. graduates, participants, and/or AIMS completers, compose the make-up of a good proportion of MCCCD entering students. The importance of this proposed task force and resulting exit exam alternatives hold a high level of interest for tax payers, K-12 curriculum, funding levels, funding sources, dual enrollment options, and intended competencies to name a few. The impact of remedial math and English courses provided threats to current MCCCD programming, faculty hiring, and student success efforts.

**State SAT Scores Decline...Again****Source:**

Source: The College Board  
Publication: The Arizona Republic  
Title: State students' SAT scores dip 3rd year in row  
Date: August 27, 2008  
Hard copy available: Jann Contento

**Summary:**

Arizona's student scores on the SAT exam have declined for a third consecutive year, with reading scores the lowest in a decade. Approximately 30 percent of Arizona high-school students take the SAT. The other popular college entrance exam, the ACT, has no mandatory writing section like the SAT. An increased number of students taking the exam, including more minorities and first-generation college students, are being attributed to the recent decrease in scores. State SAT numbers remain above national scores.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

The SAT examination is designed to measure first-year college readiness. Although not necessary for the admission in MCCCD institutions, such a trend may influence student university preparedness (acceptance) and choice of initial college enrollment.

## **Value of SAT as College Success Predictor Questioned**

### **Source:**

Author: Peter D. Salins Title: The Test Passes, College Fail Publication: The New York Times Date: November 18, 2008 Hardcopy location: Institutional research  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/11/18/opinion/18salins.html>

### **Summary:**

Many elite American colleges have been downgrading the role of standardized tests like the SAT in deciding which applicants are admitted, or have even discarded their use altogether. An increasing number of higher education leaders claim the SAT is a poor predictor of academic success in college, especially compared with high school grade-point averages. Evidence suggests that graduation rates were influenced by higher SAT scores at campuses whose incoming students' SAT scores improved substantially.

### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

Although standardized college admission instruments are not required by MCCCD, the debated value of the high school departing exam (AIMS) has demonstrated less than desired results as an indicator of college readiness. MCCCD should consider remaining part of the current dialogue surrounding possible changes from the AIMS to a form of the ACT or SAT for departing high school students.

## **Student Success**

### **American Culture Unsupportive of Math**

#### **Source:**

Author: Sara Rimer  
Title: Math Skills Suffer in U.S., Study Finds  
Publication: The New York Times  
Date: October 10, 2008  
Hardcopy location: Institutional research

#### **Summary:**

A recent study determined that the United States is failing to develop math skills in both girls and boys, especially among those who could excel at the highest levels. The study also reports that girls who do succeed in the math field are often immigrants, or the daughters of immigrants, from countries where mathematics is more highly valued. The report suggests that American culture does not highly value talent in math, and so discourages girls – and boys, -from excelling in the field.

#### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

Unfortunately, some evidence suggests that similar views regarding the value of mathematics in American society may impact students served by the MCCCD. District colleges have witnessed an increased number of underprepared math students entering their institutions. Throughout the district, an increasing number of recent high school graduates,

after initial placement testing, are requiring at least one level of developmental math. District-wide efforts continue to address this apparently growing concern.

### **AP Enrollment on Rise**

#### **Source:**

Author: Jeffrey Javier

Title: AP enrollment on the rise

Publication: The Arizona Republic

Date: March 1, 2009

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles//edap.html>

#### **Summary:**

More Arizona students are taking Advance Placement (AP) courses and exams as a way to cut college costs and become more prepared for higher education. In 2008, 10,573 public high school students took at least one AP exam compared with 5,720 students five years ago. A majority of students took AP courses in science, math, English and history, but some took courses to expand their artistic skills. Compared with the traditional essay and multiple-choice format of other AP tests, art students are judged with different methods. Students must complete a 24-piece portfolio and submit to the College Board for their AP Studio Art exam.

#### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

Trends indicate that many students opting to take AP exams hold aspirations of immediate enrollment in four-year colleges and universities. MCCCD may consider tapping the potential higher education seeker to consider transfer to college and universities with AP credits, after initially attending the more cost efficient community college.

### **Community College Role in Advancing Engineering Student Transfer**

#### **Source:**

Source: The Chronicle of Higher education

Author: Brainard, Jeffrey

Title: Community Colleges Seen as Source of Engineers

Date: October, 8, 2008

Hardcopy available: Jann Contento

<http://chronicle.com/weekly/v55/i07/07a00103.htm>

#### **Summary:**

Currently, only 12 percent of baccalaureate engineering degrees are awarded to African-American, Hispanic, or American Indian students. Recent data shows that across all disciplines, approximately one-third of students who enroll in public, two-year colleges eventually transfer. Opportunities for improving the number of students choosing and completing baccalaureate degrees in engineering fields are ripe for community colleges. Suggestions for smooth pipeline transfer include: state-wide agreement governing articulation, clean credit transfer, promoting engineering as community college major, selecting specific offerings in community college engineering sub-disciplines, qualified

faculty, appropriate laboratory equipment, adequate financial aid, effective mentors and academic advisors, external grants and/or support.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

MCCCD can serve an important role in improving transfer and baccalaureate achievement in the engineering field. Arizona Board of Regents and the Governor have endorsed efforts (i.e., 2020 Vision) designed to better educate the state's workforce, improve state's research base, and increase bachelor degree completion to serve the state's growing educational needs.

**Developmental Math Solutions Project**

**Source:**

Source: Press Release

Title: Stopping the Math Meltdown: Monterey Institute For Technology and Education Launches Developmental Math Solutions Project

Date: March 10, 2009

[http://www.montereyinstitute.org/pdf/Gates\\_Grant-Developmental\\_Math\\_Solutions\\_Project.pdf](http://www.montereyinstitute.org/pdf/Gates_Grant-Developmental_Math_Solutions_Project.pdf)

**Summary:**

Gates Foundation is funding a "planning project" for the Monterey Institute for Technology and Education (MITE) to "retool" math education by widening the view of math education to incorporate comprehension and reading and by undergirding instruction efforts with a technological foundation.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

This addresses ongoing needs of developmental student population with focus on math - but incorporating other disciplines. It is a possible basis for developmental math course work.. Monitor progress of project as it develops; eventually the outcome will be available for free via MITE's [www.hippocampus.org](http://www.hippocampus.org).

**Factors Influencing Freshman Success**

**Source:**

Author: Peter Schmidt

Title: Studies Focus on Factors That Influence Freshmen's Success

Publication: The Chronicle of Higher Education

Date: November 13, 2008

Hardcopy location: Institutional research

<http://chronicle.com/daily/2008/11/73110n.htm>

**Summary:**

Three new studies of college freshmen suggest that even the most promising students can run into academic difficulties as a long-term consequence of experiences like attending a violent or run-down high school or being raised by parents who never went to college. One study indicated that students who enter college with comparable academic records and family backgrounds can have different levels of success in their freshman year, depending

on their high-school environment. Another study, found that low-income freshmen tended to post lower grades if their high school had high levels of violence or disorder, or had enrollments that were heavily black or Hispanic, or had a high percentage of students with limited proficiency in English.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

Many students who enter MCCCD from county feeder high schools may have experienced similar family, educational, and/or social environments as described. An awareness of these individual student factors may provide valuable information to colleges hoping to positively address student success behaviors.

**Job Training may Displace Humanities**

**Source:**

Author: Jeffrey J. Selingo

Title: 2-Year colleges Worry That Job Training May Displace the Humanities

Publication: The Chronicle of Higher Education

Date: April 7, 2009

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research

<http://chronicle.com/daily/2009/04/15298n.htm>

**Summary:**

Passage of the vast economic-stimulus bill was a big win for community colleges, but its focus on job training has some two-year-college officials worried that the humanities could get shoved aside as laid-off workers rush through work-force development programs. The article singled out local Workforce Investment Boards, through which billions of dollars in stimulus money are being channeled. The boards are asking community colleges to create three-to six-month job-training programs, which are shorter than the traditional year long certificate programs that sometimes include a humanities component.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

This trend could have almost immediate impact regardless of whether community colleges are requested to formulate three to six month long training programs in keeping with the economic-stimulus bill provisions.

**New Attempts to Retain Students**

**Source:**

Author: Steven Bushong

Title: Researchers Propose 6 Ways to Keep Community-College Students Beyond the First Few Weeks

Date: March 18 2009

Publication: The Chronicle of Higher Education

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional Research

<http://chronicle.com/daily/2009/03/13970m.htm>

**Summary:**

Research results from the Center for Community College Student Engagement seeks to help officials better understand what students experience during the first crucial weeks of a

semester, and how they might engage those at-risk students and prevent them from becoming dropouts. Reflected in the report's findings is additional evidence that many students drop out because they do not immediately feel connected to the campus or engaged in their academic work. A majority of entering students (80%) said they felt welcome when they came to college. Interestingly, only 24 percent reported that a specific person was assigned to assist them, and a good number of students (74%) enrolled in a student-success course believe it should be a mandatory for all students. The report suggests principles which include helping students make personal connections on campus, setting high expectations, and creating plans to meet academic goals will help support retention efforts.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

MCCCD is currently employing many of the suggested tactics outlined in this report. District-wide initiatives, like i-start smart, which include research proven engagement and retention techniques support the national trend for “front loading” student support.

**Research on Remedial Course Success Rates : Lost Before They Start**

**Source:**

Source: Community College Research Center

Author: Bailey et. al.

Title: Referral, Enrollment, and Completion in Developmental Education Sequences in Community Colleges

Date: December 2008

<http://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/Publication.asp?UID=659>

**Summary:**

Research from the Achieving the Dream data base on persistence and completion of students referred to remedial/developmental classes show that only 3 - 4 in ten students referred complete the remedial sequence they are referred to. Many do not even enroll in the first class, or abandon the sequence of remedial courses in the first class. Lack of follow-through is more pervasive for black, male, older or part-time students. Recommendations include major changes to how remedial classes are offered, for example, linking remediation courses to courses related to occupational interests.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

As with all community colleges, Maricopa has a high percentage of students who require one or more developmental course. In our commitment to increase persistence and student success, we need to review the results of this research and identify more effective practices to move students through developmental courses and into the college programming they are interested in.

## **Student Success Programs Benefit**

### **Source:**

Author: David Miltz

Title: Helping Community College Students Beat the Odds

Publication: Inside Higher Education

Date October 8, 2008

Hardcopy location: Institutional research

<http://www.insidehighered.com/layout/set/print/2008/10/08/retention>

### **Summary:**

As retention becomes more of a key issue for two-year institutions, some educators argue that colleges could benefit by focusing on factors specifically related to retention. One suggested model concentrates retention efforts under one banner related to academic success. Additional retention efforts include an early warning system where instructors provide academic counselors with a list of students likely to have difficulty before the first major tests of the semester. A Learning Center is designed to offer tutoring to students who seek academic help and a Collegiate Assistance Support Program provides “emergency funds” to students who may need financial support for pressing personal issues. The model described in this article also supports a Student Outreach and Support Call Center that collects data from students who chose to leave the college.

### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

Efforts described in this article closely reflect many of the retention and success efforts proposed within the MCCCD “iStartSmart” initiatives. Retention concerns, as outlined in recent NCCBP indicators, remain vital in district planning and student success program development efforts.

## **Teaching Basic Skills Re-visited**

### **Source:**

Author: Josh Keller Title: Community Colleges Get new Instructions on Teaching Basic

Skills Publication: The Chronicle of higher Education Date: December 12, 2008 Hardcopy

location: EMCC Institutional research <http://chronicle.com/dailyh/2008/12/8532n.htm>

### **Summary:**

A recent report finds that faculty members at community colleges can improve the success of basic-skills instruction—specifically, math and literacy—by taking a more active role in reshaping curriculum and recording data to measure student progress. The report caps a three-year program in which the Carnegie Foundation worked closely with 11 community colleges in California to develop more effective methods of teaching students who are unprepared for college-level work.

### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

Many positive attributes of the program titled, “Strengthening Pre-collegiate Education in Community Colleges” may benefit MCCCD colleges.

## **Teaching Specific Job Skills**

### **Source:**

Author: Angela Gonzales

Title: Program teaches high school students specific job skills

Publication: Phoenix Business Journal

Date: February 23, 2009

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research

<http://www.bizjournals.com/phoenix/stories/2009/02/23/focus4.html?b>

### **Summary:**

The programs once referred as “vocational” education no longer exist in many high school curricula. However the value offered through such program offerings still have value. A good number of today’s “vocational” programs consist of classes known as career and technical education, or CTE. The Arizona Department of Education has aligned the curriculum for every CTE course with corresponding academic standards. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 18 of the 20 fastest-growing occupations within the next decade will require career and technical education.

### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

The state commitment to high school CTE programs offers potential opportunities for the MCCCD. Continued career and technical education could impact vocational training courses and programs offered through the community colleges.



## *External Stakeholders - Partnerships Trends*

A recent article in the Chronicle for Higher Education summed up our external trends well – “Faced with high tuition, a weak economy, and substantial competition for admission to four-year colleges, today’s students are more likely than ever to attend one of the nation’s 1,045 community colleges” (Goldrick-Rab, 2009, p. A99). Clearly, community colleges are going to be faced with meeting the needs of more students, with fewer resources. This will alter the structure and functions of community colleges as they continue to meld efficiencies with quality education. While not necessarily a trend, but more a way of life for community colleges, the external stakeholders’ evolving expectations of community colleges will continue to expand.

According to 2000 Census data, in the state of Arizona, only 30% of young adults, and 32% of working-age adults have a minimum of a two-year degree. “Arizona is well behind the U.S. average and exhibits steady declines” in educational degree attainment (Lumina, 2009; National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, 2007, p. 8). Given the economic climate, we can expect our external stakeholders to continue to demand more in terms of workforce development, public-private partnerships and collaboration to maximize efficiencies. We can, and should, expect accountability from our business partners in supporting our efforts at increasing the certificate and degree completion rates in our colleges. While we look for cooperative relationships, we should be prepared to be more flexible in meeting employment and training needs with more “just in time” training, flexible scheduling, and course and program offerings at more locations.

Within the ranks of our educational partners, K-12 institutions are facing significant budget shortfalls while at the same time answering the calls for increased accountability. This may affect student and teacher preparedness within K-12 as well as opportunities for dual enrollment for high school students. On the other hand, the economic climate may push for better and more efficient partnerships between K-12 and higher education, the expansion of P-20 initiatives as the nation continues to focus on the importance of baccalaureate attainment.

Looking across the landscape of higher education, we will continue to see significant competition for students from the private sector, which has proven to be more nimble in meeting the scheduling needs of students. The associate degree division of the University of Phoenix, Apollo College, saw a recent quarter growth of 20%. Apollo College caters to working adults with little or no college experience. ASU’s plans to create several, small four-year colleges could create threats or opportunities for Maricopa, as the colleges could be in competition with MCCC for students, or could foster opportunities for more partnerships with ASU.

### Sources

Goldrick-Rab, S. (2009, May 15). America must put community colleges first. *The Chronicle of Higher Education* 55 #36, p. A99.

Lumina (2009). *A stronger nation through higher education: How and why Americans must meet a “big goal” for college attainment*. Lumina Foundation for Education.

Contributed by Sue Kater, Director Research, Planning and Development  
GateWay Community College

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# *Selected External Stakeholders - Partnerships Article Summaries*

## **Business Community**

### **Gates Foundation to Spend Big on Community Colleges**

#### **Source:**

Author: Scott Jaschik

Title: Gates Foundation to Spend Big on Community Colleges

Publication: The Chronicle of Higher Education

Date: November 12, 2008

<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2008/11/12/gates>

#### **Summary:**

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced plans to focus its time -- and hundreds of millions of new dollars -- on college completion, particularly at community colleges. The plans represent a dramatic expansion of the foundation's already considerable work in education and could evolve into an unprecedented philanthropic focus on community colleges.

In announcing the plans, at a meeting with education leaders held in Seattle, foundation leaders spoke with passion not only about the importance of higher education, but about the poor graduation and retention rates at many institutions. "America has long known about the value of a college education -- but a fair-minded critic might say: 'You don't know the half of it! You're working to get more students into college; you should also be doing a lot more to get them through college,'" said Melinda Gates, in prepared remarks outlining the college plans.

#### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

MCCCD has untapped potential for getting students the credentials they need to earn a living wage. MCCCD is in a good position to promote college completion with the emphasis on the student success initiatives currently underway at several colleges. MCCCD should examine the foundation plans for its giving related to college completion including grants related to financial aid policies, scholarships, partnerships with business and academic remediation.

# Community

## Changing the Community College Concept

### Source:

Author: David Moltz  
Title: Shaking Up the Community College Concept  
Publication: Inside Higher Education  
Date: February 6, 2009  
Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research  
<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2009/02/06/cuny>

### Summary:

The City University of New York is considering the creation of a new type of community college to complement its six existing two-year institutions. The vision is consistent with national calls by many educators to look for new ways to get more community college students to complete programs speedily. The plan proposes stricter requirements and a narrower curriculum than many community colleges currently offer. All first-year students would be required to take a predetermined core curriculum and would then be limited to their choice of about 12 majors—each with a prominent focus on internships and other on-the-job educational opportunities. The proposed majors are mostly in pre-career fields of study such as nursing, surgical technology and energy services management.

### Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):

National trends often included streamlining community college degree offerings in hope of improving currently dismal transfer and graduation rates. Many suggest expanding the career, workforce development curricula in relation to the baccalaureate transfer, as the most proficient use of limited funds. Federal and state government support often cites the workforce development features of the community college as the more efficient method of training “work ready” completers. MCCCD may benefit by entertaining the notion of workforce development as a primary component of total curriculum offerings.

## College Accountability

### Source:

Author: Kelly Field  
Title: Congress Shows Colleges they're not off the Hook on Accountability  
Publication: The Chronicle of Higher Education  
Date September 5, 2008  
Hardcopy location: Institutional research  
<http://chronicle.com>

### Summary:

The Commission on the Future of Higher Education recommended that colleges measure and report student-learning outcomes. Congress has prepared legislation packed with new requirements for colleges to document their performance. Agenda items in the reauthorize Higher Education Act, signed by President Bush in August, will double colleges' reporting

requirement including more information on graduation rates, grant aid, and perhaps most significantly – the success of their teacher-training programs. Under the new law, colleges with teacher-training programs will be required to set “quantifiable goals” and report results in raising the number of prospective teachers in certain subjects affiliated with the nation’s teacher shortage. The new law also includes other provisions that require all colleges to report the average amount of grant aid awarded students and the average “net price” (sticker price minus financial aid) for students receiving federal financial aid.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

Arizona’s response to the state’s k-12 teacher shortages continues to engage the community colleges in providing a level of teacher preparation curricula. The MCCCD plays an important role in helping the state meet the community needs in teacher preparation, and secure adequate student available financial aid to support these efforts . Awareness of federal regulations regarding these programs holds implications for the district.

**Community Colleges are essential to a healthy economy**

**Source:**

Author: Douglas Gould

Publication: The Chronicle of Higher Education, Vol 55, Issue 17, Page A99

[http://chronicle.com/weekly/v55/i17/1709901.htm?utm\\_source=at&utm\\_medium=en](http://chronicle.com/weekly/v55/i17/1709901.htm?utm_source=at&utm_medium=en)

**Summary:**

A consulting firm discusses results of focus groups and opinion polls held in seven states to determine the public's understanding of the value of community colleges and the impact they might have on the local economy. The author claims that investing in advocacy, changing the public's preconceptions of community colleges and building statewide collaborations, the community colleges can continue to serve the country's citizens as well as help stabilize the state's economy.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

Stronger advocacy at the state level would help to strengthen the importance of higher education and eliminate the fear of statewide cutbacks in funding.

**Degree Earning Partnership: Community College and Community**

**Source:**

Author: Lesley Wright

Title: Surprise school will blend community college, university

Publication: azcentral.com

Date: November 30, 2008

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/11/30/20081130communiversity1201.html>

**Summary:**

Not quite a community college and not quite a university, a communiversity intends to offer the best of both. The communiversity is a partnership of three Maricopa Community Colleges and as many as five universities, Rio Salado, Glendale and Phoenix community

colleges will join with four-year universities to bring education to students instead of having students travel to their campuses. When students earn an associate degree, they will not have to transfer to a four-year campus hoping that most of their credits will be accepted. Instead, the student will continue on a path that could lead to a master's degree, even if more than one college is involved.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

The project partnership mentioned involves MCCCD and university systems. Agreements among multiple education systems may benefit students and communities by offering viable alternatives to earning a baccalaureate degree without extensive travel.

## **Higher Education**

### **Arizona Board of Regents Reviews AIMS Scholarships**

**Source:**

Author: Arizona Republic

Title: Regents to look at ASU proposal to cut AIMS awards

Publication: Arizona Republic

Date: February 23, 2009

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research

<http://www.azcentral.com/new/articles/2009/02/23/2009universities-aims0223-ON.html>

**Summary:**

Arizona State University has proposed suspending its scholarship program for high school students who pass the state AIMS test because of severe budget cuts. The proposal would require the approval of state board of regents and could affect hundreds of students entering the university next fall. Currently, 5,785 freshmen through juniors attending ASU, UA and NAU receive AIMS scholarships, with a total value of \$25.5 million. ASU has 2,509 current recipients of AIMS scholarships totaling \$12.5 million, UA has 2,265 students receiving tuition waivers worth \$10.6 million, and NAU has 1,011 with scholarships valued at \$2.4million.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

The reduction in the number of AIMS scholarship recipients may cause financial shortcomings for students who may, subsequently, decide to enroll in the lower cost community colleges.

### **Arizona Board of Regents Targets Growth Options**

**Source:**

Author: Anne Ryman Title: Plan aims to add graduates

Publication : The Arizona Republic Date: September 28, 2008

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research

**Summary:**

The Arizona Board of Regents is studying a plan to nearly double the college and university student enrollment by 2020. This process would involve funneling more high school students to the universities and transferring more students from the community colleges. One of the Regents proposals involves growing online programs.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

The potential impact of ABOR instituted growth initiatives addressing potential college-going student populations could have direct/indirect influence on many MCCCD programs and courses.

**ASU Could Pose Competition to Community Colleges****Source:**

Source: <http://www.azcentral.com/12news/news/articles/2008/12/05/20081205communitycolleges120508-CR.html>

**Summary:**

President Crow of ASU has plans to create several small, four-year colleges.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

This could either be direct competition for MCCCD or an opportunity for further partnerships with ASU.

**ASU May Compete with Community Colleges****Source:**

Author: Joe Dana

Title: ASU could pose competition to community colleges

Publication: azcentral.com

Date: December 5, 2008

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research

<http://www.azcentral.com/12news/news/articles/2008/12/05/200812205communitycolleges>

**Summary:**

Arizona state university Michael Crow's vision to create several small, four-year campuses would seem to pose a threat to the community college market. The prospect of heightened competition has been downplayed by both Crowe and a spokesperson of the Maricopa County's public community colleges. During a recent announcement, Crowe said the "Colleges of ASU" would offer smaller class sizes and a smaller price tag, both advantages currently touted by MCCCD's 10 colleges.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

Although Michael Crowe indicated he planned to work with Maricopa in developing the small, four-year campuses; the possibility of direct competition with MCCCD exists. Continuous dialogue and collaboration with the single, public, state university system in the

county could ensure proper and appropriate baccalaureate training for a growing population in a competitive higher education market.

### **ASU plans to lay off faculty to save cash**

#### **Source:**

Author: Anne Ryman and Lesley Wright

Title: ASU plan to lay off faculty to save cash

Publication: The Arizona Republic

Date: 10/28/08

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/news/articles/2008/10/28/20081028asubudgetcuts1028.html>

#### **Summary:**

Arizona State University is preparing to lay off 200 or more faculty associates and dramatically boost some class sizes beginning this spring as it braces for more state budget cuts.

#### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

There is a marketing opportunity for MCCCD to push its smaller class sizes and more personalized attention.

### **ASU West Increases Out-Of-State Applicants**

#### **Source:**

Author: Lesley Wright

Title: Out-of-state applicants to ASU West on rise

Date: April 1, 2009

Publication: The Arizona Republic

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/glendale/articles/2009.04/01/20090401gl-enroll0401.html>

#### **Summary:**

This academic year, nearly half (49%) of all freshmen admitted to the ASU West campus came from out of state, representing a 32 percent increase over last year. Prospective out-of-state students indicated their attraction to the Southwest generally, as well as the proximity of Spanish-speakers and border-initiative projects. ASU West Administrators hope to increase the number of out-of-state students who they believe are important for diversity. The university is considering membership in the “Western Undergraduate Exchange”, a program that offers certain students an opportunity to pay 150 percent of ASU’s in-state yearly tuition, rather than the traditionally higher out-of-state full rate.

#### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

The college district could begin feeling some carryover of applications from out-of-state students, particularly those interested in specific programs like nursing and healthcare professional fields.

## **ASU's Cuts Worry Nursing Community**

### **Source:**

Arizona Republic, 12/7/2008;

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/news/articles/2008/12/07/20081207nursing1207.html>

### **Summary:**

ASU is cutting back on Nursing programs because of their high cost, in spite of a growing demand for nurses.

### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

This may be an opportunity for MCCCD to expand its nursing offerings, provided that it can be done in a cost-effective manner.

## **New Arizona Four-Year Colleges Facing Challenges**

### **Source:**

Author: Elias C. Arnold Title: Goodyear, university extend pact due to fund-raising challenges Date: March 25, 2009 Publication: azcentral.com Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research

<http://www.azcentral.com/swvalley/articles/2009/03/12/20090312swv-gycollege0313...>

### **Summary:**

The University of Incarnate Word faces a challenging fundraising environment for its Goodyear campus and says adding more colleges would hurt those efforts. A lease amendment was extended by the City Council for three years.

### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

In three years Maricopa may feel some impact from the new campus in Goodyear especially in any two-year programs offered by the college. Estrella Mountain College, in Avondale, is currently forming healthy transfer relation options with surrounding four-year new comers.

## **On-line Core Course options: Grand Canyon University**

### **Source:**

Author: Angela Gonzales

Title: Grand Canyon University offers core classes via partnership

Publication: Phoenix Business Journal

Date: December 1, 2008

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research

<http://www.bizjournals.com/phoenix.stories/2008/12/01/story11.html?>

### **Summary:**

Grand Canyon University is offering a new program that allows students to take core college courses online – and at a lower cost. Students who need to fast-track specific core courses, such as algebra and English, to obtain their degrees can do so online through StraighterLine for \$399 a class. They also can choose a much cheaper model that allows them to access all StraighterLine courses for \$99 per class per month, with no startup costs and no time limit on

course completion. Those course credits are transferable to GCU or any of StraighterLine's other five partner college nationwide.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

At the present time, Grand Canyon's online courses are only transferable within the Grand Canyon University system. MCCCD may consider monitoring such course delivery course offerings through private higher education institutions.

**University of Phoenix - 2-year Axia college shows gains**

**Source:**

Author: Dawn Gilbertson

Title: Apollo's quarterly revenue surges as enrollment jumps

Publication: The Arizona Republic

Date: October 29, 2008

Hardcopy location: Institutional research

**Summary:**

Apollo's new student enrollment jumped 20 percent in the most recent quarter to a record 83,100. Half of the new students are enrolled in Apollo's growing associate degree program offered via Axia College, a division of the University of Phoenix. Axia was created to cater to working adults with little or no college experience, a contrast to University of Phoenix, where students generally enroll with some college credits.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

The Axia two-year program may have a direct impact on MCCCD. Enrollment increases in this "for profit" institution indicate a possible attraction to students who prefer alternative course offerings, at convenient times, locations, and efficient completion frame. MCCCD should continue to explore expanding forms of course delivery.

**University of Phoenix Advances Student Achievement**

**Source:**

Source: Chronicle of Higher Education

Author: Blumenstyk, Goldie

Title: U. of Phoenix Reports in Its Students' Academic Achievement

Date: June 5, 2008

Hardcopy Location: Jann Contento

<http://chronicle.com/daily/2008/06/3115n.htm>

**Summary:**

The largest private university in North America, University of Phoenix, released an Academic Report with findings indicating the effectiveness of its educational model. Results show the model's effectiveness in helping students who are underprepared succeed in college. Standardized test results imply that Phoenix students improve "risk factor" skills in reading, writing, and mathematics at a rate greater than students at other colleges. Patrick M. Callan, president of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, believed

that the Phoenix report was a very positive development and encourages all colleges to be open in self-reporting.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

The potential MCCCD impact from results presented in this report may influence student's college attendance choices, particularly when considering the available success rates regarding at-risk factors.

## **K-12 Education**

### **Announcement of Renewal of Teacher Contracts May be Delayed Until June**

**Source:**

The Arizona Republic, azcentral.com

Author: Newton, Casey

Title: Teacher contracts targeted under new bill

Date: March 18, 2009

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2009/03/18/20090318teacherdeadline0318.html>

**Summary:**

House Bill 2630 eliminates a requirement that districts notify teachers whose jobs may be eliminated in budget cuts by April 15. The bill is expected to reach the House floor in a couple of days, where it needs a two-thirds majority to pass. Thousands of Arizona teachers may not learn whether school districts plan to renew their contracts until June under this bill.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

The possible teacher layoffs has the potential to negatively impact the Dual Enrollment program both number of classes and FTSE in 2009-10 and forward. In the past, during the summer break is when teachers either move from one high school to another or they retire. During the summer the high school is able to replace those teachers well before the start of the fall term. Teacher layoffs are almost a certainty, though what is uncertain is how many layoffs will occur at the high schools. If the teacher affected is a dual enrollment instructor, they will not be replaced at the high school and the dual enrollment class will most likely be cancelled at the beginning of the fall term.

### **Educators seek answers beyond AIMS**

**Source:**

Kosson, P. The Arizona Republic, March 15, 2009 pA1,A6 &A7.

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2009/03/15/20090315aims0315.html>

**Summary:**

"In Arizona, a study group will suggest lawmakers keep the AIMS test, . . . but will begin ratcheting up its difficulty." In addition, they are also "likely to suggest joining a national trend to require that all high school juniors take a college entrance level exam, even if the don't intend to apply to college." Jim Zaharis, (heads AIMS Task Force) said: " AIMS should stay in as the initial and essential test of skill, but it is not sufficient. We need to put the bar at the college-career readiness level and say: This is where you need to be to live in

the 21st century and go on to be successful." The following changes are expected in Arizona: 1) The AIMS test will become more difficult to pass. 2) The state will increase the academic rigor of core high school courses, with students required to take more science and math. As a pilot, in April 2009 14,500 juniors in 8 Arizona school districts will take the ACT test, which is mandated for high school juniors in 15 other states.

For students, it shows them how close they are to being able to take college level work. The scores will be used by schools to improve classroom teaching. Arizona is banding together with 34 other states to create a common final exam for Algebra II. Arizona's superintendent of public instruction indicated that a national test -- instead of 50 different AIMS tests -- may be on the horizon. But she said: "My only hope is that the emphasis, when we talk about this, is not about the test; it's whether we prepared kids for their own futures."

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

The students entering college will be better prepared due to the more stringent tests.

**Enrollment Down in Arizona's Public Schools**

**Source:**

Parker, R. (2008, Monday, April 21). Enrollment down in Arizona's Public Schools. Arizona Republic, pp. B1, B3.

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/04/21/20080421enrollment0421.html>

**Summary:**

The Arizona Republic conducted a study of Maricopa County public school district enrollment. School districts in the outlying areas of valley are showing increases (e.g. Dysart, Chandler & Higgleddy) while districts in established older areas (e.g. Mesa Public Schools) are experiencing enrollment declines.

Even minor enrollment declines result in significant budget cuts (\$6,000 per student) and have resulted in Districts considering closing down some schools and cutting specialty employees (e.g. librarians, nurses). The full article includes a comparison between the 2007 to 2008 100-day enrollment counts for most Districts in Maricopa County.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

As Maricopa Enrollment continues to become more youth based, enrollment trends in the public school district should provide information on which community colleges will continue to grow or decline. It appears colleges located in the fringe areas of Maricopa County should continue to enroll more recent high school graduates over the next several years. Those community colleges that serve school districts with declining high school enrollment may see a negative impact on overall enrollment. Elementary school district enrollment trends may indicate longer term issues for the Maricopa County Community College District.

## **First AIMS Science Exam Results Lag**

### **Source:**

Source: The Arizona Republic

Author: Madrid, Ofelia

Title: Ariz. students struggle on 1st science AIMS test

Publication: AZ Central.Com

Date: September 17, 2008

Hardcopy available: Jann Contento

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/09/17/20080917scienceaims0917.html>

### **Summary:**

The first AIMS science test, administered during spring 2008, produced less than desired results. More than 60% of high-school students failed. Student's initial science test results proved less successful than scores in math (67%), writing (68%) and reading (73%). The science portion of the exam is not currently required to earn a diploma although, the Arizona Science Teachers Association support it becoming a requirement.

### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

The importance of math and science education cannot be underestimated in educating a globally competitive workforce. Recent emphasis on preparing students for careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) areas have been encouraged at the State and Federal level. Increased Federal Grant opportunities in STEM areas have proved financially and programmatically beneficial for many MCCCD institutions. Increased efforts to link the community colleges with K-12 partnerships may help create a fertile environment for improvement in teaching and learning science.

## **Four-Day School Week Explored**

### **Source:**

Author: Assoc. Press

Title: 4-day school week gains momentum

Date: March 25, 2009

Publication: MSNBC.com

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29664981/>

### **Summary:**

A shorter week (4-days) is seen as way for many school districts to adapt to shrinking resource funding support. Many U.S. school districts are experiencing tight budget constraints, which is one reason why more are considering a schedule that delights students and makes working parents cringe. Extending school hours and eliminating one day of classes each week, could save resources currently supporting on transportation and utilities.

### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

Transportation issues may be of less significance on many college campuses now that \$4 a gallon petroleum prices have subsided however, a shorter operational week may save

resources on many fronts and could present a viable option depending on legislative budget response.

### **Hispanic Public School Student Growth**

#### **Source:**

Authors: Richard Fry and Felisa Gonzales

Title: One-in-Five and Growing Fast: A Profile of Hispanic Public School Students

Publication: Pew Hispanic Center

Date: August 26, 2008

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research

[www.pewhispanic.org](http://www.pewhispanic.org)

#### **Summary:**

Strong growth in Hispanic public school enrollment is expected to continue for decades, according to a recently released U.S. Census Bureau population projection. The number of Hispanic students in the nation's public school nearly doubled from 1990 to 2006, accounting for 60% of the total growth in public school enrollments over that period. There are now approximately 10 million Hispanic students in the nation's public kindergartens, elementary and high schools; making up about one-in-five public school students in the United States. The bureau also reports:

- Hispanic school-age population will increase 166%, from 11 million in 2006 to 28 million by 2050
- Non-Hispanic school-age population is estimated to grow by just 4%; from 43 million to 45 million over this same period
- Hispanic school-age students represent more than 40% of enrollments in three states (Arizona, New Mexico and Texas)
- More than a quarter of Hispanic students (28%) live in poverty, compared with 16% of non-Hispanic students
- Seven-in-ten (70%) Hispanic students speak a language other than English at home

#### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

Demographic realities throughout the MCCCD closely reflect the U.S. Census Bureau data. The MCCCD campuses could benefit by continuing their efforts in preparing for the needs of an expanding Hispanic student population Maricopa may also expect larger numbers of non-English speaking students as well.

### **Tempe Union High School District Budget Cuts to Result in Increased Class Sizes**

#### **Source:**

Source: The Arizona Republic, [azcentral.com](http://azcentral.com)

Author: Yara, Georgann

Title: Class sizes to increase as Tempe Union cuts budget

Date: February 26, 2009

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2009/02/26/20090226tr-tempeunion0228.html>

**Summary:**

Class sizes will go up, programs are in jeopardy and Tempe Union High School District principals are determining who and what they must live without in the next school year. Increases in graduation requirements coupled with less funding puts electives and those who teach them on the chopping block before core subjects like math or English. Special programs that target academically gifted or at-risk students may also feel the pinch.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

Since the dual enrollment classes are typically gifted, honors or Advance Placement classes, the budget cuts could negatively impact the number of dual enrollment classes and FTSE in 2009-10 and forward. The other impact could be that the teachers enroll in continuing education classes at MCCCD.

## *Political and Legislative Trends*

The recession, increased student aid, a new national emphasis on community colleges, and policy and accountability changes made by the new administration are the major political factors affecting community colleges.

The recession impacts both individuals and colleges. Parents and students are selecting lower cost institutions as a result of reductions in income. Colleges have long noted that new high school graduates are more likely to attend college during recessions, since they cannot get jobs. The recession has resulted in decreases in revenue and budget cuts for colleges, as well as strong national pressure to hold the line on raising tuition and fees. To address individual concerns Congress has increased Pell Grants, there are moves to make the Pell Grant an entitlement, and GI benefits were increased substantially last year. To address unemployment Congress has allocated funds to community colleges for workforce development and training. There is pending legislation to re-work student loans with lower interest rates to students; and to end bank based loans to save the federal government roughly \$90 billion over ten years. All of this is likely to increase student enrollment in community colleges, while colleges have fewer resources to spend on students. Some community colleges have had to turn students away.

The Obama administration is placing more emphasis on community colleges. Dr. Martha Cantor, the former Chancellor of the Foothill-DeAnza Community College District, was appointed the number two position in the Department of Education as undersecretary for higher education. The assistant secretary of education for vocational and adult education is Glenn Cummings from Southern Maine Community College. In addition to increasing funds for workforce development and training for adults, the President's goal is to have **ALL** high school graduates complete one year of college.

The President's second major goal is for the United States to have the highest percent of college educated citizens by 2020, a goal that has been labeled ambitious, but achievable. For the first time an assistant education secretary has been named for college access. With the increase in funding and the emphasis on college access and graduation, the new accountability goals will be retention (in courses), persistence (re-enrolling for subsequent terms), graduation, and transfer. Recent studies of community college transfer rates in Arizona have shown that roughly 29% of community college students transfer, which is above an estimated national rate of 25%, a rate that has persisted for the last 25 to 30 years. If national standards call for significantly more students to obtain a baccalaureate degree, Maricopa will have to rethink and significantly retool its transfer efforts. This is likely to be a challenging, even daunting task. Legislation is currently being discussed in Congress for a "College Access and Completion Fund," with many expressing support for funding models based on courses completion and graduation, instead of simply enrollments. Legislatures in Indiana, Ohio, and Texas are considering such models. Twenty years ago, the Arizona Legislature adopted a partial completion based model with the adoption of short-term and open-entry/open-exit FTSE. Half the funding is based on enrollment, and the other half on completions.

To achieve the goal of college success and graduation, the Department of Education and the states are stressing greater preparation for high school students. The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education is recommending greater alignment of high school and college courses and consistent assessment of student performance. Several states require all juniors to take the ACT, whether they plan to attend college or not, to assess all students' preparation for college work. Eight Arizona school districts conducted an ACT pilot this spring. In May the AIMS Task Force, which was established by the Legislature in 2008, recommended that Arizona adopt the ACT test in all high schools in addition to specific AIMS tests. Thirty-four states are developing a common Algebra II final exam for high schools.

In conclusion, the recession and increased student aid will result in more students at a time of budgetary constraints. There is a much greater emphasis being placed on community colleges. But coupled with this, colleges will be expected to increase course completions and graduation and transfer rates. Secondary schools are being called on to improve the preparation of students, while both schools and colleges are asked to improve the alignment of course content. None of this is new, but it is being pursued with greater urgency and potential budgetary consequences.

Contributed by Mary Day, Director Research, Planning and Development

Chandler-Gilbert Community College

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# *Selected Political and Legislative Article Summaries*

## **Funding**

### **Budget Cuts Concern Community College Leaders**

#### **Source:**

Author: Blumenstyk, G., Sander, L., Schmidt, P., Wasley, P.

Title: Community-College Leaders Grapple With Budget Cuts, Accountability, and Competition

Publication: The Chronicle of Higher Education

Date: April 18, 2008

Hardcopy Location: Jann Contento

<http://chronicle.com/free/v54/i32/32a03801.htm>

#### **Summary:**

#### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

The state of Arizona, like many other states, is again experiencing a budget deficit. Pressures facing community colleges include competition from for-profit institutions, accountability demands from legislation and law-makers, and accommodating the needs of an increasingly complex student body.

Community college leaders, during the annual meeting of the American Association of Community Colleges, offer suggestions that may assist MCCCD leaders. 1) Strengthen ties to area high schools, 2) improve and expand transfer agreements with 4-year institutions, 3) use data to improve student success (never cancel classes), 4) leverage strong community ties, and 5) re-define appropriate success measures for community colleges.

### **Colleges charging differential tuition rates**

#### **Source:**

Author: Anne Ryman

Title: Colleges charging tuition based on majors

Publication: azcentral.com

Date: December 4, 2008

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/12/04/20081204tuition1204.html>

#### **Summary:**

The new thinking among university officials in Arizona and elsewhere is that students who enroll in programs that are more expensive to offer should be responsible for the additional costs. The extra charges, which are often called “differential tuition” or “program fees,” can add several hundred dollars to tuition bills. The higher fees are most common at the graduate level, but they have filtered to the undergraduate level in the past two years. At ASU for example, nursing students working toward bachelor’s degrees will likely pay \$750 more a semester, while engineering students may pay \$300 more per semester. College of Design

students likely will pay \$300 more per semester. The charges are on top of a proposed 5% increase in base tuition for all ASU students.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

MCCCD transfer students may experience higher “differential tuition” increases because most increases are recognized within a student’s junior and senior years. Maintaining a lower overall tuition schedule than four-year institutions, MCCCD colleges have often witnessed beneficial enrollment changes when universities raise tuition and fees. Such notable enrollment changes may be less influenced by the suggested university tuition and fee increases.

**Community Colleges See Stimulus Bill as Bonanza for Their Students**

**Source:**

Publication: The Chronicle of Higher Education  
Date: February 17, 2009.

**Summary:**

The Department of Labor was authorized to spend \$3.95 Billion on training and employment services. The new legislation allows the Workforce Investment Boards to contract with community colleges and a range of other organizations to provide job training to groups instead of individuals. The contracts would cover the full cost of the education community colleges are providing instead of just paying for tuition. This could provide a significant source of extra funding to community colleges. The Department of Labor will receive an additional half billion dollars for competitive grants for research and training in "green jobs". Another \$250 million is allocated for grants in the health care sector -- it is expected that community colleges will see a very big share of the health care funds. \$40 million is directed to determine local private sector needs and to expand training programs to meet those needs. And last \$200 million is being directed to community college and public libraries to expand public access to computers and the internet. It is expected that this money will be appropriated for two years.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

Maricopa should examine its job training programs, health care programs, programs in solar energy and related, and library services. Planning should carefully assess how the Maricopa Colleges can fulfill its obligations to train people during this recessionary period, and improve programs for future students.

**Community Colleges: Serving More with Less**

**Source:**

Author: Elyse Ashburn  
Title: Community-College Leaders Find They Must Serve More With Less  
Date: March 18, 2009  
Publication: The Chronicle of Higher Education  
Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research  
<http://chronicle.com/daily/2009/03/13952n.htm>

**Summary:**

Results from a recent survey, indicates that many community-college leaders are witnessing student enrollment increases at the same time their budgets are decreasing. Almost three-quarters of those surveyed said their enrollment is up at least 5 percent over last year-with 28 percent reporting increases of more than 10 percent. Meanwhile, a good percent had their budgets cut by more than 5 percent this academic year. Increased enrollment is being experienced across most academic areas, including short-term training, developmental courses, core academic and transfer programs, and vocational education-while resources are shrinking. Almost 40 percent of the colleges have a hiring freeze in place, and the same proportion have seen their staffs shrink over the last year. Administrative, clerical, and facilities and site-support positions were the hardest hit.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

The data mirrors what MCCCD is currently confronting. Similar state-wide educational budget cutback trends have been enacted by the legislature. Current fiscal review of programs and personnel changes could alter both student support services and course offerings.

**Community Colleges Struggle to Fund Enrollment Increases****Source:**

Author: Steven Bushong

Title: Community-College Enrollments are Up, but Institutions Struggle to Pay for Them

Publication: The Chronicle of Higher Education

<http://chronicle.com/weekly/v55/i20/20a02401.htm>

Date: February 05, 2009

**Summary:**

Recent National data indicates the downturn in the economy has coincided with enrollment increases at many community colleges. The hardest-hit institutions appear to be those in states with a diminished manufacturing economy or a burst housing bubble, says George R. Boggs, president and chief executive of the American Association of Community Colleges. History holds that when the economy declines, college enrollments rise. However, the same downturn in the economy also applies to the funding available for postsecondary institutions.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

The current legislative budgetary concerns are having a powerful influence on MCCCD funding. Higher education throughout the state are being forced to curtail costs, cut or reduce program offerings, raise tuition, and explore alternative cost cutting measures. Projected fiscal year 2009-10 budget concerns indicate the colleges are facing financial tough times, while demand for their services is increasing.

## **Economic Stimulus Financed College Projects**

### **Source:**

Authors: Gardiner Harris and Kenneth Chang  
Title: Beaker-Ready Project? Colleges Have Quite a Few  
Publication: The New York Times  
Date: February 24, 2009  
Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/24/science/24stim.html>

### **Summary:**

President Obama's signing of the \$787 billion stimulus measure included one of the law's most surprising provisions, a 36 percent increase in the budget for the National Institutes of Health. This increase provides much opportunity to those institutions immediately ready for a projects launch.

Colleges across the country have hundreds of shovel- and beaker-ready projects in the sciences that could collectively cost tens of billions and begin within weeks. "We're grateful for the money, but it's not such a large number that anybody's going to have to look very hard for good projects to fund," said Leslie Tolbert, the vice president for research at the University of Arizona.

### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

It appears most research projects are under review by previous applications or are designed for research university or college projects. Although the increase in research funding may not "directly" involve current activities being engaged at community colleges, the potential residual effect of money available holds applicable promise.

## **Funding Campus Maintenance**

### **Source:**

Publication: The Chronicle of Higher Education  
Author: Carlson, Scott  
Title: The \$7-Billion Patch for Campus Maintenance  
Date: February 6, 2009  
<http://chronicle.com/weekly/v55/i22/22a00401.htm>

### **Summary:**

Now that a multibillion-dollar stimulus bill is moving through Congress in the latest attempt to bail out a faltering economy, the lawmakers and pundits who seemed to be asleep at the wheel over the past decade are suddenly gripped by the virtue of fiscal responsibility. They are criticizing parts of the bill that they find wasteful. Higher-education administrators should beware: This newfound righteousness and ire could soon point their way. A focus might be the \$7-billion that colleges hope to get for renovation, improvements, and energy-efficiency projects. That's a small part of a very big package, it will create jobs, and it will address some of our fossil-fuel dependence — all good things. But in some ways that \$7-billion also symbolizes our national inability to live within our means. Recently college leaders have reached out to the public to emphasize how much they need that money for

their crumbling campuses. In an op-ed in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, Robert H. Bruininks, president of the University of Minnesota, told Minnesotans that they should support the stimulus bill because it will bring jobs and much-needed repairs to the university. He noted that the need for the money is even greater in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, known as MnSCU, where the estimate for repairs is about \$680-million.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

This is important for MCCCD to be aware of and to prepare to quickly pursue the funding.

**One Result of Community College Budget Crunch**

**Source:**

Author: Sara Murray  
Title: Crunch Time: the College Years  
Publication: The Wall Street Journal  
Date: January 28, 2009  
Hardcopy location: Institutional research

**Summary:**

Rising unemployment and a slumping economy are sending waves of students to community colleges in search of new job skills – precisely at a moment when state budget cuts are making the influx hard to handle. Enrollment increases are running at double or even triple their usual annual rate at many community colleges across the country. Attempting to balance increased enrollment during times of a decreasing availability of resources sees many students facing more-crowded classes, increased instruction by adjunct professors rather than residential faculty members, and increases in tuitions and fees. Cuts in student services, such as tutors, financial-aid counselors, and resources to host parents’ night, are also occurring. The effects of such cuts on low-income students, and their families with fewer financial resources, are proving especially difficult.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

Some members of the student population attending many MCCCD colleges are impacted greatly by budget cuts, tuition increases and service reductions. Efforts to retain such students should remain a priority.

**Stimulus dollars released to schools**

**Source:**

Publication: The Arizona Republic  
Date: April 2, 2009 pA5.

**Summary:**

\$44 Billion in economic stimulus money was released to schools by the Secretary of Education yesterday. "Arizona schools and universities could get as much as \$1.4 Billion" from the stimulus funds. The first round released to Arizona was roughly \$195 Million and went to Title I schools, which serve significant numbers of low income and special

education students. Title I schools comprise close to 60% of all Arizona schools. While the stimulus is "intended to last through 2011", the depth of the state's budget shortfall is so great that it is "unlikely to last past 2010." All of the details of how this will affect individual school districts are not currently worked out. The second round of funds will come with strings attached -- it is intended to "lay the groundwork for a generation of educational reforms.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

This is important for MCCCD to be aware of and to prepare to quickly pursue the funding.

**Stimulus Short Falls for Some Colleges**

**Source:**

Author: Eric Kelderman

Title: Stimulus Bill Brings Relief to Some States but Falls Far Short for Others

Publication: The Chronicle of Higher Education

Date: February 24, 2009

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research

<http://chronicle.com/cgi-bin/printabl.cgi?article>

**Summary:**

The nearly \$54-billion that Congress is directing to the state for education as part of the recently signed stimulus bill may stave off the worst budget cuts proposed for public colleges. Close to three-quarters of the stabilization fund is designated for states to funnel to public colleges and school districts. Recipient institutions could use the money in various ways, including restoring budget cuts, preventing layoffs, or modernizing facilities. The remaining funds are provided to governors to spend on high-priority needs. These could include construction at public or private colleges, or as an incentive to encourage the secretary of education to reward performance.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

Almost \$3-billion is set aside for programs under the Workforce Investment Act that provide money for job training, including courses at community colleges. The law allows institutions to receive money to provide instruction to groups of students, a change from the previous process that awarded money only to individual students. MCCCD could directly benefit by approaching more local business partners in offering training opportunities for their current or anticipated employee needs.

# Financial Aid

## Assistance with Financial Aid FASFA Application

### Source:

Author: Tamar Lewin

Title: The Big Test Before College? The Financial Aid Form

Publication: The New York Times

Date: February 22, 2009

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/22/education/22fafsa.html>

### Summary:

Complexity issues remain with the six-page federal financial aid form for families seeking help with college costs. The current Free Application for Federal Student Aid (fasfa) was created in 1992 to simplify and ease the process when applying for financial aid. The current format remains intimidating to many students and families - with more than 100 questions - that critics maintain, frightens the very families most in need and prevents some potential students from attending college. Assistance in completing the form is offered through fafsa.com with charges ranging from \$80 to \$100.

### Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):

MCCCD may benefit by increasing the opportunity to assist potential students and families in properly completing the fasfa form. Many efforts are currently being engaged (i.e., campus workshops, college nights, weekend outreach, parent/ student information sessions) that couple students needing assistance with personnel from the campus's financial aid office. A commitment by the MCCCD to expand outreach and financial aid assistance in completing the documents holds potential impact regarding multiple enrollment management concerns.

## Better Financial Aid Advising Needed

### Source:

Author: Eric Hoover

Title: Community-College Students Need Better Financial Advising, Survey Finds

Publication: the Chronicle of Higher Education

Date: February 24, 2009

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research

<http://chronicle.com/weekly/v55/i13/13a01901.htm>

### Summary:

In the community college Survey of Student Engagement, known as Cessie, nearly half (45 percent) of respondents cited a lack of finances as a hardship that would likely cause them to withdraw from classes or leave college – more than twice as many (19 percent) as those who cited a lack of academic preparation. Those findings suggest that institutions must do more to familiarize prospective students with financial aid and to steer enrolled students through the complex application process. There are very large numbers of community-college

students who are eligible for federal financial aid, but who do not apply for it, says one author. According to this article many community college students do not even apply for financial aid.

### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

MCCCD college financial aid staffs are currently expanding efforts to engage more students in the financial aid process and ease the confusion over money available for financing college. The Obama administration's stimulus money (increased Pell grant \$) may also play a significant role in improving access and availability of much needed grant and student loan sources.

### **Big U.S. Role in Lending to Students**

#### **Source:**

Source: The New York Times

Author: Jonathan D. Glater

Title: Big U.S. Role in Lending to Students

Date: February 26, 2009

[www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)

#### **Summary:**

The federal government has quietly increased its support of the student loan market to such a degree that many question whether there is a role left for private lenders.

The newest initiative was announced late last fall when there was great concern about the ability of college students and their families to get continued financing for education. The most likely size of the program, detailed in the Federal Register on Jan. 15, was \$25 billion. But in a contract signed just four days later, on the last day of the Bush administration, the Education Department effectively agreed to buy up to \$60 billion in loans, \$35 billion more than the figure published in the Federal Register. That is almost enough to purchase all the federal loans made to students last year. The government already pays a subsidy to banks and others making what are called federally guaranteed student loans. It also covers nearly all the losses if a student defaults on such a loan. In the current economic crisis, it is buying the loans, thereby providing the banks with capital for new lending. That has caused critics to say they wonder whether a middleman is really needed in this business.

### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

Changes in the loan industry could have an impact on the overall structure of financial aid for MCCCD and students receiving financial aid.

## **Changes in College Savings Plans**

### **Source:**

Author: The Associated Press

Title: College tuition is a test for some parents As market falls, 529 saving plans may not be as good as prepaid options

Publication: MSNBC.com

Date: February 26, 2009

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/29375339/print/1/displaymode/1098/>

### **Summary:**

Parents with 529 savings plans are realizing there's no sure-bet magic formula for saving for college. Prepaid plans, unlike 529 savings plans, liberate buyers from the market's up and downs. Families simply pay a fixed price for tuition credits that can later be applied to any in-state, public institution. The plan administrator has liberty to invest the money to cover costs. Last year, there were 8.8 million 529 savings accounts, up from 560 in 2000, according to the College Savings Plans Network. The number of prepaid plans, meanwhile, jumped from 1 million to 2.3 million.

### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

This trend may place current Arizona 529 savings plans in competition with alternative prepaid plans. Some of these prepaid plans however, are not available to all, or carry different tax requirement options than do existing 529 plans. MCCCD may consider encourage families of college going students, to weigh the costs and benefits when determining savings plans. Prepaid college savings accounts would not take into consideration tuition or fee increases for community college districts.

## **College Affordability in Question**

### **Source:**

Author: Tamar Lewin

Title: College May Become Unaffordable for most in U.S.

Publication: The New York Times

Date: February 24, 2009

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/03/education/03college.html>

### **Summary:**

The biennial report from the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education indicates that the rising cost of college – even before the current recession – threatens to put higher education out of reach for most Americans. According to the report, published college tuition and fees increased 439 percent from 1982 to 2007 while median family income rose 147 percent. Among the poorest families – those with incomes in the lowest 20 percent – the net cost per year at a public university was 55 percent of median family income, up from 39 percent in 1999-2000. The net cost of attending a community college,

long seen as an affordable safety haven for higher education, was 49 percent of the poorest families' median income in 2008, an increase from 40 percent in 1999-2000.

### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

The higher percentage cost of attending college, coupled with non matching increases in family level incomes, present a potentially challenging financial dilemma. MCCCD colleges could benefit by providing a full range of student financial aid offerings. Arizona targeted Federal stimulus incentives include an increase in Pell grant amounts and higher education tax incentives among others. The state is scheduled to target approximately \$1.4 billion of the stimulus to assist schools and universities.

### **Credit crisis may limit student options**

#### **Source:**

Source: Robert Tomosho

Title: Credit Crisis May Limit Options

Publication: AZCentral.com

Date: June 4, 2008

[www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/business/articles/0604biz-studentloans](http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/business/articles/0604biz-studentloans)

#### **Summary:**

Increased restrictions on lending could affect students' enrollments

### **House Takes First Step Toward Ending Bank Based Lending**

#### **Source:**

The Chronicle of Higher Education, March 26, 2009.

#### **Summary:**

The House of Representatives is prepared to eliminate the bank-based guaranteed student loan program. The Congressional Budget Office estimated taxpayers would save \$94 Billion over ten years by eliminating bank-based lending and placing all loans under the government's direct loan program. The projected savings would be moved from the loan programs to the Pell Grants. If passed, this represents a significant shift in financing higher education for individuals. Historically, when larger amounts of gift aid and lower amounts of loans were available to students the results were: 1) A higher percent of poor students attended college. 2) Students graduated in a shorter period of time.

### **Many students missing out on need-based aid**

#### **Source:**

Source: The Chronicle of Higher Education

Author: Supiano, Beckie

Title: Many Community-College Students Miss Out on Aid-Because They Don't Apply

Date: October 7, 2008

<http://chronicle.com/daily/2008/10/4905n.htm>

**Summary:**

A recent report, "Apply to succeed: Ensuring community college students benefit from need-based financial aid", indicates that nearly 40 percent of full-time students fail to fill-out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (fafsa). Many of the poorest dependent students, with family incomes less than \$10,000, do not apply for aid. Although recent changes in financial-aid regulations provide attractive incentives to apply, many students and parents do not appear aware of the changes and no coordinated efforts are in place to inform them. The report suggests that states could help by encouraging high schools to have all seniors complete fasfa, educate high-school counselors, and encourage students to attend full-time, with aid, rather than work and attend part-time.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

Many efforts currently employed by MCCCD colleges promote early completion of fasfa forms, particularly for lower-income students. MCCCD may also benefit from improving current data collection to better understand why their students don't apply for aid. These efforts may increase overall participation for financial aid eligible students and improve college FTSE.

**Student Loan Limits at Community Colleges****Source:**

Source: The New York Times

Author: Glater, Jonathan D.

Title: Student Loans Start to Bypass 2-Year Colleges

Date: June 2, 2008

Hardcopy Location: Jann Contento

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/02/business/02loans.html?scp=1&sq=student+loans+start+to+Bypass+2-year+colleges&st=nyt>

**Summary:**

Some national banks discontinue offering federally backed loans to students at 2-year colleges. Citibank and JPMorgan have dropped whole categories of institutions due to greater risk. Financial aid officials in California indicate that Citibank is not making loans to students' at all state community colleges. Current credit situations and a reduction in government's subsidy have contributed to some lenders borrowing decisions. Difficulty in borrowing options may deter some students from attendance at 2-year colleges.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

MCCCD may wish to keep a close eye on such trends and the potential impact on college attendance and affordability.

## **Student Portion of Education Costs Increasing**

### **Source:**

Author: Kate Zernike  
Title: Students paying more and getting less, study says  
Publication: The New York Times  
Date: January 16, 2009  
Hardcopy location: Institutional research  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/15/us/16college.html>

### **Summary:**

A current study indicates that college students are covering a greater percentage of their education cost, as most colleges spend less on students. The share of higher education budgets dedicated to instruction has declined, while the portion spent on administrative costs has increased. In 2006, the last year for which data is available, students at public colleges and research universities paid about half the cost of their education – defined as the cost of instruction, student services and a portion of spending on operations, support and maintenance. At community colleges, student tuition and fees provide approximately 30 percent of their education, up from 24 percent in 1995. The percentage of the instructional budget allotment declined at both public and private 2 and 4 year institutions between 1995 and 2006 – at the same time the share spent on administration and support increased.

### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

Administration vs. instructional costs continues debate as funding sources decline for both k-12 and higher education. MCCCD should be mindful and attentive to rising administrative costs as the state legislature contemplates cuts to higher education. State universities have attempted budgetary measures that seemingly address program offerings and human resource needs.

## **Legislation**

### **Delayed Appropriations Bill Would Increase Pell Grant and Research Funds**

#### **Source:**

Source: The Chronicle of Higher Education  
Author: Field, Kelly  
Title: Delayed Appropriations Bill Would Increase Pell Grant and Research Funds  
Date: 2/24/2009  
<http://chronicle.com/cgi-bin/printable.cgi?article=http://chronicle.com/daily/2009/02/12290n.htm>

#### **Summary:**

A \$410-billion appropriations measure for the current fiscal year is moving through Congress. The bill, which Democratic leaders in the U.S. House of Representatives introduced on Monday, would finance education, research, and other domestic programs until October 1, when the 2010 fiscal year will begin. It would provide \$30.3-billion for the

National Institutes of Health, a \$938-million increase over the 2008 fiscal year, and increase the maximum Pell Grant by \$119, to \$5,350, in the 2009-10 academic year.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

Our students will be eligible to apply for larger Pell Grants to finance their education.

**Education Secretary Names Special Assistant for College Access**

**Source:**

The Chronicle of Higher Education, March 31, 2009.

**Summary:**

The Secretary of Education has selected a special assistant for college access. This indicates the new administration will put a special emphasis on college access and colleges and universities will be asked to ramp up their attention to this issue.

**National Goals for Higher Education**

**Source:**

Authors: Sara Hebel and Jeffrey J. Selingo

Title: Obama's Higher-Education Goal Is Ambitious but Achievable, Leaders Say

Publication: The Chronicle of Higher Education

Date: February 26, 2009

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research

<http://chronicle.com/daily/2009/02/1251n.htm>

**Summary:**

In a speech before the joint session of Congress, President Obama said, "The nation will have the world's highest proportion of college graduates by 2020". "It's absolutely achievable, but it's ambitious," says Hilary Pennington, director of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. In November, the Gates foundation announced that it would spend several hundred million dollars over the next five years to double the number of low-income young people who complete a college degree or certificate program by age 26. To reach the president's objective, it will take more fundamental changes than adding more dollars to the Pell Grant or increasing income-tax credits for tuition costs.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

Maricopa can participate in the important process of graduating more students in the selected time period of 2020-2025. Opportunities for additional program support from recruitment and retention to completion and graduation are available to a district having the size and ability as Maricopa.

## **New College Reforms**

### **Source:**

Author: Michael Kirst

Title: Connecting Schools and Colleges: More Rhetoric than Reality

Publication: The Chronicle of Higher Education

Date: October 10, 2008

Hardcopy location: Institutional research

<http://chronicle.com/weekly/v55/i07/07a04001.htm>

### **Summary:**

Connections between high schools and higher-education institutions remain in contrast to helping students prepare for college. College completion rates are stagnant for recent high-school graduates. At community colleges nationwide, more than 60 percent of students who enroll after high school end up taking at least one remedial course.

The author and his colleagues at the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education identified four state policy levers in 2005 that are believed necessary for true reform to occur:

- Standards alignment between high school and college for courses, content, and assessment.
- Student financial support and incentives for higher-education institutions to provide better student-support services.
- A data system that tracks the progress of individual students from pre-K through college.
- Accountability measures that link secondary schools and colleges to student outcomes, like the completion of college.

A recent follow-up reports the following:

- a) Broad-access postsecondary institutions rely on placement tests more than admissions scores like the ACT or the SAT, and few statewide secondary-school assessments are aligned with those placement tests or the content of first-year college courses;
- b) Financial aid is not designed well for 75 percent of the community-college students who attend part time and live off the campus. It is insufficient, complex, and difficult for part-time community-college students to obtain, less money than students who attend four-year institutions, and there are not enough financial-aid counselors for evening students.

The author suggests that a positive future would see education leaders at every level and policy makers working simultaneously on all four policy levers outlined above

### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

The policy features outlined in the report impact many of the goals supported by the MCCCD. It remains imperative that education leaders at all levels, along with state and federal policy-makers, continue a dialogue that addresses and promotes progress on these pressing concerns.

## **New GI Bill encourages college participation**

### **Source:**

Author: Megan Eckstein

Title: Colleges Show Interest in New GI Bill Program, but Many Are Wary of Its Cost

Publication: The Chronicle of Higher Education

Date: February 05, 2009

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional Research

**Summary:**

A federal government program created through the GI Bill, will match dollar for dollar any financial aid that colleges provide to veterans above the cost of the most-expensive public institution in that state. Advocates worry that veterans' ability to afford the colleges of their choice would be limited if colleges decide they cannot match the funds associated with the veterans' education costs.

The GI Bill provides veterans who have at least three months of active duty, or one month of active duty with release resulting from duty-related disability. Benefits cover tuition assistance to public colleges in the student's home state, a stipend for books and supplies, and a housing allowance. The law requires that college provide their aid to veterans in the form of a tuition waiver, not a scholarship.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

The number and location of military personnel residing within the county may provide an incentive for veterans to choose a MCCCD institution for their education interests. Potential benefits in college program growth, enrollment increases, and matching tuition benefits appear transparent. Recruitment efforts, along with financial aid office personnel dedicated to serving veterans surface as immediate MCCCD concerns for response and action.

**Obama Calls for Better Data on Students and Urges Colleges to Control Costs****Source:**

The Chronicle of Higher Education, March 10, 2009.

**Summary:**

President Obama stated the following goals for American higher education: 1) By 2020, the United States should have the highest proportion of college graduates of any nation in the world. 2) All Americans should complete at least one year of higher education. 3) Long-term economic prosperity rests heavily on the ability of the United States to educate its citizens. 4) States must create data systems to document progress by tracking students from childhood through college. 5) Colleges must improve job training for both younger and older workers. 6) Community colleges were "a great and undervalued asset" to prepare people for good jobs. 7) The President plans to make Pell Grants an entitlement. 8) The administration plans to abolish bank-based loans. 9) The administration plans to spend \$2.5 Billion to "identify and support practices and programs" to "help students . . . earn degrees." 10) Colleges and universities must "control spiraling costs".

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

This represents a dramatic and significant change in higher education policy. The impact on community colleges will be very strong. Increased aid, the emphasis on job training, the statement that all people should have at least one year of college can sharply increase the number of students attending. Additionally, the overt statement that colleges must do a better job of educating people and the dictate to control costs increases community college responsibility.

## **Obama Suggests Higher Education Investment In Economic Stimulus Package**

### **Source:**

Source: National Association of Financial Aid Administrators

Author: News from NASFFA

Title: Obama Suggests Higher Education Investment in Economic Stimulus Package

Date: 1/9/2009

<http://www.nasfaa.org/publications/2009/gobama010909.html?Print=Yes>

### **Summary:**

"President-elect Barack Obama provided some insight into how an economic stimulus package that could provide as much as \$1 trillion in government funding will likely be distributed in a speech delivered yesterday at George Mason University.

The speech indicated some new investment in higher education, but did not outline specific areas to be funded. This leaves the higher education field speculating how much they will receive from the stimulus package and what areas of higher education will benefit.

The most specific example of how the economic stimulus package would benefit higher education came when Obama said, "To give our children the chance to live out their dreams in a world that's never been more competitive, we will equip tens of thousands of schools, community colleges, and public universities with 21st century classrooms, labs, and libraries."

There was no specific mention of any planned efforts to increase student aid, but there is a possibility that the economic stimulus package could include a Pell Grant increase. NASFAA and other higher education associations have been advocating for Pell funding to be included in the package."

### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

The economic stimulus package may offer students new opportunities for education through the Community Colleges. Funding for community colleges may be included in the package which would allow MCCCD to expand services and help offset the losses from other sources of funding that have decreased.

## **Obama's Ambitious Higher Education Budget**

### **Source:**

Author: Kelly Field

Title: President's Budget Would End Bank-Based Student Lending and Significantly Expand Pell Grants

Publication: The Chronicle of Higher Education

Date: February 27, 2009

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research

<http://chronicle.com/daily/2009/02/12574n.htm>

**Summary:**

President Obama recently unveiled a budget blueprint that would abolish the bank-based student-loan program and use the savings to raise the maximum Pell Grant and make it an entitlement. The preliminary budget for the 2010 fiscal year, which administration officials say they will flesh out in April, would also provide a \$5-billion increase for Perkins Loans, making an estimated 2.7 million available, with more students eligible for the aid, and reducing reliance on private loans. The Pell Grant program, which provides need-based aid to low-income students, already operates as a quasi-entitlement, in that all students who qualify for a grant receive one. After increasing by \$200, to \$5,500, in the 2010 fiscal year, the maximum Pell award would grow at an annual rate of the Consumer Price Index, plus one percentage point. The president's plan would also take a bite out of the burgeoning private-loan sector, by expanding the Perkins Loan program for \$1-billion to \$6-billion.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

This action could have significant implications for eligible Maricopa students and staffing patterns.

**Proposed long-range changes for higher education institutions****Source:**

Author: Kathryn Masterson

Title: Economy Gives College Leaders Impetus to Explore Longer-Range Changes

Publication: The Chronicle of Higher Education

Date: December 8, 2008

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research

[http://chronicle.com/daily/2008/12/8150n.htm?utm-source=at7utm\\_medium=en](http://chronicle.com/daily/2008/12/8150n.htm?utm-source=at7utm_medium=en)

**Summary:**

As the economy worsens, pressure increases for colleges to cut costs yet remain affordable. At a recent conference examining these concerns, higher-education leaders and economists suggest institutions consider long-term changes rather than short-term fixes. Colleges should consider making changes not only to survive this downturn but to thrive afterward. One official expected to see a shift in demand within higher education, especially from more-expensive private institutions toward less-expensive public colleges. Some college administrators said they were considering long-range, systemic changes, using the economic crisis as an opportunity to do so. In the past, such changes have lacked the level of political support necessary to actualize. Ideas under consideration include: adjustments in employee and student health care, administrative systems, services provided, and vendor contracts, centralization of functions at decentralized universities, and sharing resources or programs with other colleges.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

The identified fiscally responsible trends for institutions of higher education provide the MCCCD a suggested framework when considering options for long-term exigency policies. Depending on Arizona state budget and financial conditions, these offerings may provide a whisper of merit for MCCCD.

## **State Fiscal Stabilization Fund**

### **Source:**

Source: ED.gov

Title: State Fiscal Stabilization Fund

Date: March 7, 2009

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/factsheet/stabilization-fund.html>

### **Summary:**

The State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) program is a new one-time appropriation of \$53.6 billion under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Of the amount appropriated, the U. S. Department of Education will award governors approximately \$48.6 billion by formula under the SFSF program in exchange for a commitment to advance essential education reforms to benefit students from early learning through post-secondary education, including: college- and career- ready standards and high-quality, valid and reliable assessments for all students; development and use of pre-K through post-secondary and career data systems; increasing teacher effectiveness and ensuring an equitable distribution of qualified teachers; and turning around the lowest-performing schools.

### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

Arizona's share of this fund, dedicated to shoring up each state's education budgets, is estimated at \$860 million over the next two years. This will require the state to "maintain" our budgets at the 2006 level in order to obtain the funds, which should provide some assistance as we work through this recession. This fund also includes other dedicated funding for which Arizona can submit applications which could benefit Maricopa.



## *Social and Technological Trends*

Changes in the composition of the communities we serve is one of the key shifts that will impact the future of the community college system. The population is aging. At the same time minority populations are becoming the majority. There is a renewed interest in education due to the economic downturn from many groups.

The growth that has characterized the Phoenix metropolitan area for many years has slowed and many areas of Maricopa County are actually losing residents. The implications for the district relate to planning and also property tax revenue generation.

Other social trends include the development of “green” technologies and an interest in developing sustainable processes. Building practices, maintenance and energy conservation are all relevant to operating colleges. The curriculum will also be impacted in the effort to provide training to students and emerging green industries.

Social aspects that must be considered include crime and health issues. Colleges must develop risk mitigation strategies to protect the institutions and students from crime. Providing a safe environment for students and helping them cope with the stresses of life is becoming a role of the college. Health care is one of the most expensive costs for all institutions of higher education and finding ways to encourage healthy living for students and employees is increasingly more important.

Technology is changing virtually all the processes of the traditional college and is offering new ways to conduct business. The reliance on technology also requires vigilance to insure that privacy is protected and that critical data functions are maintained. Threats to computer systems are real and demand attention. Keeping up with the changes in technology will require flexibility and investments in infrastructure. Partnerships with private businesses have been pursued as one way to enhance services to students and cut costs.





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# *Selected Social and Technological Article Summaries*

## **Demographics**

### **Baby-Boomers May Influence College Growth**

#### **Source:**

Author: Eric Hoover

Title: Community Colleges Anticipate Boom in Baby-Boomer Students

Date: April 6, 2009

Publication: The Chronicle of Higher Education

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research

<http://chronicle.com/daily/2009/04/15231n.htm>

#### **Summary:**

The “Plus 50 Initiative” is a three-year project designed to create and support programs for adults over 50 at 15 community colleges. The programs director believes that community colleges must do more to engage older students in job preparation. A survey of institutions involved in the project revealed that while 86 percent of those institutions offered enrichment programs for older students, only 58 percent had work-force training and career-development services tailored to them. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects an overall increase in older workers continuing in the workforce with the number of 55 to 64 year olds increasing by 36.5 percent and 65+ by 81 percent between 2006 and 2016.

#### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

Options related to “Plus-50” training and retraining programs will remain important for community members and should be considered as a district-wide priority.

### **Blacks Less Likely to Take A.P. Exam**

#### **Source:**

Author: Tamar Lewin

Title: Blacks Less Likely to Take A.P. Exam

Publication: The New York Times

Date: February 5, 2009

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional Research

[www.nytimes.com/2009/02/05](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/05)

#### **Summary:**

More than 15 percent of the three million students who graduated from public high schools last year passed at least one Advanced Placement exam. African-American students were less likely to have passed, or to even have taken an A. P. exam than white, Hispanic or Asian students.

While 14 percent of last year’s high school graduates were black, they made up only 8 percent of those taking A. P. exams –and only 4 percent of those with passing scores.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

MCCCD could benefit by increasing the pool of potential AP course participants. Community outreach and academic marketing to particular high school sectors and populations could improve college admission, persistence and completion for traditional underrepresented populations.

**Colleges prepare for more GIs****Source:**

Source: Arizona Republic, 10/6/08

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/10/06/20081006gibill1006.html>

**Summary:**

Universities and community colleges around Arizona are preparing for an influx of veterans and their dependents taking advantage of the new GI Bill, which doubles education benefits and helps with living expenses.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

MCCCD should prepare for an influx of veterans, including expanding veterans support services.

**Increased Enrollment Due to Recession****Source:**

Author: Susan Donaldson James

Title: Community Colleges Boom in Recession

Publication: ABC News

Date March 3, 2009

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research

<http://abcnews.go.com/Business/Economy/story?id=6968514>

**Summary:**

Thousands of new students are flocking to the nation's community college during what some economists are predicting will be a long recession. These two-year schools are reporting unprecedented spring-term enrollments, driven by students seeking better bargains and laid-off workers looking for new job skills.

**Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

MCCCD may anticipate similar enrollment increases due to Arizona's current economic conditions. Along with young students choosing the community college as an alternative to higher priced university settings, many returning adult students may also be seeking re-training, or potential advancement skills provided by the community colleges. Budgetary restrictions and property tax revenues, which help support many college programs, may not prove sufficient to handle major anticipated enrollment growth.

## **Minorities Account for 34% of U.S. Population**

### **Source:**

Author: N.C., Aizenman - Washington Post - Chicago Tribune

Title: 1 in 4 U.S. kids under 5 is Latino

Publication: U.S. Census Bureau - Arizona Republic

Date: Thursday, 1, May 2008

Hardcopy Location: Jann Contento

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/05/01/20080501census0501.html>

### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

The U.S. census reports that changes in minority population of children under 5 years old may hold broad implications for communities and schools nationwide. The nation's Hispanic population grew by 1.4 million in 2007 reaching 45.5 million people. A recent study by The Pew Hispanic Center supports this notion, reporting African Americans ranked second in growth as a group with 40.7 million people. In Arizona, about one-third or more of children younger than 5, are Hispanic. The MCCCD would benefit by preparing for the potential impact of this student population reaching college age within the next 10 years.

## **Myths about Asian American Students Impact Services**

### **Source:**

Source: The College Board

Author: National Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islander Research in Education

Title: Asian Americans -- Fact not Fiction: Setting the Record Straight

Date: June 2008

<http://professionals.collegeboard.com/profdownload/08-0608-AAPI.pdf>

### **Summary:**

Three pervasive core fictions are undermining the development of educational policy regarding Asian-American Students: 1) that Asian Americans are taking over higher education; 2) that Asian Americans are concentrated in selective universities; 3) that they are a homogeneous racial group. Attendance in community colleges has increased by 73.3% in the last ten years so that representation is evenly distributed between community colleges and four year institutions.

### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

It is important that Maricopa does not make assumptions about Asian American students that hinders their ability to be successful including presuming a level of preparedness or withholding offers of support services and financial aid.

## **Phoenix population could be shrinking.**

### **Source:**

Source: AzCentral.com

Author: Michael Clancy and Casey Newton

Title: Phoenix may be losing people.

Date: January 12, 2009

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/phoenix/articles/2009/01/12/20090112phxpopulation0107.html?&wired>

### **Summary:**

"For the first time in modern history, Phoenix's population could be shrinking. It's an idea that would have been unimaginable just a few years ago, when Phoenix was surging up the list of the nation's most populous cities. Now, a variety of indicators suggest that fewer people are living here than a year ago."

### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

Several indicators suggest the tax base will be reduced, thus impacting the state budgets. Foreclosures have increased and water hook-ups are down which means fewer homes are occupied. Trash collection sites have decreased meaning less people are buying products and producing waste. People are spending less money which means sales-tax revenues are decreasing. The issue for Maricopa is that whenever the tax revenue is at risk and state budgets are impacted, the Maricopa Community College's budgets are directly impacted as well. Monetary changes can impact all services to students, including programs, facilities, number of classes offered, etc.

## **Green/Environmental Issues**

### **Institutions Implement Sustainable Practices**

#### **Source:**

Source: SCUP Trends in Higher Education

Author: Phyllis T. H. Grummon

Title: Trends in Higher Education

Date: August 2008

[http://www.scup.org/asset/49251/scup\\_trends\\_8-2008.pdf](http://www.scup.org/asset/49251/scup_trends_8-2008.pdf)

#### **Summary:**

Colleges are implementing a variety of "green" practices. According to SCUP colleges are being ranked on economic, environmental and social equity. The development of renewable energy and the protection of the water supply are critical trends that will impact the world.

#### **Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):**

Students may base their decision of where to attend college based on their green practices. In the long run, the incentive to use green practices may save energy and lead to energy saving actions of students.

# Safety

## College Counseling Understaffed

### Source:

Author: Steven Bushong

Title: College Counseling Centers Remain Understaffed Though Demand I Strong, Survey Finds

Publication: The Chronicle of Higher Education

Date: March 10, 2009 Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research

<http://chronicle.com/daily/2009/03/13230n.htm?rss>

### Summary:

Many campuses are noting a rising demand for mental-health services. Many Counseling centers continue to be understaffed, according to the preliminary results of a survey presented recently by the Association for University and College Center Directors. The study discovered that about 37 percent of clients at the centers suffer from depression, 36.6 percent have anxiety, and 14.4 percent have suicidal thoughts or behavior.

### Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):

National data trends presented in this study may very well mimic the mental health concerns witnessed at many MCCCD colleges. Many factors may contribute to the increase demand and student experienced symptoms. MCCCD may benefit by reexamining the Counselor/student ratio on many of the campuses, and make available, any needed outside resources to assist in this current demand.

## College Security Issue: Students Carrying Weapons

### Source:

Author: Alex Johnson

Title: College security tighter, but is it enough?

Publication: MSNBC.com

Date: November 17, 2008

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/27666800/>

### Summary:

Colleges and universities are pushing for guns to be allowed on campus. At least 11 colleges and universities already allow students to carry concealed weapons, a practice that is banned by law in 30 states.

### Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):

This national trend may encourage Arizona state legislation to consider review of current laws pertaining to students carrying concealed weapons. Many ethical, professional, and safety related concerns regarding this “heated” topic have extensive implications beyond law enforcement and apparent crime prevention.

# Technology

## Campus Computing Sustainability

### Source:

Author: Josh Keller

Title: Campus Computing Goes Green to Save Money

Publication: The Chronicle of Higher Education

Date: January 28, 2009 Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional Research office

[http://chronicle.com/free/2009/01/10296n.htm?utm\\_source=at&utm\\_medium=en](http://chronicle.com/free/2009/01/10296n.htm?utm_source=at&utm_medium=en)

### Summary:

A conference held at the University of California at San Diego, offered a new generation of technologies that promise to help colleges make their IT departments both more efficient and more sustainable. Colleges affected by the rising costs of powering and cooling their data centers have been targeted, in part, because some costs are difficult to measure and/or poorly understood. Considered approaches included a data center that could direct cool air only when the facility is generating the most heat; and supplying computers directly with local DC power which might save up to 30 percent in electricity costs.

### Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):

Options for reducing operational costs, as well as promoting “green” technology, are currently being entertained by a number of MCCCD institutions. Sustainability dialogue should occur not only during these pressing economic times, to examine our use of resources, but continue in an effort to participate in wise and effective decision-making.

## Threats to College Computer Systems

### Source:

Author: Jeffrey R. Young

Title: Top 10 Threats to Computer Systems Include Professors and Students

Publication: The Chronicle of Higher Education

Date: December 19, 2008

Hardcopy location: EMCC Institutional research

<http://chronicle.com/free/v55/i17/17a00901.htm>

### Summary:

User awareness is growing in importance when it comes to computer security. Today a growing number of network “bad guys” are professional criminals, and they’re looking to steal real money. Three major threats include: students and faculty becoming more careless about computer security, some colleges collect more sensitive information than they need, leaving more opportunities for the data to be exposed to the public or swiped by hackers.

### Implications for Maricopa (MCCCD):

District-wide review of college computer security could benefit the colleges when conducted in a timely basis. Any review should involve legal implications and education regarding avoidable circumstances for all computer users including staff, faculty, and students.