

Mesa Community College recognized for excellence in student voter engagement

By **Dawn Zimmer** - 11/22/2019

MESA, Arizona – November 21, 2019 — Mesa Community College receives a 2019 ALL IN Challenge silver seal for achieving a 30 to 39 percent student voter engagement rate during the 2018 midterm election. The national recognition was bestowed during a ceremony on Nov. 12 at the Newseum in Washington, D.C.

“Our faculty, staff, administrators and students are committed to working together to reduce apathy, increase engagement and graduate civic-minded students prepared to solve the country’s and the world’s most pressing challenges,” said Duane Oakes, faculty director for the MCC Center for Community & Civic Engagement. “We could not have done this without the support of students serving on our Civic Action Team, our Andrew Goodman Ambassadors, Campus Election Engagement Project (CEEP) Fellows and our many community and campus partners who support our efforts.”

Student participation in elections has increased from the 2014 midterm election to the recent 2019 midterm election. According to the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE), an initiative of Tufts University’s Institute for Democracy & Higher Education, voter turnout at the more than 1,000 institutions participating in the study increased by 21 points from 19 to 40 percent. NSLVE data on MCC reveals that its student voter engagement increased by 23.4 points from 13.5 to 36.9 percent.

“We are excited to honor Mesa Community College with an ALL IN Challenge silver seal in recognition of their intentional efforts to increase democratic engagement and full voter participation,” said Jennifer Domagal-Goldman, executive director of the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge. “More institutions like MCC are changing culture on campus by institutionalizing

nonpartisan democratic engagement efforts that are resulting in the incredible student voter turnout rates that we've seen across the country."

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The [ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge](#) is a nonpartisan, national initiative recognizing and supporting campuses as they work to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and full student voter participation. The Challenge encourages higher education institutions to help students form the habits of active and informed citizenship, and make democratic participation a core value on their campus. More than 560 campuses, enrolling more than 6.2 million students, have joined the Challenge since its launch in summer 2016. More at: lincchallenge.org

Mesa Community College is nationally recognized as an Aspen Prize Top 150 U.S. Community College and is known for service learning, career and technical programs, civic engagement and innovative approaches to education. The college serves as a resource for career readiness, transfer education, workforce development and lifelong learning. Host to more than 30,000 students annually, MCC offers degree and certificate programs online, at its two campuses, the Mesa Downtown Center and additional locations. Through the implementation of Guided Pathways with Integrated Support Services, MCC is transforming ways it champions student success; college completion, university transfer and career attainment for all students. MCC is a Hispanic Serving Institution. The diverse student body includes more than 400 international students representing over 60 countries. Award-winning faculty are dedicated to student success, providing the education and training to empower MCC students to compete locally and globally. Located in the East Valley of Phoenix, Arizona, MCC is one of the 10 colleges in the Maricopa County Community College District. Learn more at mesacc.edu.

Mesa Community College is accredited by the [Higher Learning Commission \(HLC\)](#).

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