



## Alumni Newsletter

**For any questions, comments, etc... contact Daniel Button**

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### **Next Alumni Meetup Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup> @ 12:00-2:00pm**

We will focus on how to be effective moderators. This training offers a new skill set and enhances your facilitation skills. Specifically, you will be prepared to serve as a table moderator at an upcoming community forum on healthcare (tentative details below). Deanna Villanueva-Saucedo who works in partnership with Mesa Public Schools and MCCC's Center for Civic Participation (CCP) will lead this training.

***Speaking, Not Shouting: A  
Community Conversation  
About Health Care***

Tuesday, December 1st, 2009  
6:00-9:00pm  
AE England Building in Civic Park  
(ASU Downtown)  
444 North Central Avenue  
Phoenix, Arizona

If you are unable to attend on the 20<sup>th</sup>, Alberto Olivas (Director of CCP) is available to provide training the evening of Tuesday, Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>. This second training opportunity will only be held if there is sufficient interest from Alumni, so please let me know ASAP.

Even if you cannot make it to the Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> event, you are still encouraged to attend a moderator training, as there are frequent opportunities to use this skill to promote productive civil discourse both within and beyond Maricopa Community Colleges.

### **SPPF Alumni Core Team volunteers needed!!**

Help needed: organizing alumni events, maintaining our alumni connections. Explore possibility of hosting West Valley alumni events. Organizing social activity(s) with current SPPF group and recruit future members to the SPPF Alumni group. Planning long-term goals for the SPPF Alumni. Ideally we will have a group of 4 or 5. As they say, "many hands make light work."

## West Valley SPPF

The Center for Civic Participation is working with the Glendale City Clerk, Pam Hanna, to create West Valley opportunities for SPPF involvement. Some potential projects include (but are not limited to):

- Glendale community issues - issue and policy forums, community deliberation and action planning
- Glendale community engagement projects - "New Voter workshops", "Active Citizens Academy 101", "Accessing City Government", "Meet the Mayor", "Coffee with City Council", etc.
- Glendale civic engagement efforts - inform and recruit citizens about city boards, commissions, volunteer opportunities
- Voter outreach workshops - upcoming city election issues and candidate races, voter registration, early voting, etc.
- Develop internship and service learning placement options for Maricopa students within city government and local community organizations

Does this sound interesting? Would you attend a meeting in Glendale, or would you like Pam to visit us at Rio Salado? Your feedback is appreciated!!

### **SERVICE PROJECT: Bus subsidy and food donation fundraiser for at-risk MCCC students**

The Phoenix College Counseling Department has an Emergency Bus Fund where people donate loose change that can be used by needy students to pay the bus fare leaving and returning back to school.

Many times students just need help for a little while – until they get their financial aid, their car gets fixed, or they get paid and can buy their own bus passes and get on a schedule that works for them. The Counseling Department provides the temporary bus funds, no questions asked.

Faculty and student clubs donate to the bus fund but due to the growing need the past two semesters, the fund was depleted very early on. As alumni,

### **Upcoming SPPF 09-10 events**

*Meetings are Fridays from 1pm-5pm @ Rio Conference Center (Tempe), unless otherwise noted. Let me know if you can make it and I will provide details, or if you want to help organize a joint SPPF/Alumni social afterwards.*

Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> – Federal Politics

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> – Becoming an Advocate

Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> – State Politics @ AZ Capitol

it would be great to come up with some type of fund raiser to keep this resource available to those in need.

Some students are also hungry, for the same reasons mentioned above. Many campus groups help donate time, food, and money, all times of the year, yet with the holiday season fast approaching this is another opportunity that would be an easy thing to do to make our students holiday season even brighter.

It would be great if we could kickstart similar programs at other Maricopa campuses, since PC is obviously not the only one with at-risk students. Let me know if you have any ideas for how this could be done or if you would like to assume (or share) leadership of this project.

### **Lobbying opportunity**

The Office of Government Relations uses a bill tracking system that not only gives detailed, up-to-date information about legislation of interest to MCCC, but *also* includes an exciting new grassroots tool. If you are interested in supporting MCCC's legislative goals in 2010 and/or joining our network of Grassroots Advocates, *please call or email*.

### **REPORT: First 2009 Alumni Meetup: Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> @ Rio Salado**

Our initial gathering had a turnout of 15 people, which was very good considering the short notice. At least 10 others wanted to be there, so I'm hopeful that there will be at least 20 alumni next time (Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>).

\*\*We decided that whatever we do as a SPPF Alumni group should include the following considerations:

#### **1. Higher education**

- Making a college education more affordable
- " ..." and otherwise more accessible to those in need
- Support MCCC's legislative agenda

#### **2. Maricopa Community Colleges**

- Campus-level events
- Participate in ongoing SPPF events as able
- Service projects within MCCC

#### **3. Civic education**

- Mostly as falls under the mission of the Center for Civic Participation (Alberto Olivas). A few broad categories include:
  - o Issue/candidate forums & workshops
  - o Voter registration drives
  - o Community engagement

*\*\*these guidelines are by no means exhaustive. If you have other suggestions, please share!*